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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
August 27, 2020

Via Remote Participation on Zoom

Commissioners Present: Jane Debarbieri, Scott LaBombard, Kenneth Magarian, Douglas Morash, Michael Tirrell, Sara Unger and Robert Veronesi

Commissioners Absent: Vincent Olinski

Staff: David Billips, Director and Jim Blascak, Program Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm via remote participation with Michael Tirrell, Chairperson presiding asking commissioners for a voice roll call if present by speaking "Yes"

Sara Unger, Yes, Robert Veronesi, Yes, Michael Tirrell Yes, Douglas Morash, Yes Kenneth Magarian, Yes and Scott LaBombard Yes. Jane Debarbieri joined in after the roll call.

Michael Tirrell asked if anyone had any questions regarding the July 27 meeting minutes and if anyone wanted to set motion. He called out each commissioner for a roll call vote.

Motion made by Douglas Morash to accept the minutes of July 27, 2020 motion seconded by Scott LaBombard. Roll Call Vote as follows: Sara Unger, Yes, Robert Veronesi, Yes, Michael Tirrell Yes, Douglas Morash, Yes Kenneth Magarian, Yes, Scott LaBombard Yes and Jane Debarbieri, yes. All in favor.
Motion passed

Public Participation Via Zoom: Cheryl Crowe, Shana Chiba, Madeline Calabrese, Bill Westerland and Sara Keeney.

Business or Items for Discussion:

1. Mike Tirrell welcomed Cheryl Crowe and Shanna Chiba from Artworks of Westfield. He said the artwork was mailed and emailed and requested location is at Women's Temperance Park. He asked Cheryl Crowe to go over the request.
2. Cheryl Crowe thanked the commission for allowing Shanna Chiba and herself to be present tonight, said they are very excited to bring to the commission a Mural with Artworks of Westfield, Inc. to an area in Westfield and thought Women's Temperance Park would be a great location. She went over the artwork just completed at the Railtrail and city council approved. She also said she spoke with Councilor Ralph Figy and he thinks it is a great idea. She said she would turn this over to Shanna Chiba who can explain the project in more detail.
3. Shanna Chiba said on behalf of the Artworks of Westfield that recently finished the artwork on the Railtrail we would like to offer the event in another area and get the community involved in painting. It was a great success from local artists and they would like to have the children of all ages help with this project. She went over the concrete wall area on photo near the water that is beautiful with trees. If the commission approves the request, the Mural will be painted with the Artworks of Westfield staff/artist along with the Boys and Girls Club children that participate in the art program at that facility. They want the children to be involved so later on in life as they get older they can look back on it and be proud of the project.
4. Michael Tirrell asked her if the Boys and Girls club staff would monitor the children. Sara Unger mentioned the club has a great art program.
5. Sara Keeney, artist with group responded the staff at the Boys and Girls club would monitor the children. She went over height and details of each Mural painting and pointed out the art that would be painted are pixies, forest, unicorns, fairies, dragons and also painting the wording " Westfield Artworks of Westfield Inc." The wall is about 40 x 120 feet and at Women's Temperance Park is a great

place to create and paint a children's Mural. She also said the adult artists would keep an eye on the children's art if they mess up or if it needs a touch up, they can fix it.

