



## Meeting Notice of the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Town of Greenwich

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**

### Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Sue Baker, Lois Berlin, **Michael Bocchino**, Thomasina Bulger, Tom Byrne, Ross Cahn, Pat Camerson, Daniel Carlsen, Lenore Caserta-McClester, **Nancy Chapin**, Martina Doshan, Bill Drake, Carol Ducret, Liz Eckert, Harry Fisher, **Tracy Freedman**, Myrna Gardner, Judith Gordon, Linda Grunow, Elizabeth Harkins, Larry Imbrogno, Coline Jenkins, **Scott Johnson**, Brian Kerzner, Sophie Koven, Greg Kramer, Betsy Kreuter, Miriam Kreuzer, Pat Larrabee, **Rick Loh**, Kanako MacLennan, Brian Maher, Victoria Martin, **Matt McCarty**, Pat Mendelsohn, Stephen Meskers, JoAnn Messina, Carolyn Petersen, **Matthew Popp**, Joe Siciliano, Sue Snyder, William Tad Larrabee, Liz Tommasino, Marcos Torno, H. Tsatsonis, Peter Uhry, Lucy von Brachel, **Vivian Wu**, Ella Yager, Leslie Yager, Debra, Dolly, EJ, Lois, Maggie, Margaret, MCahn, McKenzie, Monica, Pat, Postwines1, RF and Will.

- Call to order at 6:33 p.m.
- Approval of January 11, 2023 Minutes
  - Motion by Matt Popp, seconded by Rick Loh 6-0-2 (Tracy Freedman, Nancy Chapin)
- Director's Report
  - OnePass update
  - Budget update
  - Spring planning
  - Lifeguard training
- Chairman's Report
  - Winston Robinson's passing
  - Non-resident Park Passes
  - EGCC
- Sub-Committee Updates:
  - Dorothy Hamill Rink  
Committee update – upon extensive discussion, the following motion was made by Rick Loh, seconded by Matt McCarty:  
**RESOLVED, that the BPR, after soliciting and receiving public comment, recommends that the skating rink and baseball field locations recommended by the Rink User Committee for Design and Planning on February 8, 2023, promptly move forward to the BET and other relevant agencies and bodies in order to obtain sufficient funds for further project investigations and development. 7-0-1 (Mike Bocchino)**
- New Business
  - Old Greenwich Festival – upon extensive discussion, the following motion was made by Nancy Chapin, seconded by Matt Popp:  
**RESOLVED, that the BPR, after soliciting and receiving public comment, recommends that the application for a permit for the so-called "Old Greenwich Festival" to be located at Binney Park be denied. 7-1-0 (Mike Bocchino)**

- Student beach passes-discussion will be taken offline
- Public Comment

- Unfinished Business
- Adjourn-Motion by Mike Bocchino, seconded by Rick Loh 8-0-0

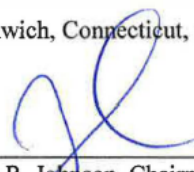
**Scroll Down for signed resolutions and Zoom Transcript**

***RESOLUTION  
OF  
THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
DATED FEBRUARY 22, 2023***

At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation, which occurred on today's date, at which a quorum was present, the Board of Parks and Recreation ("BPR"), issued the following resolution adopted by a vote of 7-0-1, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the BPR, after soliciting and receiving public comment, recommends that the skating rink and baseball field locations recommended by the Rink User Committee for Design and Planning on February 8, 2023, promptly move forward to the BET and other relevant agencies and bodies in order to obtain sufficient funds for further project investigations and development.

Confirmed as agreed to and dated at Greenwich, Connecticut, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2023.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Johnson, Chairman of the  
Board of Parks and Recreation

***RESOLUTION  
OF  
THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
DATED FEBRUARY 22, 2023***

At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation, which occurred on today's date, at which a quorum was present, the Board of Parks and Recreation ("BPR"), issued the following resolution adopted by a vote of 7-1-0, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the BPR, after soliciting and receiving public comment, recommends that the application for a permit for the so-called "Old Greenwich Festival" to be located at Binney Park be denied.

Confirmed as agreed to and dated at Greenwich, Connecticut, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2023.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Johnson, Chairman of the  
Board of Parks and Recreation

This Zoom transcript is computer generated and does not always accurately capture the words. Please refer to the posted audio of this meeting on our website.

WEBVTT

1

00:00:00.500 --> 00:00:01.160

Scott R. Johnson: So

2

00:00:03.430 --> 00:00:10.020

Scott R. Johnson: so welcome everybody to February 20 s. a regular

3

00:00:10.290 --> 00:00:12.850

Scott R. Johnson: meeting of the Border parks, and rec

4

00:00:14.860 --> 00:00:30.680

Scott R. Johnson: before we go to the minutes. I want to do a couple of administrative things because this is gonna be a little bit of an unusual meeting for us. and i'm going to format wise we're gonna be a little bit more like P. And Z.

5

00:00:31.630 --> 00:00:33.400

Which means

6

00:00:35.710 --> 00:00:40.700

Scott R. Johnson: you can only talk when you, when you're recognized to talk.

7

00:00:42.920 --> 00:00:48.860

Scott R. Johnson: Participants particularly attendees, will only be limited in their comments

8

00:00:49.370 --> 00:00:51.130

because we have a lot.

9

00:00:51.650 --> 00:01:04.129

Scott R. Johnson: and we ask that attendees who have comments on a particular matter. Try to consolidate your comments. So we don't have, you know, 10 people saying the same thing.

10

00:01:09.470 --> 00:01:13.990

Scott R. Johnson: Joe is going to give his report. I'm going to give my chairman's report after that.

11

00:01:14.310 --> 00:01:19.500

Scott R. Johnson: and then we're going to jump into 2 matters that that are likely to be lengthy.

12

00:01:20.010 --> 00:01:31.130

Scott R. Johnson: One is on the skating rink. and the other is on an application for the Orange festival at at Bitty.

13

00:01:31.610 --> 00:01:36.200

Scott R. Johnson: so i'll get into a little bit more specifics of how we're going to do that

14

00:01:36.630 --> 00:01:40.570

Scott R. Johnson: when we get to that thing. Get to those matters.

15

00:01:41.520 --> 00:01:43.570

So let's

16

00:01:44.010 --> 00:01:47.990

Scott R. Johnson: so. Are you gonna You're going to abbreviate your report a little bit?

17

00:01:48.550 --> 00:01:50.570

I'm going to ask that

18

00:01:50.640 --> 00:01:52.230

Scott R. Johnson: myself included

19

00:01:52.630 --> 00:01:58.420

that we abbreviate our other things. So, for example, i'm not going to say anything about the foundation.

20

00:01:58.470 --> 00:02:01.840

Scott R. Johnson: There's nothing important on the foundation at this point. Either

21

00:02:04.090 --> 00:02:05.460

Scott R. Johnson: we'll merge.

22

00:02:06.800 --> 00:02:11.230

Scott R. Johnson: We close your port into the report in general on the rank.

23

00:02:14.370 --> 00:02:23.650

Scott R. Johnson: Yeah, so you can truncate your parks and trees a little bit, because you're going to speak a little bit on Penny. So, Joe, why don't you jump in with your stuff.

24

00:02:24.010 --> 00:02:26.700

Scott R. Johnson: and then i'll follow up on my sub right after that.

25

00:02:27.480 --> 00:02:35.900

Joe Siciliano: Okay, Good evening, everyone. And so i'll give the director's report. Dan Carlson is going to give a little

26

00:02:37.020 --> 00:02:41.050

Joe Siciliano: information about the one past we've been working with

27

00:02:50.020 --> 00:02:53.490

Joe Siciliano: You're breaking up a bit, Joe, I think.

28

00:02:58.560 --> 00:03:02.490

Joe Siciliano: Let me try to move.

29

00:03:02.560 --> 00:03:04.530

Joe Siciliano: I'm in my dining room

30

00:03:14.580 --> 00:03:15.670

Joe Siciliano: that better.

31

00:03:18.630 --> 00:03:19.920

Better.

32

00:03:19.980 --> 00:03:21.240

Joe Siciliano: I think so.

33

00:03:22.150 --> 00:03:25.220

Scott R. Johnson: Can anybody hear me.

34

00:03:25.770 --> 00:03:29.340

Joe Siciliano: Okay, let's go with this, for now.

35

00:03:35.210 --> 00:03:37.650

Joe Siciliano: Can you hear me?

36

00:03:38.020 --> 00:03:50.830

Joe Siciliano: Okay. So we had our budget meeting with the Bt Budget Committee. We spent 2 and a half hours. We are only all in 1 h, but we spent a lot of time updating them on other things other than our budget.

37

00:03:51.000 --> 00:04:01.430

Joe Siciliano: I feel that we were very successful, providing information to help them make a decision on our budget, which will be coming up on Decision Day.

38

00:04:01.600 --> 00:04:20.730

Joe Siciliano: We also there's also a small list of things Dan's working on to finalize and resubmit to them. But I do feel that we were very successful in providing them the necessary information to support our budget request, and also give them information on other topics that they wanted me to speak about.

39

00:04:20.750 --> 00:04:25.080

Joe Siciliano: The the other thing Dan will cover the one pass

40

00:04:25.220 --> 00:04:26.670

we we

41

00:04:26.800 --> 00:04:39.860

Joe Siciliano: we you know we're we're getting ready. I mean, we've been talking a lot about spring programs and fall and summer programs. I mean. Obviously, with the weather being so nice, out we get an incredible amount of use of parks and beaches.

42

00:04:39.890 --> 00:04:49.940

Joe Siciliano: and that we're seeing, you know, a significant uptick in in the utilization of all of our our facilities. So you know we're we're mindful of that being February with

43

00:04:50.000 --> 00:04:52.790

Joe Siciliano: not having any real snow.

44

00:04:52.880 --> 00:05:11.340

Joe Siciliano: The good part about that is that we are also been able to get our crews out there and get into areas that we normally can at this time of the year because of being clever weather. So the department's really pushing through. We're really trying to get we're looking at, prepping all of everything for the spring and summer, doing a tremendous amount of part time. Hiring

45

00:05:11.360 --> 00:05:13.860

just as an fyi.

46

00:05:13.930 --> 00:05:32.240

Joe Siciliano: We have a we're working collaboratively with direct to part with the direct Division, the Marine Division and providing a lifeguard training program at Greenwich High School Pool as part of our learn to swim program. So we have an instructor that works for us that could teach that class so hopefully. What we're going to be able to do

47

00:05:32.240 --> 00:05:48.120

Joe Siciliano: is to put people into that class and and recruit them right from there into a job, for it's a lifeguard for the summer. So that's encouraging, because last year we were little behind the a ball as far as Lifeguards go. We we struggled through the summer. We did get through

48

00:05:48.120 --> 00:06:03.070

Joe Siciliano: about this year. We're trying to take a more proactive re stance and trying to get pre crew cards, and not only recruit them, but certify them so we it. It's a good. It's a good maneuver for us, and we're following the trend of a lot of other departments out there

49

00:06:03.070 --> 00:06:17.380

Joe Siciliano: other than that I mean. The golf course is in good shape. I talked with Cpo today, Jay Collins, the Turf manager. They're they're working on getting the course prepped. And hopefully, sometime in early march we'll be able to

50

00:06:17.420 --> 00:06:27.160

Joe Siciliano: our.

51

00:06:27.210 --> 00:06:34.350

Joe Siciliano: That's pretty much. It Dan's gonna cover a couple of minutes. I think the roll out of the one pass has been highly successful.

52

00:06:34.530 --> 00:06:54.340

Joe Siciliano: I think that you know it's been. It's we've had minimal issues with the rollout, and Dan will give you some information about how many people we have involved that the residents that we've been. We've touched with the application of the new of the one pass and and some of the responses. So, Dan, you're up

53

00:06:59.080 --> 00:07:09.640

Daniel Carlsen: all right. Thank you very much, Joe. I appreciate it. Yeah. So I just wanted to give some kind of statistical analysis with the one pass as well as give you guys an idea of where we stand right now.

54

00:07:09.640 --> 00:07:20.500

As Joe mentioned it, it has been a successful roll out. Things have been working well. There's been a lot of question from residents and things like that. But our our staff has been ready and willing to answer any kind of questions that they've had.

55

00:07:20.570 --> 00:07:39.820

Daniel Carlsen: so you know, starting in January, just as a quick reminder. I know we want to be brief, that we we sent over 47,000 passes and and 20,000 letters to existing passholders, notifying them with the one past changes as well as giving them their new inactive card. Obviously seniors have that active card through 2,025.

56

00:07:39.920 --> 00:07:52.640

Daniel Carlsen: Since then we've sold 9,144 passes across Beach Park passes golf, passes tennis and marine, with 95% of those transactions completed online.

57

00:07:52.640 --> 00:08:12.510

Daniel Carlsen: And this really does show that we've continued to have success with our transition to a more digital focused customer service model. Everybody within the customer service team is still able to handle anything, for for in person, when people want to come in, so there's no shortage of shortage of service if that's what people would prefer.

58

00:08:12.510 --> 00:08:17.080

But we do see that about 95% of our transactions were completed online.

59

00:08:17.150 --> 00:08:33.200

Daniel Carlsen: And with this transition to the focus model there has been an increase in customer service communications with residents via email. In January our customer service team processed over 12,000 individual emails and up to the state in February it's been over 7,000,

60

00:08:33.200 --> 00:08:53.050

Daniel Carlsen: and even just over this weekend we received 600 emails as well. So there is an active ongoing communication between our customer service team as through our residents as well. And as I've stated, they've done a great job staying on top of this communication effort responding to any questions and concerns, and it's it's it's actually been working pretty well.

61

00:08:53.180 --> 00:08:59.630

We also instituted that Residency verification check through the town records for the first time.

62

00:08:59.650 --> 00:09:13.420

Daniel Carlsen: And so there have been 1,600 households that utilize this option. And with that we've been able to verify 1,393 households. That's about 87% through this process.

63

00:09:13.420 --> 00:09:32.950

Daniel Carlsen: We think that is a very successful number for this trial program. We are only utilizing a specific set of data through the town records. At this point we could look to expand it, to even improve those numbers. But it has been working very well, and has improved our efficiency process through this a lot. So next year, and in the years going forward it should be even more seamless.

64

00:09:33.100 --> 00:09:44.970

Daniel Carlsen: We're continue to move on, as as all the programming gets implemented. So we're continuing to d0 Ongoing work. But this is kind of where we stand right now, happy to answer any questions or concerns that you guys may have.

65

00:09:44.970 --> 00:10:03.160

Joe Siciliano: Dan: One more thing. Yeah, I want to give a plug for a social media. But Leonora does a great job with that plus our team of people that feed her that information. That's the you know. Any supervisor operations manager or superintendent, and you can find us on regularly posting on Facebook.

66

00:10:03.160 --> 00:10:23.000

Joe Siciliano: and it's I think, that Pr. That has given us a lot more exposure to the public, and also we've been posting some of our our jobs on on social media. You know whether we're looking for part, time, help, or that type of thing. So I think it's it's definitely had an effect on our communications with the public.

67

00:10:23.000 --> 00:10:41.830

Joe Siciliano: and inspired people to kind of, you know. Apply for Jobs summer jobs. You know what they see around temporary jobs are full time. So it's been a it's been a big help in Lenore. Thank you. And thanks to everybody who's been giving the Northern photographs the updated information. That's that's a big plus for us.

68  
00:10:43.490 --> 00:10:46.750  
Scott R. Johnson: So I I have a question on the one pass.

69  
00:10:46.880 --> 00:10:57.030  
Scott R. Johnson: Yeah. Are there any exceptions to what's not going to be covered. So, for example, are the Marina facilities. It's part of it also.

70  
00:10:59.650 --> 00:11:06.680  
Daniel Carlsen: Yes, the mar the marine permits are part of this. So this this is the beach. Slash Park Pass, golf.

71  
00:11:06.780 --> 00:11:17.490  
Daniel Carlsen: tennis, and marine facility uses. That's where we're at right now. With this, you know, in the future years we could look for expansion. But that is the current scope that we have within the one past right now.

72  
00:11:17.860 --> 00:11:20.370  
Scott R. Johnson: So so what's what's not covered?

73  
00:11:21.930 --> 00:11:25.750  
Scott R. Johnson: Is. Is there anything that separate that they that they have to do?

74  
00:11:26.040 --> 00:11:28.010  
Scott R. Johnson: You know a separate card for?

75  
00:11:28.100 --> 00:11:28.730  
Joe Siciliano: Okay.

76  
00:11:30.040 --> 00:11:36.510  
Joe Siciliano: Scott, at this point? No, I mean it. That includes it. When we say tennis, it includes, you know, pick a ball.

77  
00:11:36.620 --> 00:11:44.050  
Joe Siciliano: and the only separate thing right now. Outstanding is paddle during the winter. But but it. But there is capacity

78  
00:11:44.120 --> 00:11:56.050  
Joe Siciliano: to expand the offerings on the card going forward. We wanted to work with something that was very manageable, and so we selected these 4 categories for this roll out.

79  
00:11:56.080 --> 00:12:12.620  
Joe Siciliano: But there, there are other things that we can. We can add on to the, to the card, for for verification and fee and fee. So it's just the first time roll out, so we'll look in the future where we where it makes more sense to expand.

