

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
**COMMUNITY RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017 – 6:30 P.M.**  
**JOAN WILLIAMSON ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS**  
**MINUTES**

**NOTE: TAPE RECORDING AT TIMES VERY MUFFLED AND HARD TO DESCIPHER**

Ronald Sill called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

**Roll Call**

Present: Ronald Sill, Barbara L. DeGennaro, Carmen DiCenso

Absent: Anthony Staffieri (Excused Absence)

Also Present: The Honorable Mayor Anita Dugatto  
Alderman Thomas Donofrio  
Alderman Joseph DiMartino  
Anthony DeFala, Public Works Director  
Andrew Cota, Blight Officer  
Marc J. Garofalo, Town & City Clerk  
Shane Mangado, Mayor's Office  
Thomas Welch, Corporation Counsel

**ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. DiCenso with a second by Mr. Sill to adopt the agenda as posted. **Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC PORTION**

Mr. Sill asked three times if anyone wished to address the committee.

Adam Pacheco, 91-93 Caroline Street, Derby, CT

Spoke in favor item #11 – building a basketball court on City-owned vacant property.

Hearing no requests the public portion was closed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS MEETING DATED APRIL 11, 2017**

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. DiCenso with a second by Mr. Sill to approve the Minutes of the April 11, 2017 meeting as presented. Ms. DeGennaro abstained. **Motion carried.**

**WAIVE PICNIC GROVE FEE FOR ST. MARY-ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL ON THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2017 – DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN**

Mr. Sill said this information is in everyone's packet this evening and this has been past practice.

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. DiCenso with a second by Ms. DeGennaro to recommend to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen to waive the picnic grove fee for St. Mary-St. Michael School on Thursday, June 8, 2017. **Motion carried.**

**WAIVE PICNIC GROVE FEE FOR HOTCHKISS HOSE COMPANY #1 FOR THEIR 180<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FAMILY PICNIC ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2017. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN**

Mr. Sill said it is quite an accomplishment that the Hotchkiss Hose Company #1 is celebrating their 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. DiCenso with a second by Ms. DeGennaro to recommend to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen to waive the picnic grove fee for Hotchkiss Hose Company #1 for their 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary family picnic to be held on Saturday, June 10, 2017. **Motion carried.**

**USE OF DERBY GREEN BY DERBY LODGE OF ELKS #571 ON SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. FOR THE ANNUAL FLAG DAY CEREMONY. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN**

Mr. Sill said the information is in the packet and also noted that this is also past practice.

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. DiCenso with a second by Ms. DeGennaro to recommend to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen the use of the Derby Green by Derby Lodge of Elks #571 on Sunday, June 11, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the annual Flag Day ceremony. **Motion carried.**

**JOHN H. COLLINS POST #24 AMERICAN LEGION – REQUEST TO ERECT MONUMENT IN HONOR OF 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AND OF THE JOHN H. COLLINS POST #24 ON VETERANS MEMORIAL PROPERTY AT CORNER OF SEYMOUR AVENUE AND ATWATER AVENUE. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN**

Bernie Williamson from the John H. Collins Post #24 American Legion was present to answer any questions that the committee members might have. There was a picture of the monument in the packet and Mr. Williamson gave a brief review of the monument.

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. DiCenso with a second by Ms. DeGennaro to recommend to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwoman the request from the John H. Collins Post #24 American Legion to erect a monument in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Legion and the John H. Collins Post #24 on Veterans Memorial Property at the corner of Seymour Avenue and Atwater Avenue. **Motion carried.**

**CAROLINE STREET PROPERTY NEAR 119 CAROLINE STREET – FUTURE USE.**  
**DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD OF**  
**ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN**

Mr. Sill said he believes this is about the basketball court that was originally brought up to Community Relations several months ago by Mr. Conlon. Mr. Sill said they have made some progress on it and it was discussed last night at the Parks & Recreation meeting and they accepted it for use as a basketball court; however it still has to come before the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen. Ms. DeGennaro said she just wanted to inquire because she knows a couple of months ago that Officer Conlon was going to meet, and I believe he did, meet with Mr. Piscionieri at the site because we had no cost estimate since that meeting and it has not come back to this subcommittee since that meeting. So do we know what costs we're talking about or looking into? Mr. DeFala said he emailed everyone a cost estimate. Ms. DeGennaro said she doesn't recall receiving it and asked if he remembered what date it was sent. Mr. Sill said he believes it came to the full Board. Ms. DeGennaro said it might have come when she was sick and asked Mr. DeFala if he recalls the amount of the cost estimate. Mr. Sill said he doesn't recall having a cost estimate at the Parks & Recreation meeting. Mr. Cota said he believes the Mayor has the cost estimate. He also noted that the Mayor has indicated that there is a potential to receive grants. Ms. DeGennaro said we've been talking about this for several months. She said for Mr. Pacheco's edification and the youths that are present, one of our Police Officers came to this subcommittee back in October, November 2016 with the idea of putting a basketball court in the Hawkins Street area because the youth needed some activity. This committee discussed possible parcels on Hawkins Street, Lafayette, the corner of Fifth and Olivia and now on Caroline Street. She said she didn't realize what this was on the agenda this evening since it didn't reference the basketball court.