6. Michael Tirrell thanked them held up their proposed artwork in zoom meeting that everyone received. He said they were several paintings presented.
7. Cheryl Crowe said she will work with Shanna and they will use a high end paint, lay out design first and this paint that they use it will last a long time it's a sealer donated by the Home Depot it also protects it from graffiti. You can scrub off any graffiti and it will not harm the design or paint finish. It is like a gloss epoxy sealant that holds up to weather and the elements. In addition, they will keep an eye on it over the years.
8. Sara Unger asked how many volunteers and donors do you have and the cost of the project.
9. Sara Keeney responded it is estimated about \$2,500 they are waiting for approval first. Art is wonderful to display, and we have many volunteers. The children all have different levels of confidence and experience in painting so it will let them express their artwork and some will learn painting side by side with instruction from Westfield Arts of Westfield, Inc. artists.
10. Douglas Morash asked if the Railtrail Mural has the same sealant that you will be using. The Rail trail is sheltered from the weather and the Women's Temperance Park area is open to the elements.
11. Shanna Chiba said you can scrub off any graffiti and it will not harm the design or paint finish. It is like a gloss epoxy sealant that holds up to weather and the elements. In addition, they will keep an eye on it over the years. She said that the type of paint then would last up to 6 to 7 years if you do not seal it. If you seal it, will last 10-15 years. The Home Depot is willing to donate \$ 800.00 of sealant it is \$ 100 a gallon. They do not see a problem and it will last a very long time. They are grateful for the donation.
12. Jane Debarbieri questioned the concrete base material.
13. Cheryl Crowe said that the Lumber Center is giving them the best quality paint made specific for concrete material. One gallon costs over \$ 60.00 for the paint.
14. Sara Keeney responded the base concrete is porous so the paint will stay with the sealant.
15. Cheryl Crowe said they thought this Mural project out carefully they would put primer on first before they paint. They did this plan thoroughly and carefully before they came before you all tonight.
16. Sara Keeney says this is a beautiful area and it will bring more people who will utilize the space. In addition, the children can revisit their artwork when they are older.
17. Scott LaBombard said this is a great project and said he had fond memories of his youth driving to Westfield with his parents going over the hill heading towards the turnpike over the brick building there was a painted horse Mural and he thought that was so cool looking. He said he was disappointed they covered it and the horse Mural was a great piece of artwork.
18. Sara Keeney responded that the sealant creates a glass like finish and it is easy to scrub or clean and you can also paint on top of that as well and then seal it again. It provides a layer each time.
19. Bill Westerland, President of Artworks of Westfield Inc. went over the history of the horse painting near Sterling radiator. He said they have been thinking about murals for three years now and they were looking for sites. When we put the information on social media our Facebook page lit up with excitement and to feel that energy was very exciting for the group. It will also become an attraction to the downtown river area and people will want to visit and see the Mural.
20. Michael Tirrell asked commission if anyone else had any questions regarding the Mural project and looking for a vote. He called out each commissioner for a roll call vote.

Motion made by Scott LaBombard to accept to approve the Mural painting at the Women's Temperance Park under the guidelines as presented, motion Seconded by Robert Veronesi. Vote as follows: Sara Unger, Yes, Robert Veronesi, Yes, Michael Tirrell Yes, Douglas Morash, Yes Kenneth Magarian, Yes, Scott LaBombard Yes and Jane Debarbieri, yes. All in favor.
Motion passed

21. Sara Keeney, Cheryl Crowe and Bill Westerlind thanked the commissioners for their support. Michael Tirrell said he is looking forward to seeing it completed.
22. Michel Tirrell welcomed Cheryl Crowe and Madeline Calabrese who are requesting tree art from curator Harold Grinspoon from Art Works, LLC. To be placed at Park Square for a two year lease.
23. Cheryl Crowe said Madeline Calabrese requested the Tree art with support from Bill Carellas, Chair of the planning board because he has a business in W. Springfield and the tree art was displayed their on the Green space and told Cheryl to run with it in Westfield as a great idea. She would work with Madeline, it will not cost the city anything to display the tree art, and they are outstanding tree sculptures. She went over the history of Harold Grinspoon and his love of trees his whole life and may someday look for a forever home for all his sculptured tree art. He started this project six years ago by collecting tree branches that died in Florida and turning them into art. Some live branches are made with dead branches and can be up to 20 feet in height made from a single branch. He creates and paints them into this beautiful tree art. He has over 120 sculptures and is ready to display two of them that are available. She said the commission can choose one out of the two trees if interested, Harold is not interested in making money he just wants to display his artwork for people to enjoy and appreciate trees. The location that they came up with is at Park Square where it is a visible area. She said that he installs them what we would need to do is dig a hole 4x4x4 install a pole to erect the tree. This pole helps supports the tree art. At the end of the two years lease, you can extend the lease agreement or swap it out for a new tree. Harold Grinspoon is planning on first the design, second, the visit from commissioners to choose a tree, and third the contact person to help coordinate the installation. Cheryl said we might want to put something around it like bushes or a fence area so people do not touch the tree or climb on it. She said the Big E staff does this every year to their tree art.
24. Michael Tirrell asked if there was a designated spot at Park Square, they were looking at or a certain area to display the tree art.
25. Cheryl Crowe showed the commissioners three pictures from her phone of areas at Park Square or can meet with someone at the area to look for a good spot. Michael Tirrell said would you bring equipment in to dig the holes for the poles and tree art. Cheryl said a bobcat with a scoop would be used with a special lift to help install it and then they add trap rock to support it with a pressed in treated box. The trap rock will hold it in place. They will use organic material so the tree will not rot and the tree is treated with a sealer as well. She was looking at three areas one near the bench gazebo, one near the left side a bigger area, and another area to the left an open space near the gazebo.
26. Sara Unger said her concern is if we have an event like a concert or other functions would the tree be at risk. Cheryl said another area is on the grass it all depends on high the tree is for the area needed. A 20ft tree would fit well.
27. Robert Veronesi said his concern is there are underground irrigation systems and utilities and it could be damages with a bobcat or digging in that area.
28. David Billips responded that his concern is the digging at Park Square, we would have to check with city council for approval and he can check with the law dept. regarding the lease. He feels with the water and irrigation it is not the best location.
29. Madeline Calabrese said they entered into other tree agreement with W. Springfield and other cities as well.
30. David Billips said he does not have a problem with the tree art as a gift or lease it has to go to city council for their approval once we have a location.
31. Kenneth Magarian said possibly another area could be suggested for the tree art. He feels the Green is not the best location.