80  
00:12:14.720 --> 00:12:18.760  
Scott R. Johnson: and then you let you update us as you guys progress through. PET:

81  
00:12:19.370 --> 00:12:30.410



Joe Siciliano: Yes, yeah. So the next thing is, the Bt will have decision making day that's coming up in a week or so they'll make, so the Budget Committee will make their recommendations to the full B et.

82

00:12:30.550 --> 00:12:42.350

Joe Siciliano: Then there'll be a bet public hearing somewhere at the end of March, and then the end of March, early April, there will be a vote of the full B et to pass the budget document to the Rtm.

83

00:12:43.870 --> 00:12:45.220

Joe Siciliano: But we'll keep you updated.

84

00:12:46.150 --> 00:12:48.020

Scott R. Johnson: Alright, anything else for Dan.

85

00:12:49.570 --> 00:12:56.560

Scott R. Johnson: So so let me let me just jump to some administrative stuff and then chair and report.

86

00:12:56.700 --> 00:12:59.940

Scott R. Johnson: First of all, let's so I make a motion to

87

00:13:01.290 --> 00:13:04.710

Scott R. Johnson: adopt the prior minutes. We didn't do that yet.

88

00:13:06.040 --> 00:13:07.880

Scott R. Johnson: Minutes of the prior port meeting

89

00:13:15.070 --> 00:13:15.820

Rick Loh: 1 s.

90

00:13:16.040 --> 00:13:20.610

Scott R. Johnson: Okay, Rick second. Is that all in favor? Raise your hands

91

00:13:23.080 --> 00:13:24.770

Matthew Popp: any

92

00:13:25.240 --> 00:13:26.580

Scott R. Johnson: any opposed

93

00:13:27.550 --> 00:13:35.130

Tracy Freedman: I wasn't with? I wasn't there last month, so do I vote or I don't.

94

00:13:35.180 --> 00:13:36.860

Scott R. Johnson: Yeah.

95

00:13:37.200 --> 00:13:41.450

Scott R. Johnson: Now, when we get t0 Other matters, if they come to votes.

96

00:13:41.720 --> 00:13:46.620

Scott R. Johnson: we will actually do hands, but also do voices

97  
00:13:47.140 --> 00:13:51.610  
Scott R. Johnson: because it's a little more easier to to document.

98  
00:13:53.340 --> 00:13:59.280  
Scott R. Johnson: Okay. So first of all. many of you did not know

99  
00:13:59.630 --> 00:14:01.690  
Winston Robinson.

100  
00:14:02.190 --> 00:14:04.950  
Scott R. Johnson: Joe and I, of course, did. And probably Rick.

101  
00:14:05.560 --> 00:14:09.360  
when we Winston just passed away a couple of weeks ago.

102  
00:14:10.900 --> 00:14:16.720  
Scott R. Johnson: There's been a lot of press on him. He was an amazing guy. He was actually in my

103  
00:14:17.020 --> 00:14:29.110  
Scott R. Johnson: kindergarten class. I was going to bring our class photograph and Julie. but anybody that knew Winston. He was on Parks and Retro for what? 3 times meeting

104  
00:14:29.410 --> 00:14:31.710  
Joe Siciliano: in the nineties

105  
00:14:33.760 --> 00:14:37.350  
Scott R. Johnson: 7 Other boards, you know, and a number of

106  
00:14:37.600 --> 00:14:40.080  
travel institutions. He.

107  
00:14:40.600 --> 00:14:47.160  
Scott R. Johnson: the epitomized the nice guy. and you could talk to him about anything.

108  
00:14:47.590 --> 00:14:51.050  
Scott R. Johnson: He, you know. He had no problem disagreeing with you.

109  
00:14:51.440 --> 00:14:55.900  
but he was always a a gentleman, and I I I

110  
00:14:56.740 --> 00:14:59.760  
Scott R. Johnson: He was an amazing guy. I will also say

111  
00:14:59.860 --> 00:15:04.700  
Scott R. Johnson: he was one of Just think of this in comparison. One of

112

00:15:05.390 --> 00:15:12.890

Scott R. Johnson: 2 black families in my class in the graduate school. That was it. That was it.

113

00:15:13.140 --> 00:15:18.880

Scott R. Johnson: But he was a gentleman. He was a civil rights advocate, but he was

114

00:15:19.020 --> 00:15:24.690

Scott R. Johnson: gracious, and he was very sensitive. So. moving on

115

00:15:27.200 --> 00:15:28.910

Scott R. Johnson: Lunar posted

116

00:15:29.320 --> 00:15:40.460

Scott R. Johnson: an updated membership list with layers on that's great. Take a look at it. Could lose out of date. We also posted our our calendar for meetings for the rest of the year.

117

00:15:42.450 --> 00:15:51.270

Scott R. Johnson: You know, we're basically going to continue the 6 30 format the last Wednesday of each month where we can.

118

00:15:51.440 --> 00:15:57.110

Scott R. Johnson: And usually we have exceptions for for holiday periods. So just take a look at that.

119

00:15:57.210 --> 00:15:58.860

Scott R. Johnson: You do try to.

120

00:15:59.240 --> 00:16:01.920

Scott R. Johnson: You know, just your schedule somewhere, if you can.

121

00:16:04.240 --> 00:16:15.160

Scott R. Johnson: A couple of things that come across my desk. Maybe not yours hopefully. Many of you saw the Hr Resolution 6 6 5 0,

122

00:16:15.310 --> 00:16:19.970

Scott R. Johnson: which was recording each passes to non-residence

123

00:16:20.160 --> 00:16:32.400

Scott R. Johnson: that you can't have passes, and less than or look. More than 50% of the current rates charged residents represent a Mespers and and Fred Camillo spoke

124

00:16:32.590 --> 00:16:40.250

Scott R. Johnson: against it. It's something that I don't think has gotten out of committee. Mike, you made up there to me

125

00:16:40.370 --> 00:16:45.420

Scott R. Johnson: historically. I don't think it's got a committee, but it's certainly something that we we need to track

126

00:16:45.760 --> 00:16:47.000

Scott R. Johnson: for those who care

127

00:16:51.350 --> 00:16:53.720

Scott R. Johnson: not at a committee. Yet

128

00:17:01.660 --> 00:17:03.840

he's from my civic center.

129

00:17:03.910 --> 00:17:09.589

Scott R. Johnson: It's kind of fun right now. The steel is going up, and you could actually start to see the silhouette of what's going on.

130

00:17:10.950 --> 00:17:15.560

Scott R. Johnson: The the parabolic rooms you can see which are really interesting.

131

00:17:15.819 --> 00:17:24.400

Scott R. Johnson: and it it's it's going fast. The the fear was that steel was not to arrive, but it's it's here it's going up.

132

00:17:30.320 --> 00:17:36.490

Scott R. Johnson: Let me talk about administration of our 2 matters

133

00:17:36.660 --> 00:17:47.490

Scott R. Johnson: that hopefully will code to vote, or will at least have a number of speakers. We will have going first the presenters of these 2 items.

134

00:17:48.270 --> 00:17:51.830

Scott R. Johnson: So we will have, for example.

135

00:17:52.270 --> 00:17:56.490

Scott R. Johnson: Bill Drake, of the Hockey, or the the Ring Committee.

136

00:17:56.850 --> 00:18:07.790

Scott R. Johnson: make a presentation, and then other important principles. So, for example, Mike Pacin0 0r Rick, we're als0 0n that committee will speak.

137

00:18:08.330 --> 00:18:19.100

Scott R. Johnson: and I don't. I don't want to have discussion with attendees until we're done with board members and lay on on things like that.

138

00:18:19.350 --> 00:18:26.020

Scott R. Johnson: And that's particularly important for the second matter, which will be the Pity Park

139

00:18:27.070 --> 00:18:31.600

Scott R. Johnson: festival application. So we'll do.

140

00:18:31.840 --> 00:18:34.300

Scott R. Johnson: We'll do the rank first.

141

00:18:35.190 --> 00:18:44.830

Scott R. Johnson: and we've been asked to to put it to to vote. has there? Because everyone knows we have had updates of the rink or the Ring Committee

142

00:18:45.110 --> 00:18:48.500

lay on, which is Rick Low every month

143

00:18:48.930 --> 00:18:51.510

Scott R. Johnson: for at least 2 years.

144

00:18:51.840 --> 00:18:59.390

Scott R. Johnson: So even if you don't read the paper. We've gotten an update, so we should be familiar with what's going on there.

145

00:19:02.610 --> 00:19:11.370

Scott R. Johnson: My personal observation on this is that we are not voting to approve

146

00:19:11.780 --> 00:19:16.840

Scott R. Johnson: any of the engineering or architecture relating to that.

147

00:19:16.990 --> 00:19:28.970

Scott R. Johnson: So, for example, there's been a lot of emails on subsurface conditions. or They' in correspondence on potential driveway locations

148

00:19:29.050 --> 00:19:33.130

Scott R. Johnson: and and other questions beyond site plan.

149

00:19:33.460 --> 00:19:35.840

That's not what we do.

150

00:19:35.870 --> 00:19:43.580

Scott R. Johnson: We're not engineers. All we're doing is reviewing the proposal that Bill Drake will talk about.

151

00:19:43.870 --> 00:19:49.760

Rick Loh: and you know, if it comes to this there'll be a there'll be a motion to

152

00:19:50.120 --> 00:20:03.600

Scott R. Johnson: approve or reject, or whatever it is. but it needs to be very narrow to, at least in the case of approval is, we're trying to move it to. We're not trying to say that this project

153

00:20:03.760 --> 00:20:15.860

Scott R. Johnson: or this site is suitable for engineering or or other reasons, because that's not what we do. We're not engineers. And again, this is my personal opinion

154

00:20:15.900 --> 00:20:22.300

Scott R. Johnson: that that's the job of the architects and engineers that hopefully will be hired right away

155

00:20:22.520 --> 00:20:26.830

Scott R. Johnson: by the we don't hire them. Nor do we supervise them.

156

00:20:27.520 --> 00:20:29.420

Scott R. Johnson: So

157

00:20:34.800 --> 00:20:49.470

Scott R. Johnson: discussions by other interested parties to any of these matters. We'll get to, maybe not board members or not. Liaison's or no, not principles.

158

00:20:49.980 --> 00:21:00.210

Scott R. Johnson: We'll get to afterwards, but only when everyone else is done, and then we'll see how what the attending list is like. We may have to to limit conversation.

159

00:21:00.950 --> 00:21:02.860

Scott R. Johnson: So

160

00:21:03.170 --> 00:21:06.080

Scott R. Johnson: the Rank Committee

161

00:21:06.290 --> 00:21:13.350

Scott R. Johnson: proposal was instigated by Bill Drake, who's the chairman at committees and member Bt.

162

00:21:13.640 --> 00:21:17.650

Scott R. Johnson: So, Bill, can you? If you can hear me.

163

00:21:18.350 --> 00:21:31.430

Scott R. Johnson: and let's just proceed with with those report, and then we'll have plenty of discussion discussion first paying from other committee members meeting Mike

164

00:21:31.800 --> 00:21:33.540

Scott R. Johnson: and Rick. So

165

00:21:34.530 --> 00:21:40.020

Scott R. Johnson: yeah, I want to On mute and and give us your 2 cents on this.

166

00:21:40.860 --> 00:21:47.530

Bill Drake: Sure that thanks everybody for inviting me to present this. I'll try to be brief.

167

00:21:51.460 --> 00:22:02.960

Bill Drake: I won't. Give you the years of background, but 2 different rate committees in succession. The first one and the second one have been working on this project since 2,017.

168

00:22:03.680 --> 00:22:10.180

Bill Drake: Joseph Leon has been involved, Sue, Snyder, Rick Low, Me. and others. And so

169

00:22:10.570 --> 00:22:13.960

Bill Drake: where those 2 committees in those 6 years of work

170

00:22:14.020 --> 00:22:26.850

Bill Drake: have brought us to this. let me talk about calendar 22 for all of calendar 22 we in our ring committee

171

00:22:27.370 --> 00:22:37.770

Bill Drake: worked on the plan to rebuild the rink on its current, footprint and this necessitated the second rank which you've all heard about.

172

00:22:39.980 --> 00:22:44.320

Bill Drake: It turns out the second rate is difficult to cite it.

173

00:22:44.910 --> 00:22:49.810

Bill Drake: and then also increases the cost by 2 to \$6000000, depending on what you built.

174

00:22:51.450 --> 00:23:00.590

Bill Drake: We examined 9 different sites thoroughly over Calendar 22, and I'll list them later if you want me to, but

175

00:23:02.790 --> 00:23:06.240

Bill Drake: none of them are easy. Not this was not easy.

176

00:23:07.480 --> 00:23:11.870

Bill Drake: And then late in the year, and this was a good idea of Joseph.

177

00:23:12.990 --> 00:23:26.370

Bill Drake: the Department of Public Works and the Department of Parks, and retain the Sfa. To make a public survey. And you remember Sfa. They did the public survey for the Eastern Gren, a city center. So they're in known quantity.

178

00:23:27.310 --> 00:23:36.340

Bill Drake: and you filled out the survey. I'm sure it all landed with all of you and me. It went live in November, and the results were provided last month.

179

00:23:38.120 --> 00:23:48.760

Bill Drake: and the most important conclusion was that 84% of the 2,599 respondents who answered the question

180

00:23:49.670 --> 00:23:51.030

Bill Drake: indicated

181

00:23:51.540 --> 00:23:56.440

Bill Drake: that instead of building the rink on the footprint of the ring that they would prefer

182

00:23:56.520 --> 00:24:01.540

Bill Drake: to build the new rink of today's ball field and build a new ball field.

183

00:24:01.600 --> 00:24:02.780

Bill Drake: or the rankings.

184

00:24:03.700 --> 00:24:05.910

and what the survey called that the flip

185

00:24:07.170 --> 00:24:08.430

and

186

00:24:08.670 --> 00:24:15.560

Bill Drake: and this decision by the citizens was overwhelming and clear. It was 84%

187

00:24:16.450 --> 00:24:28.400

Bill Drake: and a flip like this is a routine construction plan that's used where the mets and the Yankees play, and it was used when we built a new lab school next to the new labs, the old new Lab School.

188

00:24:28.840 --> 00:24:33.960

Bill Drake: and it's often chosen because it's just a best practice, and it's simpler

189

00:24:37.110 --> 00:24:38.250

Bill Drake: and let's speak.

190

00:24:38.290 --> 00:24:42.790

Bill Drake: I I should be clear about what the flip means for baseball.

191

00:24:43.330 --> 00:24:51.720

Bill Drake: It means a beautiful new straws of field right next to where it is today. You know we all

192

00:24:52.120 --> 00:25:01.900

Bill Drake: pretty. Camilla loves it. Mr. Battino loves it. I love it, you know. I coach, Jr. Bam Ruth on the Straz of Field, and Mr. Camilla was the rest.

193

00:25:02.480 --> 00:25:03.270

Bill Drake: Oh.

194

00:25:05.260 --> 00:25:06.130

Bill Drake: so

195

00:25:06.300 --> 00:25:16.900

Bill Drake: this plan has always been to build a beautiful new stras that it's there's no risk to it, and Joe Cisco can confirm that nobody is going to prove a plan that

196

00:25:16.910 --> 00:25:20.700

Bill Drake: it pairs the stress. We need a new header Str, with

197

00:25:21.190 --> 00:25:24.830

Bill Drake: which ameliorates it's 2 design flaws.

198

00:25:25.880 --> 00:25:26.660

Bill Drake: and

199

00:25:27.000 --> 00:25:32.600

Bill Drake: Scott told me not to talk about excavation. So I won't. But you've seen emails about it, and

200

00:25:33.050 --> 00:25:48.810

Bill Drake: I I in in preparation for this call. I spent an hour this afternoon with Luigi. He's going to build the project. You all know who he is, he's a successor to Mr. Minnelli. It's he will have the he's building your Eastern Grand Civic Center, and we'll have the responsibility to build the right



201

00:25:49.410 --> 00:26:02.460

Bill Drake: and we just provided me a exhibit which i'll share if you want to see it. But the conclusion is that the rock to be excavated in the flip

202

00:26:02.780 --> 00:26:05.420

Bill Drake: is less than in the non-flip.

203

00:26:05.860 --> 00:26:12.540

Bill Drake: and it might be 0, meaning no excavation, no no rock excavation

204

00:26:13.220 --> 00:26:15.680

Bill Drake: so to summarize. Where are we?

205

00:26:16.880 --> 00:26:29.660

Bill Drake: Baseball should be protected it certainly will be by what we decided. and the excavation is going to be 0 to modest. So after the public spoke so clearly.

206

00:26:30.300 --> 00:26:42.340

Bill Drake: our rank user committee voted a recommendation to carry out the residents overwhelming choice. We did that 2 weeks ago. We pass the motion, and I can read it.

207

00:26:43.490 --> 00:26:45.830

Bill Drake: But this plan has a lot of support.

208

00:26:47.350 --> 00:26:55.890

Bill Drake: So today we're in the Budget cycle. I'm on the B. It as well as on this Ring committee. And so we? This is where your committee comes in.