Mr. DeFala said on the cost estimate it indicated that a local contractor offered their services to do some of the work. Ms. DeGennaro said in the past the conversation had been some possible grant applications that could be made. I know Ms. Finn has indicated in the past some of the organizations such as the Matthies Foundation to get some funding towards the creation of the basketball court wherever it was going to be.

Shane Mangado said he wanted to review the information received at the Outreach Event held last week. He said an overwhelming majority of the residents were in favor of a basketball court so the kids would have somewhere to play in the area. I have prepared a Power Point presentation. I know you were confused about the 119 number... Ms. DeGennaro said she's not confused about it – I'm confused about the way the agenda was written – to me I didn't know what that meant. As long as it's a conversation about a basketball court that has been going on for several months at this subcommittee that is the way that it was on the agenda. So I had no idea who put this on or what it was about – it could have been that there was going to be a house built there. I understand what the need is. Mr. Mangado said as a result of (inaudible) we felt that since there were prior efforts to find a location for the basketball court we felt that this would be the ideal spot given consensus on that. The Mayor has already had conversations with Anthony DeFala and Parks and Rec and the maintenance would be under Public Works and oversight by the Parks & Recreation Department once it is

constructed. So we're requesting that you bring to the full Board that 147 Caroline Street will be the designated site for the basketball court. ***There was slight confusion as to the actual address. Mr. Garofalo said 119 Caroline Street is the old Hotchkiss Hose building – he does not believe there is an actual numeric address for the vacant City-owned lot.***

Mayor Dugatto handed out the cost estimate prepared by Anthony DeFala and emailed out on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. DeFala noted that a local contractor has offered to take care of the top three items (remove two collapsed catch basins, remove all interior fencing and bollards, and remove all existing asphalt.)

Mr. DiCenso said he is in favor of having this area so the kids will have some place to play and not be out in the street. Ms. DeGennaro agreed. Mr. DiCenso said he just wants to make sure that everyone knows that going forward in the future if the building across the street from that site ever gets developed we may need that piece of property for parking for some other structure – whatever a developer has in mind. I just want to make that clear to everybody because that's a big parcel across the street. Ms. DeGennaro said she understands that but she knows that one of the issues was the cost of putting in a lot – putting it in anywhere, wherever it was going to be. Whether it was going to be Hawkins – whatever site – the cost of doing it. I don't want to beat the dead horse but I know Officer Conlon's remark that night was that he would rather see a basketball in the hands of a kid than a gun or a weapon. I know he on his own has done a lot of legwork to try to get funds or look to see if there would be money on a private end only because he feels that desire to help the youth and so do we. Mr. Sill asked Mayor Dugatto if she has any further information on money that could be put towards this. Mayor Dugatto said we are actively pursuing grants and we're not trying to build this with taxpayer dollars. She said we're getting good feedback on donations. Once we know the location is approved that will move things along. Griffin Hospital brought it to their board and they are looking to donate \$25,000. Mayor Dugatto said she knows that Officer Conlon approached Kentucky Fried Chicken and they will be donating. Mr. Sill said he would like to move this to the full Board to use this property for a basketball court under the auspices of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. DiCenso with a second by Ms. DeGennaro to recommend to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderswoman to use the vacant City-owned lot next to the former Hotchkiss Hose on Caroline Street as a basketball court under the auspices of the Parks and Recreation Commission. ***Motion carried.***

**EVERGREEN TREE AND FENCING IN CENTER OF DERBY GREEN – FUTURE USE. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN.**

Mr. Sill said that Mr. DeFala had sent out an email regarding this item and noted that the fence is already gone. Mr. DeFala informed the committee members that the fence was completely vandalized and it needed to be removed. As it was made of plastic there were extremely sharp edges, which made it dangerous to keep on site. He noted that the fencing didn't allow his crew to maintain the tree and it is his recommendation to have the tree completely removed. Mr. DeFala told the committee the tree should be replaced with a Balsam Fir, which are commonly used for

Christmas trees and would be a better fit for the site. Mr. Sill asked about the price for a new tree. Mr. DeFala said he hasn't fully investigated the costs; however he feels that he can replace the tree and the fencing with funds in his budget. He also said he would like to install a wrought iron fence instead of a plastic fence and feels that it would be more in line with the aesthetics of the Green. Mr. DiCenso asked about the possibility of installing security cameras on the Green noting that four of the benches have also been vandalized. Mr. DeFala also stated he has never seen the vandalism as bad as it is now. Mr. DiCenso said he doesn't want to see anything happen to the monument that is currently being restored. Mr. DeFala also noted that there has been vandalism at the Community Center.

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. DiCenso with a second by Ms. DeGennaro to recommend to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen that the tree and fence enclosure be removed and the tree replaced with a Balsam Fir and that Mr. DeFala will have a cost estimate for the fencing enclosure for the full Board meeting. **Motion carried.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Ms. DeGennaro to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Finn  
Recording Secretary

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE AT THEIR NEXT MEETING.**