

West Haven Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
Date: February 3, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Mays called the meeting to order at **7:01 PM**.

2. Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Mays, Commissioner Beirne, Commissioner Depew, Mayor Borer, Director Paine, John Carrano (New HR Commissioner).
Absent: Commissioner Tompkins, Commissioner Freel

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Commissioner Depew moved to approve January **6, 2025**, minutes.
- Commissioner Mays seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.

4. Correspondence

- No official correspondence was discussed.

5. New Business

A. Introduction of New HR Commissioner – John Carrano

- John Carrano introduced himself as the **new HR Commissioner**.
- Background: Former **Vice President of Supply Chain and Procurement** in the **automotive parts industry**.
- Responsibilities include **overseeing Parks & Rec, Health Department, Elderly Services, and Youth & Family Services**.

B. North End Field Property Discussion

- Mayor Borer discussed property was **put out for bids**, but **no offers** were received.
- **University of New Haven (UNH)** is considering **purchasing it for \$500,000**.
- The Mayor discussed the benefits, including **reducing maintenance costs** and potential **state funding through PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes)**.

C. Field Usage & Maintenance Fees

- **Veterans Field and Quigley Stadium** require significant **maintenance costs**.

- **Proposal:** Implement fees for **usage before May 1st and after November 1st** to offset **public works overtime costs**.
- Discussion about **Notre Dame High School's field usage** with **no recent record of payments**.
- **Action Item:** The Mayor will verify past contributions and **request a structured usage fee**.

D. Potential Redevelopment of Quigley Stadium

- Discussion about making it a **multipurpose field** for **soccer and lacrosse** alongside **baseball**.
- Director Paine states that Quigley is our last regulation hardball field for adults left in the city. He thinks multi-use is great but cautious because of the size of the stadium.
- Proposal to bring in **consultants** to assess feasibility.
- The Mayor's office will **explore partnerships and grant funding** for improvements.

6. Director's Report

- Discussion on increasing **program fees** due to **rising minimum wages**.
- Eco Park at Old Grove Park contract is finalized, need signatures to access funds to order plant material for project.
- Tennis Courts at Painter Park are prepped for demolition. There will be 4 tennis courts, 2 will be only tennis and the other 2 will be tennis/pickleball with 4 pickleball courts available to the public.
- The wooden playground is getting the trees trimmed, new mulch and new fences around the entire park.
- The department has been working with Michael Walsh to update our website and have logos to match the city website.
- A Sand Management plan has been in discussions issues because the city has some real immediate needs along the shoreline for sand.

7. Adjournment

- Commissioner Mays adjourned the meeting at **8:07 PM**.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Marianne Gambardella\