209

00:26:56.410 --> 00:27:11.120

Bill Drake: We on the Bt. We 12 members are weighing capital requests. We're gonna prove some, but not all of them. And what's in front of us? This is a decision on March 7. That's less than 2 weeks away. It's 13 days away

210

00:27:11.520 --> 00:27:23.940

Bill Drake: to approve \$950,000 to continue the architect's work. We've hired an architect. It's slam. and so this is the second half of their task in rough terms.

211

00:27:24.610 --> 00:27:37.950

Bill Drake: And so you have this matter in your hands now, and your judgment will carry a lot of weight with the If you support the continuation of the planning and design work.

212

00:27:38.190 --> 00:27:53.740

Bill Drake: I believe the we'll follow your recommendation and keep the project moving. I think the Bt should be please with this plan, because the plan follows the communities 84% decision

213

00:27:54.240 --> 00:27:59.280

Bill Drake: to adopt this plan, and also eliminates 2 to \$6000000 for rank number 2.

214

00:27:59.400 --> 00:28:03.680

Bill Drake: So the at all like it. absolutely voting for it.

215

00:28:04.520 --> 00:28:13.050

Bill Drake: But if your board doesn't move the project forward, I bet the vet won't, you know. Why would they look it to you?

216

00:28:14.790 --> 00:28:15.700

Bill Drake: So

217

00:28:15.750 --> 00:28:22.260

Bill Drake: we and our ring committees voted this resolution. I I I'll read it if it's okay with Scott.

218

00:28:22.520 --> 00:28:24.950

Bill Drake: it's 3 sentences.

219

00:28:26.240 --> 00:28:37.870

Bill Drake: The town should proceed with the planning and reconstruction, the planning and construction of a new hammer rink on the footprint of today's browser field and a new straw of field on the footprint of today's ring.

220

00:28:39.190 --> 00:28:44.050

Bill Drake: This is the clear preference of Greenwich residents as noted in a survey.

221

00:28:44.340 --> 00:28:53.280

Bill Drake: and this plan eliminates the cost, delay, and complexity of sighting and planning and building a second temporary rate. So that

222

00:28:53.550 --> 00:29:02.650

Bill Drake: simple approval was what our my committee voted, and what we offered for you, and invite you to do

223

00:29:02.820 --> 00:29:09.470

Bill Drake: you know, to summarize? You get years of work by architects and engineers and 2 rent committees here?

224

00:29:10.290 --> 00:29:15.210

Bill Drake: You got a public survey with the indisputable preference for a plan

225

00:29:15.430 --> 00:29:22.180

Bill Drake: you got cost reduction by eliminating Rink number 2, and you got clear approval by our Rink committee.

226

00:29:22.350 --> 00:29:30.850

Bill Drake: so we'd invite you to please help move this forward. It's the it's the right step to making high quality recreation facilities in our town.

227

00:29:31.880 --> 00:29:36.020

Scott R. Johnson: So, Phil, I want to ask a couple of questions because I I want to make sure I do

228

00:29:37.280 --> 00:29:39.620

Scott R. Johnson: the the procedure

229

00:29:39.800 --> 00:29:55.790

Scott R. Johnson: you guys had. Let's just say all part. Your committee was in force for 2 years or so I'm. Assuming you had public hearings throughout that process. All all our meetings are open to the public, and all of them had a public comment, agenda of time.

230

00:29:56.450 --> 00:30:09.090

Scott R. Johnson: And then part of the complexity was while you were doing this, you guys consider other sites. So just give me an example of some of the other sites here. Here, here's Here's my short list. We considered all of these.

231

00:30:12.310 --> 00:30:16.160

Bill Drake: one through 9 Greenwich Point, the Eastern Grant of Civic Center.

232

00:30:16.190 --> 00:30:27.880

Bill Drake: the Horse Neck parking lot across from the Boys and Girls Club, the Island Beach Parking Lot, Western Middle School, the Pine, them North Street School, Roger Sherman, Boggle park and have myer field.

233

00:30:28.010 --> 00:30:29.440

Bill Drake: We consume all of them.

234

00:30:31.100 --> 00:30:35.100

Scott R. Johnson: Okay. So this the short story is Well, Nothing's perfect.

235

00:30:35.610 --> 00:30:40.200

Scott R. Johnson: The committee. Well, let's just say the majority of the committee, or whatever was

236

00:30:42.190 --> 00:30:44.500

Scott R. Johnson: basically felt that this was

237

00:30:44.680 --> 00:30:50.510

Scott R. Johnson: the the best starting point going back to the proposal that you guys just recently

238

00:30:50.560 --> 00:30:51.600

Scott R. Johnson: approved.

239

00:30:51.780 --> 00:30:55.210

Scott R. Johnson: So Therefore you're looking to us to say.

240

00:30:55.470 --> 00:31:00.910

Scott R. Johnson: Yeah. go ahead. Get get to PET, because we want to keep this going.

241

00:31:01.150 --> 00:31:03.440

Scott R. Johnson: And P. Yes.

242

00:31:03.790 --> 00:31:09.790

Scott R. Johnson: it will give you money to further architectural and engineering. So that, for example.

243

00:31:09.800 --> 00:31:15.970

Scott R. Johnson: if all of a sudden, it turns out that it's discovered that this site is completely inappropriate.

244

00:31:16.580 --> 00:31:17.960

Scott R. Johnson: We're gonna reload.

245

00:31:18.080 --> 00:31:25.870

Bill Drake: Yeah, yeah, the the we we wrestled, as everyone that Rick Low and Mike can say, and Joe and Sue.

246

00:31:25.920 --> 00:31:40.490

Bill Drake: we wrestled with all these things. None of them is perfect. We close them out of you, set up your side and closed in on a couple. But then, Joe and the smart idea to to to to survey the public, and also Mr. Camilla's idea, I guess.

247

00:31:40.560 --> 00:31:45.590

Bill Drake: and that broke the stalemate because the public was so clear.

248

00:31:46.610 --> 00:31:52.180

Scott R. Johnson: So who else was on the committee. Was it? Did you include stakeholders, or are linked to many

249

00:31:52.290 --> 00:31:57.090

Bill Drake: as 12 members? And i'll read a break any of the second?

250

00:31:58.600 --> 00:32:12.650

Bill Drake: Well, just what what interest they represented.

251

00:32:13.120 --> 00:32:24.980

Bill Drake: Liz Ecker, who represents the by our Members Association, Rich Ernie, who, you know, that runs the rank Nancy Lemi, who runs the skating school to ring Jack Duffy, who is going to try Hockey Coach

252

00:32:25.310 --> 00:32:26.540

Bill Drake: Rick Low.

253

00:32:26.630 --> 00:32:33.500

Bill Drake: Nick Mackry, who is both a member of P. And his father, was a by him that for years, and he lives there

254

00:32:33.770 --> 00:32:39.560

Bill Drake: Keith Rico, who runs Cardinal Youth hockey, which is really the theater program to Grandchild Hockey

255

00:32:39.780 --> 00:32:44.120

Bill Drake: and Sue Snyder. So that's and me. That's 12 people.

256

00:32:44.510 --> 00:32:51.430

Scott R. Johnson: Okay. SO 1 One last thing that will toss it t0 0ther committee members. Okay, this is just for my

257

00:32:51.530 --> 00:32:53.680

Scott R. Johnson: procedural thinking.

258

00:32:54.120 --> 00:33:01.630

Scott R. Johnson: Was, Was there another proposal, specific proposal that was voted down like? In other words.

259

00:33:01.880 --> 00:33:06.020

Scott R. Johnson: we're premature. We don't have enough information.

260

00:33:06.370 --> 00:33:09.430

We think that X, y, and Z is better.

261

00:33:09.850 --> 00:33:14.780

Bill Drake: No, I would say the closest we got, and it wasn't that close

262

00:33:16.030 --> 00:33:24.970

Bill Drake: was to think through the rink. Number 2 belonged to the Rogers of involved, and it's a long debate, and we it's now been rendered moot. But no, we never had

263

00:33:25.600 --> 00:33:30.470

Bill Drake: an alternative that tick the boxes or we the chosen it.

264

00:33:32.230 --> 00:33:34.220

Scott R. Johnson: Okay. So

265

00:33:34.370 --> 00:33:41.840

Scott R. Johnson: other many members like Rick or Mike. I'm sure you guys want to chime in a little bit what I want you to go first, because I know you have thoughts.

266

00:33:42.450 --> 00:33:43.550

Scott R. Johnson: If you want

267

00:33:45.440 --> 00:33:47.850

Michael Bocchino: no Rick's been on longer, i'll go after Rick.

268

00:33:48.050 --> 00:33:48.840

Scott R. Johnson: Okay.

269

00:33:51.430 --> 00:33:52.670

The

270

00:33:52.680 --> 00:33:55.250

Rick Loh: The outline that Bill gave

271

00:33:55.750 --> 00:33:56.930

Rick Loh: is accurate.

272

00:33:59.120 --> 00:34:03.140

Rick Loh: There's been. There's been committees working on this for quite some time.

273

00:34:05.110 --> 00:34:10.070

Rick Loh: A lot of us have driven around town. both wondering where we could put

274

00:34:10.330 --> 00:34:14.370

Rick Loh: a new rink, some place other than where the first drink was built.

275

00:34:14.820 --> 00:34:16.580

Rick Loh: We driven around town.

276

00:34:16.780 --> 00:34:20.730

Rick Loh: wondering where we included a temporary ring, if that was necessary

277

00:34:21.060 --> 00:34:23.040

Rick Loh: for a lot of years.

278

00:34:24.440 --> 00:34:27.179

Unfortunately, our town is pretty much built out.

279

00:34:27.290 --> 00:34:36.159

Rick Loh: and there really is n0 Other solution. and that basically is the conclusion that our committee has come to.

280

00:34:38.159 --> 00:34:45.400

Rick Loh: We wrestled with it. We discussed it. We took a vote. and as Bill pointed out, it passed.

281

00:34:46.770 --> 00:34:48.230

Rick Loh: and that's where we are today.

282

00:34:51.130 --> 00:34:52.550

Scott R. Johnson: Okay? So

283

00:34:53.670 --> 00:35:00.850

Scott R. Johnson: if if anyone has questions to Rick, that's good. Otherwise. Mike, i'd like to hear from you

284

00:35:02.490 --> 00:35:05.450

Michael Bocchino: no questions. Okay? Well.

285

00:35:05.550 --> 00:35:12.360

Michael Bocchino: I've you know I've been on this committee for some time now, and have been looking at alternative sites. And there's just a lot of things

286

00:35:12.690 --> 00:35:17.080

Michael Bocchino: that Don't Jive, with what's taking place.

287

00:35:18.850 --> 00:35:22.120

Michael Bocchino: I was very supportive of the survey.

288

00:35:22.860 --> 00:35:35.390

Michael Bocchino: however. during that meeting. I remember when we decided to make certain that the survey would g0 Out before we, as a committee made any votes because we wanted to hear how the public responded.

289

00:35:35.640 --> 00:35:42.080

Michael Bocchino: We requested myself. I know Liz Ecker represents a neighborhood association

290

00:35:42.210 --> 00:35:46.470

Michael Bocchino: to be able to see that survey

291

00:35:46.750 --> 00:35:49.970

before it was gone. Live and distributed.

292

00:35:50.120 --> 00:35:58.920

Michael Bocchino: I think Mike Armstrong and another. I believe it was also volunteered to take a look at this survey.

293

00:35:59.610 --> 00:36:02.240

We never got the chance because it went live.

294

00:36:03.350 --> 00:36:21.040

Michael Bocchino: It wasn't our understanding that we were going to even mention putting it on straws of field, because at the time we were talking about, do you want to renovate the existing rink? Or do you want to do a temporary rink at Roger Sherman Park, because that's where we deemed the best temporary rink to be cited.

295

00:36:21.160 --> 00:36:35.130

Michael Bocchino: There was no discussion of an alternative site or any of the sites that bill mentioned as a permanent site. Those are all temporary rings we weren't afforded the opportunity again, like I said, to see the survey.

296

00:36:35.230 --> 00:36:41.750

Michael Bocchino: it went out, saying, just requesting the 2 2 Options of Strasa Field

297

00:36:41.900 --> 00:36:43.230

Flip-flop.

298

00:36:43.460 --> 00:36:49.010

Michael Bocchino: without explaining to those individuals who are taking that survey

299

00:36:49.290 --> 00:36:56.240

Michael Bocchino: the issues regarding the excavation as you mentioned earlier. But Don't want to talk about, which is fine

300

00:36:56.270 --> 00:37:01.090

of all of that ledge and rock with the neighbors living right next door to it.

301

00:37:01.230 --> 00:37:06.430

Michael Bocchino: I will. I've set it in my email to the Board.

302

00:37:06.610 --> 00:37:14.760

Michael Bocchino: That will take some blasting, and my concern is those homes and those residents and their largest investment in their real property

303

00:37:15.170 --> 00:37:22.750

Michael Bocchino: outside of this. So that's the problem with the survey. The survey we know, and in politics surveys can be skewed.

304

00:37:22.980 --> 00:37:24.660

Michael Bocchino: I'm not saying that it was

305

00:37:25.390 --> 00:37:29.930

Michael Bocchino: done that way, you know, deliberately.

306

00:37:30.110 --> 00:37:36.840

Michael Bocchino: but not having the opportunity to review the survey, so that we were going toward a

307

00:37:36.970 --> 00:37:49.610

Michael Bocchino: particular goal that we wanted to see everything explained properly, so that if someone knew that there was an opportunity to flip it, but there wouldn't be any damage

308

00:37:49.860 --> 00:38:00.230

Michael Bocchino: that would be understandable. But in the beginning we all knew that there was an issue there, so we I I was surprised, actually shocked, to see that that was on the survey.

309

00:38:00.320 --> 00:38:02.720

Michael Bocchino: anyway, moving the survey side.

310

00:38:05.930 --> 00:38:09.800

Michael Bocchino: I. If this is just to keep a placeholder.

311

00:38:10.560 --> 00:38:13.880

it has to be stated that they're they're

312

00:38:14.700 --> 00:38:16.980

Michael Bocchino: there needs to be more due diligence

313

00:38:17.070 --> 00:38:20.040

Michael Bocchino: regarding, and it's not just about the ball field.

314

00:38:20.090 --> 00:38:30.630

Michael Bocchino: It's more about the community and the people who live in that area of the disruptance and disturbance. There also has to be an understanding that nothing should. It can be done until

315

00:38:30.650 --> 00:38:33.270

Western Middle School is completed.

316

00:38:33.280 --> 00:38:39.330

Michael Bocchino: and we haven't, even scratched the surface on on that particular project.

317

00:38:39.440 --> 00:38:45.220

Michael Bocchino: Now also, the town, at this particular moment in time, is pursuing

318

00:38:46.090 --> 00:38:48.080

Joe Siciliano: the Rockefeller Pull property.

319

00:38:48.850 --> 00:38:52.490

Michael Bocchino: and there's been discussion about potentially building a rank there



320

00:38:52.680 --> 00:38:56.660

that allows us to renovate the the existing link.

321

00:38:57.750 --> 00:39:07.320

Michael Bocchino: Then we see in February second. there's in the Greenwich, not in the grant. So Stanford advocate. There was unanimous approval

322

00:39:07.380 --> 00:39:15.910

Michael Bocchino: from the Stanford planning board for a 35 plus 1,000 square foot rink at the con air location actually was on February seventh.

323

00:39:16.470 --> 00:39:29.250

Michael Bocchino: to which they said it would take 18 months to build this pro build this ring. and the rank is only going to be used for skate time. not for parties, not for rentals, not for anything. And it mentions that

324

00:39:29.310 --> 00:39:40.940

Michael Bocchino: at the bottom that they tried to get in touch with with Bill and I and i'm the worst of this. I'm. I'm. Hard to get back to people, but they weren't allowed to get back. but the the the people said that

325

00:39:40.970 --> 00:39:51.350

Michael Bocchino: they see Greenwich as a logical place to look for business for the ring, i. E. Because they mentioned the fact that we're building, we need to build a new rank as it is.

326

00:39:51.570 --> 00:39:52.720

Michael Bocchino: Lastly.

327

00:39:52.930 --> 00:40:02.930

Michael Bocchino: my understanding is that yesterday the Rfp. Committee went to look at Milford because 2 Of the remaining

328

00:40:03.100 --> 00:40:06.170

Michael Bocchino: groups in the Rfp. Both said

329

00:40:06.180 --> 00:40:10.070

Michael Bocchino: that they could renovate the existing rank. Now

330

00:40:11.340 --> 00:40:18.470

Michael Bocchino: I am not one. I am a 100% in favor, and have been to getting a new ring to making certain that we have

331

00:40:19.200 --> 00:40:22.790

Michael Bocchino: in all athletics, whether it's lacrosse, field, hockey, or

332

00:40:23.500 --> 00:40:32.520

Michael Bocchino: baseball, football, hockey. I don't care what it is. The best equipment facilities. Everything for these kids. However.

333

00:40:32.710 --> 00:40:38.040

Michael Bocchino: this is to me, seems because we're in a budget process here that we need to push this.