32. Cheryl Crowe said another spot they were looking at was off Western Ave. at Holcomb Park. That area receives a lot of traffic and that could be an ideal spot to look at.
33. Robert Veronesi said the city is redesigning that whole park and road area near the triangle and who knows when it will be done. He does not think that area is a good location with all the construction.
34. Michael Tirrell asked them to look at other areas in the city and part of the problem is you want a highly visible area. Cheryl said possibly Half Mile Falls, or near the turnpike or Elm Street there is a grass area near Mestek.
35. Madeline Calabrese asked about church areas or near the front or side library.
36. Douglas Morash suggested the library area might be a good spot, or area near pike where the sign says Welcome to Westfield. Cheryl Crowe said the pike area is owned by Mr. Bolduc and she has contacted him and although it is an awesome place it is not going to happen there, he is trying to sell the land and he owns Friendly's area and the conversation did not go well.
37. Scott LaBombard suggested she look for areas with no sprinkler heads because that is out of the question.
38. David Billips suggested she look for areas with no water lines or irrigation, drive around the city, and see if they can suggest another location.
39. Sara Unger suggested a sub-committee for a location of the tree art.
40. Michael Tirrell said without visiting each area we cannot make a vote. We can put together a subcommittee and asked commissioners if interested in serving on this committee. Jane DeBarbieri, Michael Tirrell will serve and David Billips said Scott Hathaway could be on the committee as well. Madeline Calabrese and Cheryl Crowe will serve as well once they find a location if under the dept.
41. Michael Tirrell is looking to table the tree art location until next month based on the best location that Cheryl Crowe and Madeline Calabrese choose and if a park then the subcommittee can work with them and bring it to the next meeting. If not a park under the dept. then we do not need to revisit. He asked Cheryl Crowe to contact Peg at the office to be placed on the next month's agenda if another park area request or contact himself.

Motion made by Scott LaBombard to table the tree art until next month until further areas are better suited or suggested or from sub-committee. Motion seconded by Robert Veronesi. Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger, Yes, Robert Veronesi, Yes, Michael Tirrell Yes, Douglas Morash, Yes Kenneth Magarian, Yes, Scott LaBombard Yes and Jane DeBarbieri, yes All in favor
Motion passed

42. Michael Tirrell brought up permit request for Dave and Ethan Flaherty for Park Square Oct. 3 and Oct. 31 times 7:00 am-2:00 p.m. for a meet, greet Westfield State Rep candidate Ethan Flaherty, and will comply with state and local guidelines. Up to twenty people expected at a time.
43. Robert Veronesi brought up a concern last year of people using that area, cars were parked, and we want to make sure he was aware of the guideline of no vehicles allowed at Park Square.
44. David Billips suggested he be aware of the rules and guidelines and no parking at Park Square and provide that listing. Michel Tirrell voiced his request to Peg Goralczyk from the dept. to provide rules to both Mr. Flaherty's with permit.
45. Douglas Morash also said no banners are allowed as well and that is listed on rules.
46. Sara Unger also brought up that trash was an issue at the last previous election event and we would like the permittee to remove trash and wash down all areas touched cleaned with sanitizer and follow guidelines. She said there is no mention of food being served on the permit.
47. Michael Tirrell asked if any other questions and a motion to a roll call vote.