334  
00:40:38.260 --> 00:40:41.300  
Michael Bocchino: move it forward without taking into consideration

335  
00:40:42.070 --> 00:40:50.290  
Michael Bocchino: all of the the other ramifications that are out there, and I can't be supportive of this to move forward so so quickly.

336  
00:40:50.340 --> 00:41:03.290  
Michael Bocchino: There has to be a better way to be to make us a placeholder, knowing full well that you're not going to be able to do anything until Western Middle School is done potentially. There is an opportunity for another site.

337  
00:41:03.350 --> 00:41:10.950  
Michael Bocchino: actually 2 sites, and third, there's there's also this new ranked available with Stanford. So

338  
00:41:11.450 --> 00:41:13.240  
Michael Bocchino: i'm not understanding

339  
00:41:13.420 --> 00:41:15.950  
Michael Bocchino: the the reason for this push.

340  
00:41:16.230 --> 00:41:25.340  
Michael Bocchino: I understand that we've been doing this for very long period of time. I also understand that other projects, like the Eastern Granted Civic center.

341  
00:41:25.370 --> 00:41:30.740  
Michael Bocchino: and lasted, you know, 20 years, 1520 years. We don't want to see that. But

342  
00:41:31.390 --> 00:41:38.530  
Michael Bocchino: in light of everything that's taking place right now. and the fact that the rink is is still up and running, and it's not

343  
00:41:39.160 --> 00:41:40.770  
condemned.

344  
00:41:41.320 --> 00:41:49.990  
Michael Bocchino: and there is maybe a potential opportunity to renovate the rink as it exists now, by going out farther towards sooner it's way

345  
00:41:50.100 --> 00:41:54.350  
Michael Bocchino: expanding if they need to. towards the field.

346  
00:41:54.700 --> 00:41:57.150  
I just don't understand

347  
00:41:57.580 --> 00:41:59.530  
Michael Bocchino: how we can continue to

348  
00:42:00.060 --> 00:42:06.900  
Michael Bocchino: not fully inform the entire public. The people don't. They are not aware of what may or may not happen

349

00:42:07.080 --> 00:42:08.450

Michael Bocchino: upon this flip.

350

00:42:08.720 --> 00:42:10.700

Michael Bocchino: Now, Luigi.

351

00:42:10.750 --> 00:42:12.380

Michael Bocchino: God bless him! He's great!

352

00:42:12.540 --> 00:42:18.620

Michael Bocchino: But until you go and you remove everything, and you see what's in the center there, and all that stone and all that rock.

353

00:42:18.820 --> 00:42:20.160

Michael Bocchino: You're not gonna know.

354

00:42:20.170 --> 00:42:23.770

Michael Bocchino: I have the and I know that there are people on here.

355

00:42:24.090 --> 00:42:25.780

Michael Bocchino: We'll probably speak later.

356

00:42:25.950 --> 00:42:34.230

Michael Bocchino: There are construction people developers who we're here before the rank was built. There's a reason why the existing rank is up so high.

357

00:42:34.290 --> 00:42:39.240

Michael Bocchino: It's not by chance. There are ways for us to renovate

358

00:42:39.620 --> 00:42:46.620

Michael Bocchino: in the existing location make it handicap accessible with a. At the most. I did research on this

359

00:42:47.060 --> 00:43:02.870

Michael Bocchino: an outdoor lift that works year round 12 to \$15000 as opposed to all the money spent on the excavation, plus to mention that there's accessibility where, when I was a kid, the entrance was in the back.

360

00:43:03.160 --> 00:43:06.780

Michael Bocchino: So with all of these outlying factors.

361

00:43:07.630 --> 00:43:18.900

Michael Bocchino: it seems very difficult, or it seems kind of ludicrous that this board would be just pushing this forward just to keep the placeholder. There should be some sort of

362

00:43:21.320 --> 00:43:28.220

Michael Bocchino: something to be used to keep a placeholder without having to it's. You know. Say that this this

363

00:43:28.280 --> 00:43:35.010

Michael Bocchino: particular parcel of land is the only one that we that we have to be to be utilized. So

364

00:43:35.770 --> 00:43:47.320

Michael Bocchino: i'm completely open to here some different questions and arguments. But I don't think right now at this moment in time. I know personally

365

00:43:47.430 --> 00:43:50.540

Michael Bocchino: I voted against it in the committee which hasn't been said.

366

00:43:51.210 --> 00:43:57.350

Michael Bocchino: I will more than likely be warning against it tonight, not because I don't want it to be moving forward, but because

367

00:43:57.560 --> 00:44:02.460

Michael Bocchino: we we need to understand the ramifications of what may or may not may occur

368

00:44:02.480 --> 00:44:06.750

If we do go forward with this and the B et those others need to know

369

00:44:06.840 --> 00:44:14.690

Michael Bocchino: that these are the issues

370

00:44:14.710 --> 00:44:20.830

Scott R. Johnson: from the Ring Committee should have said after 2 years, we're premature. We still don't know what we're doing

371

00:44:21.740 --> 00:44:23.240

Michael Bocchino: Well, after 2 years.

372

00:44:23.410 --> 00:44:31.580

Scott R. Johnson: I'm not sure. I'm not. I'm not writing the resolution I After 2 years I didn't know that there was a timeline on this.

373

00:44:32.190 --> 00:44:35.520

Michael Bocchino: My alternative is to see how the

374

00:44:35.560 --> 00:44:48.320

Michael Bocchino: the town plays out with the Rockefeller property to have a discussion with the committee. Have a discussion with the gentleman who's building this rink in Stanford, so we can maint, so we can keep some ice time to

375

00:44:48.410 --> 00:44:59.620

Michael Bocchino: here. What the Rsp. Was, those committee, those those 2 groups. what they had to say about renovating the existing rank as it stands.

376

00:44:59.730 --> 00:45:10.260

Michael Bocchino: If there is a potential to renovate that rank. why wouldn't we be pursuing that? That's the thing I don't understand, and I and I'm. I've heard that that came to light

377

00:45:10.270 --> 00:45:13.560

Michael Bocchino: last week through the Rfp. Committee.

378

00:45:13.930 --> 00:45:18.670

Michael Bocchino: so I I would like to hear those things, because I think there's viable alternatives that are out there.

379

00:45:18.770 --> 00:45:26.220

Bill Drake: so they'll try to you. You try to just respond to those those questions you could.

380

00:45:26.410 --> 00:45:33.790

Bill Drake: The question of renovate versus new is a decision that was made in 2,019.

381

00:45:34.290 --> 00:45:38.520

Bill Drake: There's no reason to revisit it unless you want to go backwards.

382

00:45:38.610 --> 00:45:47.190

Bill Drake: The Bt and the Rtm. That's made 3 different appropriations of money, totaling one to 50000 so far.

383

00:45:47.390 --> 00:45:54.140

Bill Drake: and each of them said new ring not renovated, that that decision has been made.

384

00:45:54.390 --> 00:45:57.400

Secondly, the Rockefeller property

385

00:45:57.440 --> 00:46:07.270

Bill Drake: is a long way from happening, and if it happened, the only discussion is that it's some kind of skating pavilion.

386

00:46:07.820 --> 00:46:09.930

Bill Drake: Not a closed ring

387

00:46:10.050 --> 00:46:16.610

Bill Drake: is some facility that would be a park for 6 months that are some skating may have to 6 months. That thing is

388

00:46:16.910 --> 00:46:18.900

Bill Drake: years from resolution.

389

00:46:19.640 --> 00:46:31.230

Bill Drake: the the the question about the survey being biased. Would you like me to read the question? Here's the question. Ask yourselves if you think this is a biased question quote

390

00:46:31.800 --> 00:46:44.850

Bill Drake: to eliminate the need to construct a temporary skating rink. Would you support the construction of a new skating rink adjacent to the existing rate question mark this would involve flipping the skating rink and the ball field within the same part.

391

00:46:45.220 --> 00:46:52.680

Bill Drake: That's not a biased question. What Western mill is a good point. The plans of Western mill are working for us.

392

00:46:52.860 --> 00:47:06.840

Bill Drake: the plants that have been provided by Lang in the renovated to the remediation Company. They start work this July. They finish it in 7 months. The field of Western are playable next summer

393

00:47:07.280 --> 00:47:25.590

Bill Drake: this

394

00:47:25.720 --> 00:47:37.950

Bill Drake: and the Rfp. We've got people on the call. Mr. Low, and Mr. Cisco can speak to that, so happy to respond to all these things. But we're moving forward One of the things just I I have not heard mentioned.

395

00:47:38.030 --> 00:47:41.260

Scott R. Johnson: Just talk about the existing condition of the rank.

396

00:47:41.820 --> 00:47:54.300

Bill Drake: Sure, the you know we in 2,019. The first committee hired Kg. And D. They provided a 100 plus page study on this in 2,019, and posted on the parks and re website for years.

397

00:47:54.520 --> 00:47:56.500

Bill Drake: And it basically said.

398

00:47:57.210 --> 00:48:14.270

Bill Drake: Renovate the rink cost 17 million dollars. Let's see the numbers or something like this. Renovate the ring cost 16.4 million. and a new ring cost 7 16.9. That's a choice that was clear for everyone. And so every appropriation through the Bt. And the Rtm. Ever since

399

00:48:14.450 --> 00:48:21.100

Bill Drake: has reflected that that decision was made that it's it's made you the rink condition

400

00:48:21.410 --> 00:48:25.820

Bill Drake: is really poor. you know. I I took a B team member there the other day

401

00:48:25.860 --> 00:48:28.860

Bill Drake: a little too early. When is the locker room

402

00:48:28.870 --> 00:48:30.620

Bill Drake: and pointed to the lack room?

403

00:48:31.170 --> 00:48:41.610

Bill Drake: There's no toilet there's no shower. There's no paint. and said if this were a school room in any school

404

00:48:41.620 --> 00:48:43.060

Bill Drake: in the town of Greenwich.

405

00:48:44.660 --> 00:48:52.220

Bill Drake: would that be acceptable? And he just smiled and left it? I mean it's awful. We love. We love the rink we've been skating there

406

00:48:52.300 --> 00:49:00.620

Bill Drake: since it is existed. I have a Mr. Low as anybody else. but renovating is not an option, and that decision was made years ago.

407

00:49:03.070 --> 00:49:04.650

Scott R. Johnson: Okay.

408

00:49:05.910 --> 00:49:09.110

Scott R. Johnson: Joe, you still online. Can you hear us?

409

00:49:09.510 --> 00:49:16.760

Joe Siciliano: Yes, I i'm not going to put my vide0 On because I'm: i'm get better reception without it. But I hope everybody can hear me.

410

00:49:17.020 --> 00:49:28.670

Joe Siciliano: so i'll make some comments to clarify. so D Dpw. Building Maintenance and construction was authorized to through the town administrator to the conduct the survey.

411

00:49:29.170 --> 00:49:32.370

Joe Siciliano: the survey questions were formulated, and

412

00:49:33.650 --> 00:49:39.000

I know that I had an opportunity to look at them. I think Sue Snyder did.

413

00:49:39.180 --> 00:49:42.620

Joe Siciliano: and also Luigi and I. Before sending out the survey.

414

00:49:42.710 --> 00:49:58.190

Joe Siciliano: Luigi asked me to accompany him, and we ran all the questions past Fred Kimmel, the first select. We wanted to make sure that you know it accomplished what you know. The the town was looking to accomplish, and we wanted to Fred to be comfortable, because.

415

00:49:58.270 --> 00:50:05.930

Joe Siciliano: you know, he had been making various statements with the public about location of the the new facility.

416

00:50:06.030 --> 00:50:20.220

Joe Siciliano: So we went to Fred. We offered him an opportunity to review all the questions, and we received his comments. And so he knew that the question for the flipping question was in the context of the of the survey.

417

00:50:20.600 --> 00:50:35.830

Joe Siciliano: Secondly, you, the we did follow the same model that we did at Eastern Granted Civic Center. There seemed to be a lot of wants at the at the Eastern Griffith Civic Center. So the survey did provide some, some, some community direction.

418

00:50:35.880 --> 00:50:40.090

Joe Siciliano: It offered a lot. I think there's over

419

00:50:40.180 --> 00:50:57.600

Joe Siciliano: 3 Or 4,000 public comments which are also a company. The survey results, but people, all kinds of wants, wishes, and and maybe not wants, is, you know, like we we don't like skating, so don't ask us about the survey. I mean, there is all kinds of comments.

420

00:50:57.600 --> 00:51:07.360

Joe Siciliano: but we take those comments and the and the results seriously, because I think this is the direction that the public would like to influence to us to go in

421

00:51:07.690 --> 00:51:11.120

Joe Siciliano: the Rfp committee, which was my brainchild.

422

00:51:11.190 --> 00:51:16.850

Joe Siciliano: Basically, we were trying to look at other ways to

423

00:51:16.930 --> 00:51:21.870

Joe Siciliano: operate the rink, manage it, and also maybe provide some capital improvements.

424

00:51:21.930 --> 00:51:34.110

Joe Siciliano: So we had 4 respondents to make the qualifications of the Rfp. We we we interviewed the interview committee, interview both respondents.

425

00:51:34.210 --> 00:51:44.050

Joe Siciliano: We sent them some forward questions to to incorporate into their presentation, and we had plenty of time for questions and answers after the meeting, after the discussion.

426

00:51:44.110 --> 00:51:49.060

Joe Siciliano: and we felt that we would look at both organizations.

427

00:51:49.210 --> 00:51:59.260

Joe Siciliano: The committee did grade both organizations gave them a, you know, a preference one over the other, based on content of the interview and their proposal.

428

00:51:59.310 --> 00:52:10.370

Joe Siciliano: and we went yesterday to One of the operations in Millford, Connecticut. where the the the organization that we we interviewed

429

00:52:10.630 --> 00:52:23.360

Joe Siciliano: Also it purchased the ring from a kind of a mob and pop type of operation. It was a privately operated ring. We went there yesterday because they've been operating. The rings is 2,018,

430

00:52:23.420 --> 00:52:33.640

Joe Siciliano: and we wanted to see what kind of what kind of improvements they made in that period of time, and barring that we know Covid was in the middle of all this. So we're not discounting anything.

431

00:52:33.690 --> 00:52:36.090

Joe Siciliano: But what we really found out is that

432

00:52:36.630 --> 00:52:55.450

Joe Siciliano: certain to certain degree that rink is in worse shape than the one we operate in right now. The restrooms and several other amenities. There we're in for shape. They've invested money in half of a new roof. They put a new children, which is very admirable, because it's expensive about 500 K. To put a chiller in.

433

00:52:55.450 --> 00:52:59.820

Joe Siciliano: so that they know that they supporting that? Because without ice you don't really have a nice ring.

434

00:52:59.910 --> 00:53:16.670



Joe Siciliano: so that they put a new children. But some of the other amenities other than paint, and some, you know, good housekeeping. The rink sits 4 years later, and it's current almost in its current state as it when they took it over. They're doing like triage. What's next?

435

00:53:16.830 --> 00:53:25.900

Joe Siciliano: The other up group that submitted a proposal is the same group that's building the rink in Stanford.

436

00:53:26.150 --> 00:53:27.200

Joe Siciliano: So

437

00:53:27.210 --> 00:53:33.260

Joe Siciliano: you know we're looking at. You know what they. They came to us in their interview, and said

438

00:53:33.580 --> 00:53:48.340

Joe Siciliano: we would want to take over the management, but we we would want some time after we take over the management to identify the the improvements that we might want to make to the rig. Well, that was never our intent

439

00:53:48.340 --> 00:53:56.650

Joe Siciliano: to have them give us some wish list later on. I mean, if the town were to ever go into that type of arrangement from either group.

440

00:53:56.800 --> 00:54:16.200

Joe Siciliano: we would want to know in a document when they schedule of when the man when the management would start, and when the improvements would be scheduled to, to, to to, to, to go into play, you know, to be, because otherwise, you know, we could be doing this ourselves.

441

00:54:16.230 --> 00:54:24.580

Joe Siciliano: One of the things that was very obvious from the first. The first group that we where we went to visit yesterday, and i'm not going to use their names

442

00:54:24.640 --> 00:54:25.570

Joe Siciliano: was that

443

00:54:26.690 --> 00:54:32.770

Joe Siciliano: that they did not want to build a new rink. Matter of fact, neither group

444

00:54:32.870 --> 00:54:41.820

Joe Siciliano: put in their proposal that they would fund a new facility with the management rights for the from the town. That was kind of interesting.

445

00:54:41.950 --> 00:54:45.740

Joe Siciliano: But one of the things we found out during this whole process is that

446

00:54:46.370 --> 00:55:05.870

Joe Siciliano: it depends on how much code requirement. There really is the rink that we looked at yesterday which has a new chiller, half a new roof and a new heater doesn't mean a lot of code requirements as far as Ada as far as fire codes, and i'm not a fire marshal, but I've been around long enough to know which ones are important

447

00:55:05.930 --> 00:55:13.940

Joe Siciliano: as far as some restroom facilities. They're they're very antiquated. There's no ADA in the restrooms. You know it. It is so.

448

00:55:13.960 --> 00:55:15.330

Joe Siciliano: They are

449

00:55:15.370 --> 00:55:19.260

Joe Siciliano: working this, and once they go for a building permit

450

00:55:19.410 --> 00:55:27.620

Joe Siciliano: for some of these other internal amenities, they're going to have to bring that building up to some kind of code, and that's what they've been kind of

451

00:55:27.730 --> 00:55:35.940

Joe Siciliano: hedging with. So there is no guarantee that either group could ever renovate the rink that we currently occupy.

452

00:55:36.400 --> 00:55:54.670

Joe Siciliano: There's some thought about it. There's some possibilities that it could be explored, but there are no guarantees from either group that a new rink would be presented, or these renovations could take place. They were going from experiences on other rinks that they had renovated.

453

00:55:54.670 --> 00:56:12.280

Joe Siciliano: and they've only the the the number one organization that we've been talking to Only has dealt with 2 Other municipalities out of 34 rinks that they currently manage. So it's kind of interesting that they they don't have a lot of experience with the municipal side.

454

00:56:12.300 --> 00:56:29.490

Joe Siciliano: but they do with the private side or the mom and Pop type of arrangements that they've purchased. So that's a. That's a small scenario. The R the Rfp. Committee will reconvene. We're gonna hold. You know. We're gonna have some. We're gonna provide some information and I assume

455

00:56:29.490 --> 00:56:44.120

Joe Siciliano: that one of the requirements that the B et will put on the condition of funds if they do appropriate this money, and we hope that they do so we can move to the next level is that though that there'll be some information that will provide information about location.

456

00:56:44.290 --> 00:56:55.730

Joe Siciliano: and also some findings of the Rfp report and any other condition they want to put on the money to get the money released, and that money cannot be released until after the Rtm. Votes on

457

00:56:55.730 --> 00:57:09.260

Joe Siciliano: the appropriation, so it'll go to the it. It'll go to the Rtm. Appropriation, and then it will go back to the B et for release and condition of funds and Leslie.

458

00:57:09.310 --> 00:57:13.720

Scott R. Johnson: So we so let me interrupt. But for present purposes

459

00:57:13.750 --> 00:57:14.640

Scott R. Johnson: the

460

00:57:14.760 --> 00:57:21.210

Scott R. Johnson: possibility of having a rink built or managed by an outside entity is not something

461

00:57:21.340 --> 00:57:37.180

Joe Siciliano: that we're we're going to be considering. Now, that's down the row. Correct? Well, I mean it could take place in a different format, but the number one group that we've been speaking with one a 50 year lease I don't think we want to give them our asset for 50 years, you know whether it's a new one or an old one.

462

00:57:37.180 --> 00:57:54.430

Joe Siciliano: you know, or a renovated one. But you know we want right now. It's just a and E. Money to get to the next step. Correct? Absolutely. Absolutely. We're looking to get it to the next level so that we can make some more clear decisions right now. We do not have any. I think there's like \$30,000 worth of funds left.

463

00:57:54.430 --> 00:58:04.040

Joe Siciliano: the and the \$450,000 appropriation. It's not gonna take it. There's not enough money there to even explore what the next level of possibilities are.

464

00:58:04.420 --> 00:58:08.810

Joe Siciliano: So that's what we're really looking for

465

00:58:08.960 --> 00:58:10.450

Scott R. Johnson: is still up or not.

466

00:58:10.520 --> 00:58:16.840

Rick Loh: No, I took it down, because between what Bill said and what Joe has said. they covered what I was gonna say so.

467

00:58:17.050 --> 00:58:22.030

Scott R. Johnson: So I would like to close discussion on this. We we have

468

00:58:22.360 --> 00:58:26.730

Scott R. Johnson: Len or help me. We have 52 participants here.

469

00:58:29.090 --> 00:58:38.400

Scott R. Johnson: Hi! I I don't see anybody with their hand up from the public. because what I like to do is is close discussion.

470

00:58:38.650 --> 00:58:44.730

Scott R. Johnson: and ask if anyone has a motion that they can make on this ticket to the the next level. Here.

471

00:58:45.960 --> 00:58:47.620

Michael Bocchino: God! Can I ask a question?

472

00:58:47.660 --> 00:58:49.530

Michael Bocchino: Sure, hands up

473

00:58:49.610 --> 00:58:55.650

Michael Bocchino: so clarification to you or Joe along since you guys were up to do this.

474

00:58:56.940 --> 00:59:08.540

Michael Bocchino: If a site becomes available once this is, move forward. say it tonight. The 9000 950000approved. It's in a and a

475  
00:59:11.100 --> 00:59:13.020  
Joe has already mentioned that

476  
00:59:13.460 --> 00:59:17.090  
Michael Bocchino: it is true about this Stanford location being built.

477  
00:59:17.730 --> 00:59:20.560  
there may be an opportunity

478  
00:59:20.720 --> 00:59:24.570  
Michael Bocchino: to move our skaters there use that as a temporary rank

479  
00:59:25.090 --> 00:59:28.040  
Michael Bocchino: for time, skate, time, and things of that nature.

480  
00:59:29.760 --> 00:59:35.850  
Michael Bocchino: If that's done, then why wouldn't the rink and the existing footprint

481  
00:59:36.080 --> 00:59:39.130  
Michael Bocchino: be able to be taken down and rebuilt. Brand new.

482  
00:59:40.850 --> 00:59:43.900  
Michael Bocchino: Is that something that could possibly happen

483  
00:59:45.180 --> 00:59:49.070  
Michael Bocchino: regardless of what we decide today? So if you're deciding today

484  
00:59:49.140 --> 00:59:58.520  
Michael Bocchino: to move forward with the approval of the 950,000 Is that specifically only so that it goes on

485  
00:59:58.830 --> 01:00:01.430  
Michael Bocchino: the baseball field, and they do this flip?

486  
01:00:01.990 --> 01:00:06.180  
Michael Bocchino: Or is that still leave open for the opportunity later?

487  
01:00:06.800 --> 01:00:11.120  
Michael Bocchino: If this other rank does get built in a timely fashion, that this might not be

488  
01:00:11.140 --> 01:00:23.230  
Joe Siciliano: a new alternative for us. You understand what I'm saying the rink for a new rink. Okay.

489  
01:00:23.650 --> 01:00:32.670  
Joe Siciliano: the Bt: As as the sidebar question is that they'd like to know that we have a location for that new rank. Okay? So

490  
01:00:32.940 --> 01:00:38.800

Joe Siciliano: then, what could happen? And then another location comes up or another scenario comes up. Okay.

491

01:00:39.200 --> 01:00:48.020

Joe Siciliano: My experience tells me that we could maybe go back to the B Et and ask them for permission to use the money in a different manner

492

01:00:48.360 --> 01:00:50.570

Joe Siciliano: or a different location

493

01:00:50.790 --> 01:01:04.170

Joe Siciliano: so, and they would probably have to go back through the B et, and I would assume, and I would probably encourage this to go back through the Rtm. Because they are approving money for a specific reason.

494

01:01:04.180 --> 01:01:12.640

Joe Siciliano: So. But the the good part about it is that the might be appropriated, and we would be further along if a new scenario came available.

495

01:01:12.820 --> 01:01:32.600

Joe Siciliano: So there is. There is an opportunity, I think, to go back and say, Well, we asked for the money for this purpose. But this other opportunity has come up. Can we have approval to change the change? The use for which we got the money approved, and then go to the Rtm. And ask the same question.

496

01:01:32.600 --> 01:01:38.210

Joe Siciliano: And you know the results will be the results, I mean, of their of a revision.

497

01:01:39.680 --> 01:01:44.890

Scott R. Johnson: Okay. So I I like to close close discussions because we have

498

01:01:45.740 --> 01:01:50.740

a very lengthy following matter. 52 people who are gonna comment.

499

01:01:51.310 --> 01:01:58.790

Scott R. Johnson: Can somebody make a motion on this, so we can get going on it or or make a motion to table it.

500

01:02:00.380 --> 01:02:01.650

Rick Loh: Thank you.

501

01:02:01.810 --> 01:02:04.130

Rick Loh: I'll make the motion that we take our vote.

502

01:02:04.600 --> 01:02:05.810

Scott R. Johnson: Okay. So

503

01:02:06.320 --> 01:02:14.770

Rick Loh: I have something I wrote up. If anybody has any comments about the way I wrote it, we can change it. But

504

01:02:16.140 --> 01:02:33.210

Rick Loh: the Board of Parks and Recreation recommends that the Rink and field location recommended by the Rink user Committee for design and planning properly move forward to the Bt. In order to obtain sufficient funds for further project, investigation, design, and development.

505

01:02:35.630 --> 01:02:38.920

Scott R. Johnson: Anyway, what a second that

506

01:02:38.930 --> 01:02:43.520

Scott R. Johnson: I can read it again if somebody wants me.

507

01:02:44.370 --> 01:03:00.770

Rick Loh: The Board of Parks and Recreation recommends that the rink and field locations recommended by the Rink user Committee for design and planning promptly move forward to the Bt. In order to obtain sufficient funds for further project, investigation, design and development.

508

01:03:02.360 --> 01:03:04.360

Scott R. Johnson: Okay, you may want to second that.

509

01:03:05.580 --> 01:03:06.920

Matt McCarty: Yeah, I'll. Second.

510

01:03:07.250 --> 01:03:14.500

Scott R. Johnson: you want to take okay, 1 s. So let's let's vote it. Let's vote by both hand and and

511

01:03:15.180 --> 01:03:18.770

Scott R. Johnson: and a voice Bill, you can't vote. Sorry.

512

01:03:19.750 --> 01:03:27.780

Scott R. Johnson: Okay. So all in favor. I'll I'll. Do you know what? Let me let me do it directly, Nancy. Let me go to you first.

513

01:03:29.250 --> 01:03:30.110

Nancy Chapin: Yes.

514

01:03:30.190 --> 01:03:32.420

Scott R. Johnson: okay, Tracy.

515

01:03:33.140 --> 01:03:34.180

Tracy Freedman: Yes.

516

01:03:34.610 --> 01:03:38.510

Mike. I'll abstain.

517

01:03:38.760 --> 01:03:39.690

Scott R. Johnson: Okay.

518

01:03:42.530 --> 01:03:43.470

Scott R. Johnson: Matt.

519

01:03:43.830 --> 01:03:47.580

Matthew Popp: It seems like that gives us some flexibility. So i'm not. Yes.

520

01:03:48.330 --> 01:03:51.980

Matthew Popp: and that that I keep. Forget. We have 2 maps.

521

01:03:53.030 --> 01:03:54.270

Scott R. Johnson: Yeah. Sorry, Matt.

522

01:03:54.470 --> 01:03:57.470

Matthew Popp: It's okay.

523

01:03:57.510 --> 01:03:59.990

Okay. So. And again

524

01:04:02.230 --> 01:04:04.700

Scott R. Johnson: I You have to unmute it. Here.

525

01:04:06.980 --> 01:04:07.900

Scott R. Johnson: There you go.

526

01:04:08.410 --> 01:04:10.030

Vivian Wu: Yes.

527

01:04:10.230 --> 01:04:11.300

Scott R. Johnson: thank you.

528

01:04:11.570 --> 01:04:15.450

Is that not? Yeah, it's it. So

529

01:04:15.720 --> 01:04:17.870

Scott R. Johnson: we have one abstention, and.

530

01:04:18.000 --> 01:04:20.650

Scott R. Johnson: and Rick, you can g0 Okay.

531

01:04:24.870 --> 01:04:26.540

Matthew Popp: Yeah. So so

532

01:04:26.570 --> 01:04:30.220

Matthew Popp: so if i'm not paying attention to you for some reason.

533

01:04:31.660 --> 01:04:36.760

Scott R. Johnson: Alright, so we have one abstention in the restaurant favor, so

534

01:04:36.880 --> 01:04:40.570

Scott R. Johnson: we'll do the tally. What is that? 7 Or 8,

535

01:04:40.790 --> 01:04:41.720

Lenore Caserta-McClester: 7,

536

01:04:42.170 --> 01:04:44.830

Lenore Caserta-McClester: 7 0 1?

537

01:04:44.930 --> 01:04:47.700

Scott R. Johnson: Alright, so thank you.

538

01:04:48.160 --> 01:04:51.280

Scott R. Johnson: Thank you all. So I know you guys did a lot of work, and and

539

01:04:51.330 --> 01:04:56.360

Joe Siciliano: although I will say not as much as the Eastern quite civic side, which one for 70 years.

540

01:04:56.540 --> 01:05:00.070

Scott R. Johnson: Okay, so how many years.

541

01:05:03.820 --> 01:05:07.420

Scott R. Johnson: But it's

542

01:05:08.510 --> 01:05:09.940

Scott R. Johnson: okay. So

543

01:05:11.040 --> 01:05:21.440

Scott R. Johnson: the next matter is, there is a permit request or an activity

544

01:05:22.080 --> 01:05:26.860

Scott R. Johnson: on the property that we're referring to is is any park.

545

01:05:27.570 --> 01:05:31.590

Scott R. Johnson: and the proponent of the applicant

546

01:05:31.950 --> 01:05:35.880

Scott R. Johnson: is list on the CEO, who, I believe, still

547

01:05:36.020 --> 01:05:36.940

Scott R. Johnson: here.

548

01:05:37.950 --> 01:05:45.350

Scott R. Johnson: So this if you're here. since you're the applicant, you should make the proposal.

549

01:05:45.430 --> 01:05:47.870

Scott R. Johnson: and then we'll have

550

01:05:47.890 --> 01:05:49.970

Scott R. Johnson: other people chime in on it.



551  
01:05:50.450 --> 01:05:54.620  
Scott R. Johnson: First, people to respond or to give comment

552  
01:05:55.030 --> 01:06:08.160  
Scott R. Johnson: will be for the parks and red people, and that other hands ons, including other and officials, before we go to the public. So

553  
01:06:08.850 --> 01:06:14.340  
Scott R. Johnson: Leonora let's try to recognize Liz. I'm, assuming

554  
01:06:15.550 --> 01:06:17.370  
Scott R. Johnson: you want to be heard.

555  
01:06:19.560 --> 01:06:21.690  
Liz Tommasino: Yes, hi, good evening. Thank you.

556  
01:06:22.370 --> 01:06:25.570  
Scott R. Johnson: So what you just introduce yourself in the in the proposal

557  
01:06:27.070 --> 01:06:29.720  
Liz Tommasino: I would love to try to get my video

558  
01:06:29.750 --> 01:06:32.010  
Liz Tommasino: up there. Oh, there we go. Hi!

559  
01:06:32.090 --> 01:06:40.280  
Joe Siciliano: My name is Liz Thomasino. I've been a graduate resident for 11 and a half years. I am the

560  
01:06:42.140 --> 01:07:01.020  
Liz Tommasino: founder and owner of the event company called it's on the details. It's an Llc. And in 2021 we worked with the Park town of Parks and recreation department, and obtain a permit as well as we did again.

561  
01:07:01.020 --> 01:07:08.380  
Liz Tommasino: and 2022, to produce the old granite festival in Benny Park. The event was

562  
01:07:08.560 --> 01:07:13.770  
Liz Tommasino: held in the north part of Binny, between

563  
01:07:13.820 --> 01:07:26.770  
Liz Tommasino: Wiscomer Road whiskey. We school mood. I can never pronounce it properly. We skimmed road and the path that goes across the park from the crosswalk or the churches.

564  
01:07:26.780 --> 01:07:32.510  
and it is between Sound Beach Avenue and the Pont.

565  
01:07:33.290 --> 01:07:36.180  
Liz Tommasino: Yeah. I have emails

566

01:07:36.230 --> 01:07:55.580

Liz Tommasino: previously. Everyone that was on the list to be invited to this Zoom Meeting information about the event, about the company, about the mission, hoping to be able to answer people's questions, but also really more to

567

01:07:55.850 --> 01:08:04.220

Liz Tommasino: be very transparent about the event, very transparent about what our mission is very transparent

568

01:08:04.340 --> 01:08:06.420

about

569

01:08:06.670 --> 01:08:07.790

Liz Tommasino: our.

570

01:08:08.060 --> 01:08:17.479

Liz Tommasino: You know our our dedication to making this a really great community event, and the 1,500 attendees that were there last year

571

01:08:17.700 --> 01:08:26.050

Liz Tommasino: will most definitely say that it was a wonderful event where they have fun, and they

572

01:08:26.069 --> 01:08:39.560

Liz Tommasino: met community members that they didn't know or met people that they did know, and they got to get out there for one afternoon and let their kids have a great time, and they got to see also

573

01:08:39.609 --> 01:08:58.290

Liz Tommasino: all the work and the beauty. Oh, what happened? Hold on, I I seem to have lost people. I'm sorry. Here we go, there we go, all the beauty that is Mini Park, and they got to do it in a fun and unique manner that

574

01:08:58.390 --> 01:09:00.790

Liz Tommasino: doesn't happen in that

575

01:09:00.870 --> 01:09:06.479

Liz Tommasino: park otherwise, and that's not a bad thing. It's a unique opportunity.