Motion made by Douglas Morash to accept the permit for David and Ethan Flaherty Oct. 3 and Oct. 31 (with rain dates) at Park Square for meet and greet for a Westfield State rep candidate as presented as long as they empty trash and clean area and follow guidelines. Motion Seconded by Scott LaBombard. Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger, Yes, Robert Veronesi, Yes, Michael Tirrell Yes, Douglas Morash, Yes Kenneth Magarian, Yes, Scott LaBombard Yes and Jane Debarbieri, yes. All in favor.
Motion passed

48. Michael Tirrell brought up to David Billips the annual purchasing signature contract form for 'All' for David Billips, Director and Francis Cain, Assistant Director.
49. David Billips said this is done every year to sign contracts, bills for purchasing under the state laws, the commission approve each year for the dept. head or assistant dept. head and signs form.

Michael Tirrell called out for a motion to vote:

Motion made by Sara Unger to accept the purchasing contract signature form for 'ALL' for David Billips, Director and Frances Cain Assistant Director. Motion Seconded by Douglas Morash. Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger, Yes, Robert Veronesi, Yes, Michael Tirrell Yes, Douglas Morash, Yes Kenneth Magarian, Yes, Scott LaBombard Yes and Jane Debarbieri, yes. All in favor.
Motion passed

50. Michael Tirrell asked David Billips when he expects to retire and David Billips responded most likely the end of October.
51. Michael Tirrell asked David Billips to go over the follow up on the parking lot at Sadie Knox Playground from Eversource.
52. David Billips said Scott Hathaway and himself, took a ride to Sadie Knox and met with Eversource staff they talked about three vinyl fences, and if money was left over from the project. He mentioned we had a discussion with the neighbors at the public meeting, regarding a paved parking lot, and asked what does the commission want a grass area, gravel area for parking lot. He is not sure how much money is left over in the project.
53. Kenneth Magarian reminded the commissioners of the public hearing held and the people that came before them. He asked about lighting in the parking lot area is that still in the plans.
54. Robert Veronesi asked if lights go in would it face the woods and not shine on the neighbors' homes.
55. Sara Unger felt that this was all brought up on previous meetings and we all wanted the parking lot or should we have it gravel instead of paved.
56. Scott LaBombard spoke in favor of a paved parking lot and asked if there were any ordinance in place for the waste run off water. David Billips said he can work with Storm water and will get feedback from eversource.
57. Douglas Morash said it has been awhile since we revisited the parking lot at Sadie Knox and the whole reason for the parking lot was for overflow of parking, when the front lot was full and to keep people from parking where they are not supposed to park.
58. Michael Tirrell agreed that some of the folks do not want the parking lot and some do. Traffic on Oakdale Streets residents feel it will invite more people down their Street to park in the overflow parking lot. We want to keep people from parking in condominiums and Prospect Street Ext.
59. Sara Unger said a few people were in favor of the parking lot and a lot of negativity of parking on prospect Street Ext.
60. Scott LaBombard agrees with Sara Unger we discussed this and the neighbors decision to have a parking lot. Eversource should have done a follow up with David Billips now we are at the end of a project and we don't know if a parking lot is going in and how much money they have available to put in a parking lot. He is in favor of a paved parking lot with lights.

61. Sara Unger says we expect that Eversource to put something down a gravel parking lot or a grass field some type of parking lot.
62. Robert Veronesi asked why we could not put down the material that was placed at Whitney roads that milling material that keeps the dust down.
63. Michael Tirrell said if we plant grass who is going to mow it, fertilize and seed. David Billips said just like any other park it will be maintained by staff and mowed.
64. David Billips will contact Eversource and see where they are at with money left over for the parking lot and expenses. He will look at the milling material costs and ask Eversource what they can do for us or provide.
65. Scott LaBombard asked about the time left and David Billips said about 90 days. He says they have a little more work to do there.
66. Michael Tirrell asked David Billips what he wants from the commission. Do you want us to explore the costs associated with A- gravel lot with milled material, B- paved parking lot and C –A Grass field. He is suggesting that this be put on the next agenda with all three option that include lighting. He asked for a motion.