576

01:09:07.840 --> 01:09:12.520

Liz Tommasino: So I have all kinds of reasons why we should

577

01:09:12.580 --> 01:09:14.970

Liz Tommasino: continue having this event

578

01:09:15.010 --> 01:09:18.140

Liz Tommasino: at the Park. But the question I have is

579

01:09:18.229 --> 01:09:22.229

Liz Tommasino: I I don't know if I should go ahead and read them off. I don't want to

580

01:09:22.870 --> 01:09:38.080

Liz Tommasino: make this a you know a 30 min thesis here in front of everybody, because I did email everything, but I also don't know if anybody had, or the majority of you had the opportunity to review the information

581

01:09:38.080 --> 01:09:54.140

Liz Tommasino: that was emailed. So.

582

01:09:54.470 --> 01:10:11.270

Scott R. Johnson: like W. What? What is the make up? What are you going to physically do to the park? Are they going to be booths? Are they going to be rides? Are they going to be donkey rides? Whether it be outdoor vendors from from a. For profit organization?

583

01:10:11.430 --> 01:10:14.840

Scott R. Johnson: Is there going to be the mission charge? Is there going to be a fence? What?

584

01:10:22.260 --> 01:10:30.160

Liz Tommasino: So you now know where the location is that it has taken place for the last 2 years.

585

01:10:30.290 --> 01:10:31.950

Liz Tommasino: and

586

01:10:32.620 --> 01:10:44.160

Liz Tommasino: I'm also going to. I guess that you have. Because of this you have the understanding that the rest of the park, the northern part of the park, is totally open, and

587

01:10:44.290 --> 01:10:54.820

Liz Tommasino: a able for anybody to enjoy, whether they are doing passive recreation or active recreation, throwing a football around whatever that might be

588

01:10:54.850 --> 01:10:56.280

Liz Tommasino: to To them.

589

01:10:58.180 --> 01:10:59.920

Liz Tommasino: The event itself

590

01:11:00.030 --> 01:11:08.950

Liz Tommasino: contains vendors who are the majority are small, local, small business people.

591

01:11:09.250 --> 01:11:13.450

Liz Tommasino: They all are occupying 10 by 10,

592

01:11:13.720 --> 01:11:27.420

Liz Tommasino: it in space sympathy for space, and they'll bring their own tents. They have their tables. They have whatever they need, and they are selling or promoting their services, their merchandise, their goods.

593

01:11:27.490 --> 01:11:35.080

Liz Tommasino: etc. It is a family friendly event. So when we choose the vendors who apply

594

01:11:35.500 --> 01:11:44.160

Liz Tommasino: to be part of this event. We keep that in mind. We are. We are very careful that the vendors

595

01:11:44.240 --> 01:11:45.620

Liz Tommasino: who are

596

01:11:45.700 --> 01:11:50.050

Liz Tommasino: in the marketplace at this event are the appropriate fit

597

01:11:50.080 --> 01:11:52.470

Liz Tommasino: for a family friendly

598

01:11:52.610 --> 01:11:53.680

Liz Tommasino: of that.

599

01:11:54.570 --> 01:12:01.270

Liz Tommasino: In addition, at the marketplace we donate up to 6 spaces.

600

01:12:01.370 --> 01:12:07.550

Liz Tommasino: is for local small nonprofit organizations. The non-profit organizations then.

601

01:12:07.610 --> 01:12:24.650

Liz Tommasino: can have their space and they can promote upcoming fundraisers. They can talk about their mission and what they do, they are able to potentially procure new volunteers and donors and people that participate in their fundraisers.

602

01:12:24.800 --> 01:12:36.110

Liz Tommasino: I can tell you that. And again, this is all in the information that was emailed. But I'm very happy to attempt to go over this and kind of recap it briefly.

603

01:12:36.350 --> 01:12:37.930

Liz Tommasino: Previous

604

01:12:38.020 --> 01:12:46.800

Liz Tommasino: nonprofits have included Dana's angels reach or Research Trust adopt a dog our own Ems

605

01:12:46.850 --> 01:12:55.950

Liz Tommasino: I I I can't even think so. I in Greenwich. They do a great job of all kinds of things promoting break. You know events here in town.

606

01:12:56.110 --> 01:13:04.490

Liz Tommasino: and I know that there's a whole bunch more. I'm just kind of drawing a blanket again. I apologize. It's again on this paper.

607

01:13:04.710 --> 01:13:13.840

Liz Tommasino: But I also know that this year that we have, we have interest in commitment from additional organizations, such as the friends of Greenwich Point.

608

01:13:14.120 --> 01:13:17.930

Liz Tommasino: They want to do this. They want to be involved so that they can educate

609

01:13:17.970 --> 01:13:26.830

Liz Tommasino: the the people that come to this event, who are primarily community residents about what they do and what they do is important.

610

01:13:27.330 --> 01:13:29.600

Liz Tommasino: This opportunity was offered

611

01:13:29.760 --> 01:13:47.590

Liz Tommasino: to the friends of Benny Park to have a free space because they are very concerned and very involved, obviously, and and do it. They do important work at Benny Park. But the the invitation was extended to them

612

01:13:47.740 --> 01:13:51.270

Liz Tommasino: to partner with this we would give them

613

01:13:51.360 --> 01:13:56.940

Liz Tommasino: a free space like we do with the other nonprofit organizations. They could have.

614

01:13:57.010 --> 01:14:00.970

Liz Tommasino: you know, kind of a little bit of a free range of their space to talk about what they

615

01:14:01.290 --> 01:14:17.050

Liz Tommasino: do and what has happened, and to again try and get more people involved and and educate them. Gain awareness potentially procure more volunteers. I mean, everybody needs more hands on deck in any organization, and we know that not just checks. Checks are great

616

01:14:17.050 --> 01:14:21.920

Liz Tommasino: hands on deck, or is even more important to state these days, because people are so busy.

617

01:14:22.140 --> 01:14:32.640

Liz Tommasino: We we als0 offered to give to Donate to friends of Benny Park via the Board of Parks and Recreation. Because.

618

01:14:32.700 --> 01:14:35.420

Liz Tommasino: yeah, to have an earmark for the friends of any park.

619

01:14:35.550 --> 01:14:42.790

Liz Tommasino: 10% of all net proceeds of admissions of entry fees rather for the event.

620

01:14:43.390 --> 01:14:48.100

Liz Tommasino: We wanted to do this, and we did that. We wanted to do this willingly.

621

01:14:48.480 --> 01:14:54.440

Liz Tommasino: It is important. This is something that giving back and to the community. And

622

01:14:54.840 --> 01:15:00.970

Liz Tommasino: also while Bob, creating a great community event that's part of our

623

01:15:01.310 --> 01:15:02.080

Liz Tommasino: Okay.

624

01:15:02.400 --> 01:15:09.250

Liz Tommasino: So moving forward on to what physically this event looks like. So you got wait about

625

01:15:09.260 --> 01:15:10.850

Liz Tommasino: 30,

626

01:15:11.100 --> 01:15:29.800

Liz Tommasino: I think. 30 vendors last year, with a combination of nonprofit vendors, and we had a combination of for profit vendors. We also I also got a phone call from one of the coaches. This this war to my heart a lot, and Mike, but you know, and I love it too, because you and my husband coached a lot of Og, our CC. Baseball back in the day.

627

01:15:30.180 --> 01:15:35.610

Liz Tommasino: And SO One of the coaches reached out to me and said, hey.

628

01:15:35.700 --> 01:15:40.610

Liz Tommasino: our thunder team! They are not just going to

629

01:15:40.700 --> 01:15:57.910

Liz Tommasino: whatever you call Cooper's town this year, but they are going to the National Championships, and they need to raise money, and they need to raise awareness. And could we please come to your event and walk around and create awareness, and possibly get people to donate for

630

01:15:57.970 --> 01:16:00.800

Liz Tommasino: our event, which for our t0 Our team.

631

01:16:01.610 --> 01:16:08.250

Liz Tommasino: so that we could cover some of the travel expenses for the kids that really can't fund this on their own.

632

01:16:08.490 --> 01:16:18.290

Liz Tommasino: And of course I said yes, because the event is about family and kids and community, and it's in Benny Park. And so with the OGRECC.

633

01:16:18.950 --> 01:16:22.090

Liz Tommasino: That's an operator. So they walked around with their little red wagon.

634

01:16:22.460 --> 01:16:29.120

Liz Tommasino: and people loved it. I loved it. I thought it was terrific. They had a great time, and they got a lot of positive feedback.

635

01:16:29.920 --> 01:16:49.800

Liz Tommasino: So this it sounds like this is this is structured as a fundraiser for nonprofits.

636

01:16:49.910 --> 01:16:50.960

Liz Tommasino: 10 bucks.

637

01:16:51.210 --> 01:17:03.750

Liz Tommasino: But I also do

638

01:17:03.870 --> 01:17:04.740

Liz Tommasino: thing

639

01:17:04.750 --> 01:17:12.950

i'm going to be. I want to talk with the Parks and Rick department about that for this year. About how can we make this a little bit more effective and

640

01:17:13.010 --> 01:17:22.730

Liz Tommasino: a little less assuming, possibly or not assuming it's the word I want offensive, I think, is a better word that because that's the word. I'm kind of hearing from

641

01:17:22.840 --> 01:17:24.810

people that are

642

01:17:24.820 --> 01:17:26.950

Liz Tommasino: not happy about

643

01:17:27.310 --> 01:17:29.680

Liz Tommasino: what is happening, and

644

01:17:29.760 --> 01:17:35.220

Liz Tommasino: you know we can all compromise here and there. I'm willing to do a little bit of that myself.

645

01:17:35.380 --> 01:17:36.200

Liz Tommasino: So

646

01:17:36.650 --> 01:17:39.410

Liz Tommasino: even marketplace. Then you have.

647

01:17:39.500 --> 01:17:43.160

Liz Tommasino: We don't have like a what do you call it? A mechanical

648

01:17:43.500 --> 01:17:56.610

Liz Tommasino: types of rides, because that would be a carnival, and also it's not allowed on these town properties it's a to, and it's a totally different insurance bracket, etc. Now we have bath houses

649

01:17:56.620 --> 01:18:06.060

Liz Tommasino: or or inflatables, like an inflatable call. Got pit, and the kids get in there and they throw it. It's like a If you don't know what to go up, it is, it's basically a a

650

01:18:06.450 --> 01:18:14.440

Liz Tommasino: I don't know new millennium version of Dodge Ball, but you gotta hit below the knees and you're in a inflatable big circle thing.

651

01:18:15.000 --> 01:18:17.360

Liz Tommasino: I'm looking forward to it. Oh.

652

01:18:17.800 --> 01:18:23.260

Liz Tommasino: that we might have to have like an adult competition.

653

01:18:23.330 --> 01:18:30.050

Scott R. Johnson: All right, so let me let me say this because i'm trying to figure out how to get to the next step

654

01:18:30.470 --> 01:18:36.600

Scott R. Johnson: we'll. We'll get some some people that I know that want to speak, but just so, you know

655

01:18:37.150 --> 01:18:50.910

Scott R. Johnson: i'm the most popular kind of town right now. I've got letters from every organization I've ever heard of. including the Old Branch Merchants, the Old Branch Association, the Old Branch Preservation Association.

656

01:18:51.180 --> 01:18:53.930

the Conservation Department.

657

01:18:54.300 --> 01:19:01.230

Scott R. Johnson: and I think, rather than I. I can't read them into the record, because it would take an hour and a half.

658

01:19:01.260 --> 01:19:03.300

So let's

659

01:19:04.370 --> 01:19:09.460

Scott R. Johnson: this. Let you. You try to wrap it up, and then what i'll do is i'll try it to.

660

01:19:09.820 --> 01:19:18.830

Scott R. Johnson: I think maybe board members first, and then a really important organization.

661

01:19:19.190 --> 01:19:21.390

Liz Tommasino: Finish up

662

01:19:21.680 --> 01:19:27.040

Scott R. Johnson: absolutely. Somebody can ask you a couple of questions that I know. People have some.

663

01:19:27.220 --> 01:19:31.430

Liz Tommasino: some, some specific thoughts. So go ahead.

664

01:19:31.440 --> 01:19:42.960

Liz Tommasino: Okay, all good. So again there's a couple. I'm going to go back component to get the marketplace with the vendors. You got inflatables and you got this whole area. It's called Kids Corner. You got this whole area also, where you

665

01:19:43.020 --> 01:19:47.980

Liz Tommasino: performances take place where you get where small

666

01:19:48.160 --> 01:19:56.620

Liz Tommasino: organizations here that have youth, dance, performing arts, music, etc. They can come and they can perform.

667

01:19:56.750 --> 01:20:11.950

Liz Tommasino: We have microphones and that they people come and they watch and they listen and it's all kids. It's all kids getting experience in performing in front of an audience. And gosh! Wouldn't that be great If some of these children, watching and listening to these



668

01:20:11.960 --> 01:20:38.090

Liz Tommasino: performing artists, got inspired and got and joined performing Arts programs whether, no matter what it was. we have a Dj. He's very family and very kid friendly. He is super fun. He gets interactive games, and he does lots of freebie giveaways and plays very appropriate music and no rap. Nonsense, black, bad language, anything of that nature. There are

669

01:20:38.550 --> 01:20:45.150

Liz Tommasino: face painters and clowns that do. There's blue and artists, and

670

01:20:45.330 --> 01:20:54.090

what else? We also had not a juggler last year, but we did blu on our street and and clients. We have food trucks that park on Weisco moved road.

671

01:20:54.220 --> 01:21:06.880

Liz Tommasino: and the food trucks are open and available, not just for attendees of the event, but for anybody it passers by people that are doing whatever they are doing and walking around, driving by whatever

672

01:21:08.190 --> 01:21:10.640

Liz Tommasino: i'm trying to think if I've missed any

673

01:21:10.660 --> 01:21:12.510

Liz Tommasino: thing.

674

01:21:12.680 --> 01:21:18.120

Liz Tommasino: No, I I I don't think we we did forward your correspondence.

675

01:21:18.160 --> 01:21:23.350

Scott R. Johnson: so the Board members Board of Parks and direct members have seen it.

676

01:21:23.480 --> 01:21:31.630

Liz Tommasino: I guess if you, if anyone on the board has specific questions for Liz, let's do that.

677

01:21:31.970 --> 01:21:45.660

Vivian Wu: Thank you. It sounds like a great event. I was wondering if it's a profit making event. how much money is being paid to the town for the use of our public space.

678

01:21:45.760 --> 01:21:48.590

Liz Tommasino: Okay, that's a very good question. So

679

01:21:48.760 --> 01:21:50.410

Liz Tommasino: to get a permit

680

01:21:50.510 --> 01:21:56.410

Liz Tommasino: at the event. All right. I get it per not the event to get a permit at the venue Vinnie Park.

681

01:21:56.700 --> 01:22:03.140

Liz Tommasino: and I know that Joe may have these numbers memorized, or maybe Sue does. I do not.

682

01:22:03.200 --> 01:22:05.780  
Liz Tommasino: but I have to pay

683  
01:22:05.870 --> 01:22:07.580  
Liz Tommasino: the Parks department

684  
01:22:07.620 --> 01:22:09.360  
a

685  
01:22:09.750 --> 01:22:14.360  
Liz Tommasino: usage fee. I have to pay some other permitting fees.

686  
01:22:14.510 --> 01:22:25.880  
Liz Tommasino: I pay the and I don't again. I don't know the numbers there. I think, together. It's maybe \$700. Those 2 things together. We pay the fire department

687  
01:22:26.080 --> 01:22:38.300  
Liz Tommasino: a fee to kind of check off that we are following all fire codes, and they do come, and they double check the day out, so we pay for their presence to make sure that setup is to code.

688  
01:22:38.300 --> 01:22:47.680  
Liz Tommasino: We pay for the Greenwich Fire department to have to the sorry for the great police department to have an off duty or not retirement off duty. Policemen

689  
01:22:47.690 --> 01:23:00.740  
Liz Tommasino: present during the entire event we pay Ems, so they are present. The entire event. Joe or Sue, Did I miss anybody there? Can you chime in, please?

690  
01:23:01.150 --> 01:23:05.360  
Sue Snyder: I I just want to clarify the land. You see, per day

691  
01:23:05.600 --> 01:23:14.790  
Sue Snyder: is \$400. So, Vivian, if that's what you were specifically asking.

692  
01:23:15.340 --> 01:23:22.440  
Vivian Wu: It sounds like an a very, very large event that affects a lot of people and traffic.

693  
01:23:22.460 --> 01:23:30.500  
Vivian Wu: and the town's benefit is only \$700. So since that space is not

694  
01:23:31.740 --> 01:23:39.240  
Vivian Wu: really set up originally, i'm not sure what the right word is for this kind of commercial use.

695  
01:23:41.100 --> 01:23:45.110  
Vivian Wu: Yeah, I I was surprised that it got through 2 years ago.

696  
01:23:45.300 --> 01:23:47.880  
Vivian Wu: Anyway, that that's all I have to say, for now

697

01:23:47.990 --> 01:23:56.440

Joe Siciliano: they're also Scott there, and Liz, excuse me, I don't mean to barge it, but this also pays for park personnel to be on the property

698

01:23:56.580 --> 01:24:02.100

Joe Siciliano: for the event and clean up. So with this she'll pay the overtime rate for

699

01:24:02.290 --> 01:24:05.000

Joe Siciliano: one or 2 park workers to be there

700

01:24:05.120 --> 01:24:16.410

Joe Siciliano: to help manage the property, and also help with the clean up after the event is over with, and that's at their unionized over time rate. So she does pay for that.

701

01:24:16.620 --> 01:24:19.990

Vivian Wu: in addition to Miss Vivian, if there is

702

01:24:21.260 --> 01:24:29.560

Liz Tommasino: anything that goes wrong, any damage to grass God for this something happened to. I don't know a tree

703

01:24:30.570 --> 01:24:33.300

whatever I mean something that would awry

704

01:24:33.920 --> 01:24:35.510

Liz Tommasino: my business would pay for it.

705

01:24:37.380 --> 01:24:45.810

Vivian Wu: So those are all actual cost to the town that you you may be covering, but as far as using the space, it seems like

706

01:24:48.110 --> 01:24:50.290

Vivian Wu: it's not a lot of money for

707

01:24:50.430 --> 01:24:57.100

Vivian Wu: that. Many merchants and so many activities in a space that wasn't originally designed for

708

01:24:57.220 --> 01:24:58.370

Vivian Wu: this use.

709

01:24:59.320 --> 01:25:03.490

Scott R. Johnson: So are there any other questions from board members before we get into

710

01:25:03.800 --> 01:25:07.660

Matthew Popp: I'll i'll call it presentations. That's got that map, Pop.

711

01:25:08.060 --> 01:25:13.520

I had a couple of comments. I wasn't sure in a question that you asked if it was for profit or not.

712

01:25:13.760 --> 01:25:16.730

Matthew Popp: I kind of got a like a sideways answer

713

01:25:17.020 --> 01:25:21.600

that it was some things for for profit. So i' for nonprofit.

714

01:25:21.630 --> 01:25:23.710

Matthew Popp: So i'm assuming this is for profit.

715

01:25:24.100 --> 01:25:31.540

Matthew Popp: That's one comment 2 is. I was at the friends of Greenwich Point, a board meeting a couple of weeks ago, and they

716

01:25:31.630 --> 01:25:39.850

Matthew Popp: did not take any action on this. I think they were actually concerned that if it was for profit they probably would not be attending this.

717

01:25:39.940 --> 01:25:49.940

Matthew Popp: And then the third thing is when you're talking about damage to trees and maybe lawn and grass areas. I'm wondering if this needs a wetland permit.

718

01:25:50.160 --> 01:25:52.970

Matthew Popp: you know, even if it's a temporary operation

719

01:25:54.770 --> 01:26:04.230

Matthew Popp: tempor out temporary operations. You know it would still need a lettuce permit. In my opinion, I guess i'm not sure if there's a site, plan or not, but that's that's my comments. Thank you.

720

01:26:04.530 --> 01:26:08.800

Scott R. Johnson: I I let me address that one. We we did get

721

01:26:09.330 --> 01:26:17.600

Scott R. Johnson: a letter, and i'm not sure who is going to attend. If anyone from Well, Susie Baker might be here, but we did get a letter from

722

01:26:17.980 --> 01:26:22.990

Scott R. Johnson: the Director of Environmental Affairs with some concerns about I'll put that on hold for a second.

723

01:26:24.770 --> 01:26:29.200

Scott R. Johnson: So let me.

724

01:26:29.360 --> 01:26:30.740

Rick Loh: Scott. I've got a question.

725

01:26:30.820 --> 01:26:31.680

Scott R. Johnson: Okay.

726

01:26:33.040 --> 01:26:37.950

Rick Loh: Liz. I'm just wondering how many events like this do you run?

727

01:26:38.470 --> 01:26:42.370

Rick Loh: I don't know per year or season, or whatever how you want to frame it, but

728

01:26:42.770 --> 01:26:47.400

Rick Loh: just check into interested in how often you do this kind of thing.

729

01:26:47.850 --> 01:26:53.110

Liz Tommasino: So the old Gordon festival is our signature event.

730

01:26:53.390 --> 01:26:58.560

Liz Tommasino: I worked a volunteer with the Junior League for many, many years.

731

01:26:58.780 --> 01:27:03.410

Liz Tommasino: sharing and co- plenty of events here in town.

732

01:27:04.780 --> 01:27:11.830

Liz Tommasino: and I have a laundry list of events that I have shared, co-chair, founded, etc.,

733

01:27:11.930 --> 01:27:23.710

Liz Tommasino: throughout I don't know since I was, let's say, the last 30 years. Not necessarily here, but also where i'm from in the Pacific Northwest. So

734

01:27:24.610 --> 01:27:27.980

Liz Tommasino: I am very familiar with

735

01:27:28.250 --> 01:27:30.990

Liz Tommasino: how to run event an event properly.

736

01:27:31.470 --> 01:27:37.240

Liz Tommasino: and I learned very quickly how to work with the town.

737

01:27:37.440 --> 01:27:38.430

Liz Tommasino: to

738

01:27:39.740 --> 01:27:46.750

Liz Tommasino: have an event produced on town property, and I have dotted as and crossed teas with them.

739

01:27:48.870 --> 01:27:51.770

Liz Tommasino: I follow every single rule.

740

01:27:52.110 --> 01:28:00.780

Rick Loh: I mean, is this like question kind? Is this a once a year thing, or is this something you do several times a year different towns? Or is this

741

01:28:01.370 --> 01:28:06.070

Liz Tommasino: Ogf is one time a year, one day a year in Benny Park

742

01:28:12.560 --> 01:28:26.660

Liz Tommasino: or not? I'm not sure. I I can tell you. I have partnered with a couple of other people to do a big regional northeast regional festival starting next summer for 5 years. But that's a totally different scenario.

743

01:28:27.940 --> 01:28:28.660

Rick Loh: Thank you.

744

01:28:29.340 --> 01:28:32.580

Vivian Wu: Can you tell me how many people attended last year?

745

01:28:33.120 --> 01:28:37.610

Liz Tommasino: I can tell you approximately. This is without

746

01:28:37.680 --> 01:28:55.450

Liz Tommasino: vendors, and they're like they get one person that can come help them, or one family member, etc., without any of the but my volunteers, who, mind you, are almost all high school students that get volunteer hours.

747

01:28:55.550 --> 01:29:01.030

Liz Tommasino: I can tell you the people that are there as attendees, approximately

748

01:29:01.270 --> 01:29:02.530

Liz Tommasino: 1,500.

749

01:29:04.090 --> 01:29:06.820

Liz Tommasino: But remember, the event is from 10 am.

750

01:29:07.180 --> 01:29:18.640

Liz Tommasino: TO 4. Pm: so it's a cycle of people that come, and they come with their children in strollers, and they come with their dogs unleases, and they

751

01:29:18.700 --> 01:29:26.280

Liz Tommasino: come, and they park their bikes, you know some where wherever they they park their bikes, you know, when they come in those little bikes that have

752

01:29:26.400 --> 01:29:36.740

Liz Tommasino: the little fronts, then that not baskets was on one of those call. They're fabulous, the gentleman from maybe I I can't remember where he's from, but he sells them down there it's wonderful.

753

01:29:37.580 --> 01:29:41.430

Scott R. Johnson: Let me try to seize control on this for a second.

754

01:29:41.700 --> 01:29:46.830

Scott R. Johnson: Mike. Your hand is up. Let's go to you. and then i'm going to ask

755

01:29:47.160 --> 01:29:53.990

Scott R. Johnson: Nancy with her hat as our chairman of of parks and trees to give.

756

01:29:54.440 --> 01:29:59.040

Scott R. Johnson: If you have a question or a comment on this, and then we're going to throw it to

757

01:29:59.410 --> 01:30:04.900

Scott R. Johnson: our stakeholders and other attendees. So like here's your hand up. Go ahead.

758

01:30:05.010 --> 01:30:13.300

Michael Bocchino: Yeah, just a couple of quick ones. You said. 1,500 people attend that that you had this last year right

759

01:30:18.760 --> 01:30:28.200

Michael Bocchino: each time you had this, the day after. Was there any damage or anything that was of significant damage to the to the park. Maybe Joe can answer that.

760

01:30:28.720 --> 01:30:47.710

Liz Tommasino: Joe can answer that, but I can also tell you that in 2,021. There was some grass damage from the bottom of the got that pit and the grass got receded I know this because a well, less than a year ago, a little more than a year ago, when I sat down

761

01:30:47.710 --> 01:31:02.800

Liz Tommasino: with Joe and with Andrew Karen and several of people from Parks, but also people from trees, and I can't remember where I was.

762

01:31:02.950 --> 01:31:14.720

Sue Snyder: Yeah, may I interject that that first year there was also a gas spill from a generator? Yeah, there was we did need. Yeah, we did need to have that

763

01:31:15.060 --> 01:31:15.840

Sue Snyder: that

764

01:31:16.020 --> 01:31:24.150

Sue Snyder: you know that land that grass remove.

765

01:31:24.180 --> 01:31:33.250

Liz Tommasino: However, I would like.

766

01:31:34.640 --> 01:31:44.980

Liz Tommasino: We follow all the rules that the person, except where any kind of generator has to be a minimum. I believe it's 2530 feet away

767

01:31:45.000 --> 01:31:47.800

Liz Tommasino: from the and they are

768

01:31:49.500 --> 01:31:50.820

Michael Bocchino: okay. So my

769

01:31:50.870 --> 01:31:53.410

Michael Bocchino: my last question. Just one more question, Scott.

770

01:31:54.190 --> 01:31:59.960

Michael Bocchino: You mentioned that, and we've all seen the kids with the bikes with the big box from Holland, or wherever it was.

771

01:32:01.530 --> 01:32:05.300

Michael Bocchino: What of all the 1,500? Do you know how many or

772

01:32:05.310 --> 01:32:10.630

Michael Bocchino: well, Greenwich residents, or you have an idea understanding, or is it all out of state

773

01:32:10.730 --> 01:32:17.750

Liz Tommasino: people coming in

774

01:32:18.070 --> 01:32:21.210

Liz Tommasino: old Greenwich? I'd say, Riverside.

775

01:32:26.290 --> 01:32:27.290

Liz Tommasino: the majority.

776

01:32:28.160 --> 01:32:29.860

Michael Bocchino: Okay. Thank you.

777

01:32:29.940 --> 01:32:32.270

Scott R. Johnson: Okay. Let's go to Nancy. Cheap.

778

01:32:37.110 --> 01:32:39.180

Unmute yourself. Dance

779

01:32:42.080 --> 01:32:45.400

Scott R. Johnson: and everybody hear me. Okay.

780

01:32:45.420 --> 01:32:47.890

Nancy Chapin: Okay, good. So

781

01:32:47.980 --> 01:33:07.380

Nancy Chapin: just a couple. I had 2 questions and then I know we're going to hear from a lot of people but one I you didn't talk about parking, and how you deal with parking, and that would be something that I think the committee should hear. And then to I just have a question, because I know there is another

782

01:33:07.460 --> 01:33:13.350

Nancy Chapin: friends of Benny Park is your Are you affiliated with that at all or not.

783

01:33:13.360 --> 01:33:15.310

Nancy Chapin: it's like a yeah, yeah.

784

01:33:18.450 --> 01:33:21.400

Nancy Chapin: There is a website for friends of any park

785

01:33:22.820 --> 01:33:42.160

Nancy Chapin: that that is some another organization out there. Are you aware of that organization. I'd heard that you're affiliated with it. No, no, relation. I'm a member of I like I joined the page. I guess i'm not a member of the organization. But I

786



01:33:42.160 --> 01:33:43.390  
Liz Tommasino: your organization.

787

01:33:43.900 --> 01:33:58.680

Nancy Chapin: Okay, it's: we are a: I i'm gonna talk about a couple of hats that i'm wearing for this. I was on the First Conservation Commission, so I I echo Matt Pops concern about Wetlands.

788

01:33:58.750 --> 01:34:05.400

Nancy Chapin: and during my time was on the Conservation Commission when Nancy Kaplan was

789

01:34:05.430 --> 01:34:07.940

Nancy Chapin: chair of this board.

790

01:34:08.130 --> 01:34:18.580

Nancy Chapin: We had never heard of an event like this, so that was quite some time that there was never any kind of an event like this in this park.

791

01:34:18.760 --> 01:34:34.240

Nancy Chapin: and then, secondly, I was appointed by this board to be on the City Park Advisory Committee, where we were charged with the implementation of the master plan. So this little history on on my role.

792

01:34:34.880 --> 01:34:42.770

Nancy Chapin: I am als0 On the newly formed friends.

793

01:34:42.900 --> 01:34:50.730

Nancy Chapin: I just wanted to say a couple of things if I could just open with. I think there's a silver lining here, because

794

01:34:50.800 --> 01:34:56.720

Nancy Chapin: what you've done is highlighted, something that some of us have been talking about for a while that

795

01:34:56.810 --> 01:35:06.660

Nancy Chapin: our active recreation has policies and guidelines to govern the use of our athletic fields, our parks and open spaces

796

01:35:07.050 --> 01:35:18.860

Nancy Chapin: do not. And I think this is a call for action to that. And so my hope is out of this, because a lot of part time, park staff time has gone to

797

01:35:18.870 --> 01:35:21.530

Nancy Chapin: this event, and other events as well.

798

01:35:21.580 --> 01:35:27.560

Nancy Chapin: So I think you know it's a it's a good opportunity to look at that, and I hope our board does.

799

01:35:27.700 --> 01:35:34.320

Nancy Chapin: I want to echo Joe right in his opening remarks, he said, Uptick and you in all our facilities.

800

01:35:34.520 --> 01:35:39.190

Nancy Chapin: It is without a doubt all of our parks have tremendous pressure.

801

01:35:39.200 --> 01:35:41.990

Nancy Chapin: and we also saw with the pandemic

802

01:35:42.000 --> 01:35:53.720

Nancy Chapin: this need for our open spaces. So I just want to also say that we're gonna. I know that there are other people that are going to speak tonight, and i'd like to not take too much time in my report

803

01:35:53.800 --> 01:35:57.700

Nancy Chapin: and let them speak, and then follow up with some other things.

804

01:35:57.820 --> 01:36:12.940

Nancy Chapin: I also do want to say to you like, how do we get here, you know, and I can see how this happened, you know, to the Powers would be Joe Frankamilla. You came at a time when we're coming out of a pandemic, and we needed.

805

01:36:13.000 --> 01:36:20.350

Nancy Chapin: you know, when we needed something happy. We needed a great, you know thing, to bring us out of this this awful place that we're all in

806

01:36:20.680 --> 01:36:29.410

Nancy Chapin: seem like a great idea. Let's get a community event together. Let's have fun. I think you're gonna hear from a lot of people. Some of the concerns

807

01:36:29.460 --> 01:36:35.290

Nancy Chapin: about a precedent setting of a for-profit event in a public space.

808

01:36:35.440 --> 01:36:40.330

Nancy Chapin: and I will let you know the presenters talk to that

809

01:36:40.370 --> 01:36:53.420

Nancy Chapin: and I think Scott was correct in stating. You know we've been bombarded by letters in this last week from from residence, so I think i'll tip my hat at this point, Scott, to t0 One of your speakers.

810

01:36:53.460 --> 01:37:01.260

Nancy Chapin: unless anybody has any questions directed towards me and my various hats that I've Warren of. You know recently

811

01:37:02.190 --> 01:37:13.690

Scott R. Johnson: 1 One thing that we need to do is understand that we have been asked I, the first first selectman who we report to as a policy board

812

01:37:14.270 --> 01:37:27.400

Scott R. Johnson: on our thoughts on this and related issues, and I know that's why you've been working on. I'm just talking in. And the idea of doing master plans specific user plans for all of these parks.

813

01:37:27.480 --> 01:37:32.580

Scott R. Johnson: and that's something that you know we all compliment you for, because it's it's important.

814

01:37:33.040 --> 01:37:36.050

Scott R. Johnson: and it's something that we're going to work on a lot in the future.

815  
01:37:36.140 --> 01:37:42.300  
Scott R. Johnson: So what we will hopefully do by the end of this conversation

816  
01:37:42.360 --> 01:37:50.750  
Scott R. Johnson: is, make a recommendation one way or the other, to the first select, and he's asked us to do that. And this is the first time we've reviewed this.

817  
01:37:51.070 --> 01:37:59.220  
Scott R. Johnson: So we we it's something that I know we all want to get involved in, because the issuance of permits

818  
01:37:59.400 --> 01:38:11.580  
Scott R. Johnson: we obviously Don't get involved in the permit issuances in general. but when the parks get overwhelmed, it's becoming a more important subject. So. Nancy, why don't you introduce

819  
01:38:12.130 --> 01:38:14.660  
Scott R. Johnson: You already know we'll. We'll hear from him.

820  
01:38:17.040 --> 01:38:22.420  
Nancy Chapin: so I I guess Leonora is the one who will recognize Pete, but

821  
01:38:22.520 --> 01:38:29.670  
Nancy Chapin: Pete Yuri is he was the co-chair on the Binny Park advisory. Committee

822  
01:38:29.850 --> 01:38:36.220  
Nancy Chapin: and is now president of the friends of Minneapolis.