Motion made by Sara Unger to explore the three parking lot options A-C for Sadie Knox parking lot including the costs with lighting and what options Eversource will provide Motion Seconded by Douglas Morash. Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger, Yes, Robert Veronesi, Yes, Michael Tirrell Yes, Douglas Morash, Yes Kenneth Magarian, Yes, Scott LaBombard Yes and Jane Debarbieri, yes. All in favor.

Motion passed

67. Michael Tirrell informed commissioners that he has reached out to the Mayor Humason by email on July 27 regarding a follow up on permits, approvals and use of area guidelines. He has not heard a response back as of yet. He will do another follow up on August 20.
68. Michael Tirrell informed commissioners that Ryan Dunphy Athletic Director for the schools reached out to him as a request to improve two speakers and the sound quality. He was looking for the blessing of the commissioners for him to purchase through the school. They do not need our vote.
69. Scott LaBombard brought up the follow up on the AED box donated by Susan Canning that was approved by us. She is coordinating with Gas and Electric staff to install it and will give us another update on the status. He also said Scott Hathaway met with them and suggested to install it near the Municipal building for electric access.
70. Scott LaBombard went over the pickleball program for the fall and attached (signage emailed) to everyone for social distancing. Also, picture diagrams showed where to enter and exit. Three games on each side of the court and they exit out by pavilion. People will not be crossing back and forth from each other with these guidelines. They are looking for permission of the commission for temporary signs to be posted.
71. Robert Veronesi said these signs are for safety issues and do not need our approval.
72. Scott LaBombard asked why the basketball nets were up at Papermill Playground and not at Municipal Playground. Jim Blascak said that was in Scott Hathaway's report and what does the commissioners want to do put them back up or take them down. Discussion made of pros and cons.
73. Sara Unger said why don't we put a few up possibly at Sadie Knox Playground and see what happens if they follow guidelines. Scott LaBombard says kids will be kids and not follow rules. His son likes to play basketball with his friends and we just want them to play safe.
74. Kenneth Magarian said the basketball courts are our responsibility. Scott LaBombard read the states guidelines out loud.

75. David Billips said the only person that can give us the approval is the Health Dept. Michael Tirrell will do a follow up with Tom Hibert from the Health dept. and bring it back at the next meeting.
76. Robert Veronesi brought up softball leagues at Whitney playground and the large amount of people attending to watch games were well over a hundred some with no masks not following guidelines or 6 ft. apart and the police dept. were called. Most people were not from Westfield. He feels that the softball supervisor hired to run games should inform people the guidelines. He is suggesting that we move the times/days or eliminate the double header because when the second team arrives it brings in more people. He stated we now have a co-ed league on Tuesdays and Men's Friday league and they need to be spread out into different days. Jim Blascak will send out an email to teams not to bring family members, large crowds, and social guidelines. He also said people were drinking and had to deal with a female who was not following the rules.

Schedule of bills – (Attached) Designated board members -Approved by Vincent Olinski

Reports-Emailed-Scott Hathaway- Storm cause damage to Municipal fence due to high winds and wind-screen. Basketball hoops, Jose Torres Stone and 8x8 timbers places at Whitney for gate and Greening the Gateway Community project. (He is in the guards and was unable to attend)

Jim Blascak-Emailed-Fall-winter brochure out, pee wee soccer starting up, basketball is pending if supt. of schools allows up to use gyms, horseback riding camps are doing well, sprayparks close after Labor Day, Cross St. bids are out due back Sept.16.

Michael Tirrell said the next meeting is scheduled for October (We are not sure if city hall will re-open or held by via zoom remote) He asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Jane DeBarbieri to adjourn, motion seconded by Scott LaBombard. Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger, Yes, Robert Veronesi, Yes, Michael Tirrell Yes, Douglas Morash, Yes Kenneth Magarian, Yes, Scott LaBombard Yes and Jane Debarbieri, yes. All in favor.
Motion passed

Documents used:

Artwork information and Mural pictures-Emailed
Harold Grinspoon Art Works, LLC-Regarding Tree art-Emailed
Permit use of area form-Emailed
Schedule of bills-Emailed
Fall/Winter brochure-Emailed
Westfield Pickelball- Covid procedure-Emailed
Staff reports

Reviewed and approved by Douglas Morash Secretary of Commission

Summary of content via zoom video provided by: Peggy Goralczyk, Head Clerk