823  
01:38:39.720 --> 01:38:44.940  
Peter Uhry: Well, good evening. Everybody. Nancy took the words out of my mouth. I'm, you're 8.

824  
01:38:45.210 --> 01:38:57.600  
Peter Uhry: I'm a resident of Greenwich, 50 years, 40, and old Greenwich and 10 and riverside. and I'm here tonight. I want to comment about the old Grange festival.

825  
01:38:58.020 --> 01:39:04.200  
Peter Uhry: We recognize it's a private commercial enterprise, and we recognize that

826  
01:39:04.260 --> 01:39:05.650  
Peter Uhry: Liz has done

827  
01:39:05.950 --> 01:39:12.560  
Peter Uhry: one. Heck of a lot of work to get those permits. I had no idea. I've never, you know, done one myself.

828  
01:39:12.570 --> 01:39:15.470  
but she's had them for the last 2 years

829  
01:39:16.460 --> 01:39:25.280  
Peter Uhry: tonight I'm. Representing the friends of any park. It it emerged after Nancy Kaplan passed away from cancer.

830

01:39:25.490 --> 01:39:28.270

Peter Uhry: and there was a period of dormancy. But

831

01:39:28.470 --> 01:39:36.690

Peter Uhry: there was a need among citizens that came to me because I knew I was actively involved for years with Benny Park, and they said.

832

01:39:36.740 --> 01:39:45.950

Peter Uhry: I think we need to resurrect this. So we did, and we established a friends of Benny Park and the fall for last year, and I happen to be the current present.

833

01:39:46.440 --> 01:39:50.660

Peter Uhry: Since then I've got to add a comment that

834

01:39:51.600 --> 01:39:56.400

Peter Uhry: there we've discovered that someone else has

835

01:39:56.660 --> 01:40:06.030

Peter Uhry: a URL. Friends of Binny Park, which is interesting. His name is Mr. Core, Joseph Core, and and I believe Liz knows him.

836

01:40:06.100 --> 01:40:10.820

Peter Uhry: I don't know she'll comment later, and I invite her to to

837

01:40:11.090 --> 01:40:12.550

say

838

01:40:12.600 --> 01:40:15.400

Peter Uhry: just exactly who he is. I believe he did the

839

01:40:15.420 --> 01:40:21.070

Peter Uhry: study that appears in her document presented to the committee.

840

01:40:22.120 --> 01:40:26.730

Peter Uhry: so i'm here this evening, and and I have to say the friends have been to Park.

841

01:40:27.230 --> 01:40:35.860

Peter Uhry: Do not believe that this permit should continue. It should not be issued another year. It's been issued for 2 years.

842

01:40:36.590 --> 01:40:42.880

Peter Uhry: and we believe, for a variety of reasons, the first being that we feel

843

01:40:43.790 --> 01:40:54.190

Peter Uhry: the north end of Binny Park has traditionally been used for passive purposes. and this has been true for some 50 years. We haven't found any evidence, any place

844

01:40:54.250 --> 01:41:05.970

Peter Uhry: that would indicate that it was used for the kind of event that Miss Thomas, you know. mounted 2 years ago, and 2,021.

845

01:41:07.450 --> 01:41:16.940

Peter Uhry: So now we have an event that's been underway, and we have a number of people. I seem to be the point person for doing this. So i'm actually

846

01:41:17.260 --> 01:41:25.360

Peter Uhry: talking, as I said, for friends of any part, but for other groups as well about this, and as some evidence

847

01:41:25.920 --> 01:41:26.730

Peter Uhry: of

848

01:41:26.810 --> 01:41:34.740

Peter Uhry: the fact, there has been opposition for this since the beginning, this is a in reverse article from the Greenwich time from.

849

01:41:35.280 --> 01:41:43.570

Peter Uhry: But before the event occurred in 2,021, and it expresses there were. but it says in the

850

01:41:43.800 --> 01:42:01.050

Peter Uhry: not in the headline but just below it as residents ask about fees, locations. organization, or organizer points to community benefit, and I think that's what Liz has been trying to do, and I cred her for doing that. There's nothing wrong with with community benefit.

851

01:42:01.880 --> 01:42:07.410

Peter Uhry: It was interesting. The Greenwich time had a timely photograph showing.

852

01:42:07.480 --> 01:42:16.460

Peter Uhry: This was from today's paper. By the way. showing kids on scooters and bidding park. And I think it exemplifies the way I want to describe how

853

01:42:16.550 --> 01:42:31.530

Peter Uhry: any park should be used. The North end. We're not talking about the ball fields on the bottom in the south end of the park. We're not talking about Benny Kitchell Woods. We're just talking about the basic 10 acres that you all associate and know about Benny Park.

854

01:42:32.830 --> 01:42:40.120

Peter Uhry: People use the north end of any part for the relaxation and modest rec recreation. They come to walk

855

01:42:40.150 --> 01:42:46.390

Peter Uhry: and sit on a bench, watch the pond, the ducks, the turtles possibly take a stroll.

856

01:42:47.000 --> 01:43:03.310

Peter Uhry: Numerous residents have studied this, and and we have 4 Or 5 that have been associated with the town. There's a master plan, a bidding park. There was a historic.

857

01:43:03.400 --> 01:43:12.000

Peter Uhry: a report done in 2,009 by Martha Lyon, in Massachusetts, in 2,006. I

858

01:43:12.400 --> 01:43:23.140

Peter Uhry: preference study was done by research, U.S.A. For the old Greenwich Association. and in 2,019 more work was done

859

01:43:23.210 --> 01:43:33.560

Peter Uhry: to verify that we and in the Binny Park Advisory Committee we're following the guidelines from the master plan.

860

01:43:33.790 --> 01:43:36.510

Peter Uhry: and most of these, I would say.

861

01:43:36.800 --> 01:43:41.110

Peter Uhry: almost all of them serve follow up particular trend. And

862

01:43:42.570 --> 01:43:51.490

Peter Uhry: and that trend is, it basically is leaning towards the idea that that any part should only be used

863

01:43:51.710 --> 01:43:59.710

Peter Uhry: all right. So we're on way to say that Binny Park has traditionally been used for passive recreation. That's a a fair way of saying it.

864

01:44:01.170 --> 01:44:02.810

Peter Uhry: So

865

01:44:03.380 --> 01:44:08.830

Peter Uhry: if I note the survey that this Thomasino shared with you all, and and submitted to you.

866

01:44:09.520 --> 01:44:21.820

Peter Uhry: I should say that the survey. now continuing that that Mr. Core, he was the one who apparently fielded the study. mentioned that, and this Thomasino has mentioned in her remarks

867

01:44:21.970 --> 01:44:24.900

Peter Uhry: that 90% of the people in that survey

868

01:44:25.150 --> 01:44:26.590

we're favorable.

869

01:44:26.890 --> 01:44:31.400

Peter Uhry: which is interesting. But I really don't know at the base of that

870

01:44:31.680 --> 01:44:39.150

Peter Uhry: numbers are in terms of of how that came about. nor do I know what the methodology was, so it just sent out to

871

01:44:39.630 --> 01:44:41.670

Peter Uhry: the who I don't really know.

872

01:44:42.810 --> 01:44:53.370

Peter Uhry: I have to say that because I want to be clear that the friends have been in Park, and some of the other groups that have been involved with discussions

873

01:44:53.500 --> 01:45:02.150

Peter Uhry: which do not favor the continuance of the permit or re issuing a permit for Miss Tomasino.

874

01:45:04.200 --> 01:45:05.350

Peter Uhry: Those

875

01:45:05.960 --> 01:45:16.370

Peter Uhry: groups came together, and we basically said, let's not do a kid for Kat. Let's not get involved in a I can do more people than you, can we? We didn't think that was appropriate or fair.

876

01:45:16.650 --> 01:45:20.710

Peter Uhry: or particularly right, and and yet

877

01:45:22.170 --> 01:45:33.020

Peter Uhry: we did want to come collectively together and say that that you we had the force of the Old Grange Association. the Garden Club of all Greenwich

878

01:45:33.170 --> 01:45:46.430

Peter Uhry: friends have been in Park. We have 90 members now we've been doing for 2 months in in terms of collecting membership, and our friends of of Benny, as we call ourselves.

879

01:45:46.520 --> 01:45:48.120

Peter Uhry: have 90 people.

880

01:45:48.130 --> 01:45:52.670

Peter Uhry: and the all Greenwich merchants. There are 32 Old Greenwich merchants.

881

01:45:52.950 --> 01:45:56.410

Peter Uhry: and we can count those so. But

882

01:45:56.580 --> 01:46:00.580

Peter Uhry: we're not going to really going to go there. Let's just stick with the fact that

883

01:46:00.880 --> 01:46:02.470

Peter Uhry: the committee has

884

01:46:02.620 --> 01:46:21.190

Peter Uhry: these reports. Most of them are online. By the way. Go to parts and recreation, and and and look inside there, and you'll find the master plan of Benny Park and go to the index at the the appendix at the back, and have a look and see how people felt, because Martha Lyon took the time

885

01:46:21.600 --> 01:46:25.600

Peter Uhry: and gathered opinions through various

886

01:46:25.850 --> 01:46:39.640

Peter Uhry: public hearings in the in the civic center. We we went through those when we mailed. I was on the old Grange board when in 2,006. When that study was done that went out to 416 people.

887

01:46:39.720 --> 01:46:50.840

Peter Uhry: and we got some very interesting feedback, and I believe that documents in the parts department as well. I have one copy, so I don't know.

888  
01:46:50.870 --> 01:46:52.880  
Peter Uhry: I suppose it could be.

889  
01:46:53.140 --> 01:46:53.740  
Oh.

890  
01:46:53.910 --> 01:46:57.440  
Peter Uhry: digitized by and scanned by somebody along the way.

891  
01:46:58.720 --> 01:47:02.070  
Peter Uhry: So the old branch vessel is then sponsored

892  
01:47:02.520 --> 01:47:07.770  
Peter Uhry: by all in the details which we've acknowledged as a for-profit operation.

893  
01:47:08.460 --> 01:47:09.890  
Liz Tommasino: Excuse me, here

894  
01:47:13.530 --> 01:47:18.730  
Scott R. Johnson: you produce it. Hold Hold on a second what we're not going to do. Everybody

895  
01:47:18.990 --> 01:47:29.210  
Scott R. Johnson: is interrupt people speaking so. Peter has the floor. When Peter's done, we're going to go to the other 40 people that have asked to speak.

896  
01:47:29.360 --> 01:47:30.700  
Scott R. Johnson: and then

897  
01:47:30.740 --> 01:47:39.510  
Scott R. Johnson: we can have a very, very brief reportal. We're not we're not going to interrupt anybody's conversation. So go ahead, Peter. Continue.

898  
01:47:39.810 --> 01:47:50.580  
Peter Uhry: However, I do not think that we should criticize Liz for clarifying if I misspoke about her organization and the way she handled it. I think that's fair.

899  
01:47:50.910 --> 01:47:51.770  
Peter Uhry: So.

900  
01:47:52.950 --> 01:47:54.820  
Peter Uhry: anyway. So

901  
01:47:56.990 --> 01:48:03.380  
Peter Uhry: So this is said there's a give back to the to the community, and she wanted to establish a

902  
01:48:03.740 --> 01:48:07.110  
Peter Uhry: a beautification program. and



903

01:48:07.550 --> 01:48:14.390

Peter Uhry: I think that was a a good idea. I think it was an interesting one. She had her vendors.

904

01:48:14.500 --> 01:48:30.240

Peter Uhry: and I think when she started to talk to the merchants, which is one of the we were not in. We were not formed at the time, so she went to the merchants with the idea of getting their support and working with them, and she ran into

905

01:48:30.270 --> 01:48:34.440

Peter Uhry: some headwinds and the headwinds we're from

906

01:48:34.780 --> 01:48:40.300

Peter Uhry: individual, small. independent businesses that, said

907

01:48:40.570 --> 01:48:52.810

Peter Uhry: I, really don't have the manpower to to field people into a tent, which is a quarter of a mile from my brick and mortar store. I don't really feel that you

908

01:48:52.810 --> 01:49:02.740

Peter Uhry: can set up a circumstance it's any more attractive than where I am right now, and on Sound beach, Avenue, or or or whatever.

909

01:49:03.420 --> 01:49:06.210

Peter Uhry: and I think that they also felt

910

01:49:06.360 --> 01:49:07.910

Peter Uhry: that some of the

911

01:49:08.590 --> 01:49:16.200

Peter Uhry: vendors who are going to be, or we're recruited in 2,021 and 22. We're frankly competitive

912

01:49:16.280 --> 01:49:20.820

Peter Uhry: with their own business, and they didn't particularly like the idea of that.

913

01:49:20.900 --> 01:49:27.240

Peter Uhry: A for-profit organization was coming to their front yard

914

01:49:27.280 --> 01:49:28.180

Peter Uhry: and

915

01:49:28.260 --> 01:49:32.140

Peter Uhry: coming in with people who might be taking distance away from them.

916

01:49:34.080 --> 01:49:34.960

Peter Uhry: So

917

01:49:36.650 --> 01:49:51.770

Peter Uhry: that's part of the reason that the old branch merchants got sort of upset about this this kind of thing, and I think, with good reason, and I've submitted a a document, I believe. to you, expressing some of those thoughts, and may have something to say themselves. Later this evening.

918

01:49:52.480 --> 01:49:59.000

Peter Uhry: Residents voice concern. From the outset. Some wondered whether or not an area that was fenced off.

919

01:50:00.010 --> 01:50:12.120

Peter Uhry: and a fee fees were charged was an appropriate thing for a public park. and I I think this is a very important point, Nancy. Shape and touched on it this evening.

920

01:50:12.160 --> 01:50:13.100

Peter Uhry: and

921

01:50:13.240 --> 01:50:20.440

Peter Uhry: I I want you to let that point stick, because that really is one of the key points. In other words, I want to say.

922

01:50:21.830 --> 01:50:23.210

Peter Uhry: going forward.

923

01:50:23.390 --> 01:50:34.600

Peter Uhry: and even expressing these thoughts. The idea for a old Grange festival, or for a festival Family Fun Festival. It's not a bad idea. It's just that

924

01:50:34.660 --> 01:50:37.010

Peter Uhry: we have to protect

925

01:50:37.420 --> 01:50:44.700

Peter Uhry: what we have in our open space, which has been discussed earlier this evening very limited.

926

01:50:44.760 --> 01:50:51.400

Peter Uhry: We don't have many choices. Think about the hockey conversation. Where can we put up a hockey ring, for example.

927

01:50:51.510 --> 01:50:53.160

Peter Uhry: All these things

928

01:50:53.850 --> 01:50:58.640

Peter Uhry: point to the single consideration that we have

929

01:50:58.970 --> 01:51:02.690

Peter Uhry: a binny park with a 90 year tradition

930

01:51:03.720 --> 01:51:09.730

Peter Uhry: an award winner initially a beautiful area that most people enjoy.

931

01:51:10.020 --> 01:51:23.820

Peter Uhry: but they enjoy it because it represents a place for passive recreation having an event. Any kind of okay in Bitty Park has to be done very, very carefully.

932

01:51:24.350 --> 01:51:32.480

Peter Uhry: and having a for-profit organization come, even though there is give back to the community.

933

01:51:32.670 --> 01:51:36.570

Peter Uhry: has to be taken carefully into consideration

934

01:51:36.710 --> 01:51:41.200

Peter Uhry: by the Board of Parks and Recreation.

935

01:51:41.350 --> 01:51:43.800

Peter Uhry: and the town's part

936

01:51:43.850 --> 01:51:46.140

Peter Uhry: department, in our opinion.

937

01:51:46.990 --> 01:51:48.640

So

938

01:51:48.780 --> 01:51:59.190

Peter Uhry: we didn't talk about traffic. We didn't talk about the port parking options. We didn't talk about the lady I spoke to earlier today who

939

01:51:59.340 --> 01:52:02.030

Peter Uhry: said that she was really upset, that

940

01:52:02.680 --> 01:52:13.120

Peter Uhry: our cars were illegally parked along Sound Beach Avenue. When she called the police department. She she got No, she did get a response, but nothing was happening on the scene.

941

01:52:13.140 --> 01:52:13.890

Peter Uhry: Oh.

942

01:52:14.270 --> 01:52:25.580

Peter Uhry: I also talked to an individual who said it was. It was a shame that when the festival is going on last June, that particular Saturday

943

01:52:25.650 --> 01:52:44.780

Peter Uhry: there was a memorial service going on across the street at one of our more popular churches in town, the First Congregational Church, as well as a second memorial concurrently going on, and it it just the the 2 didn't really sort of work.

944

01:52:44.780 --> 01:52:47.220

Peter Uhry: People are coming through

945

01:52:47.230 --> 01:53:01.060

Peter Uhry: the first Congregational Church parking lot on their way down to the festival, because there, there wasn't parking people were saying, I can't find a a place where I can go into the service of the church.

946

01:53:01.690 --> 01:53:03.100

Peter Uhry: So

947

01:53:03.170 --> 01:53:09.090

Peter Uhry: that's an issue about bin Laden is is not a great spot to be having

948

01:53:09.260 --> 01:53:12.180

Peter Uhry: a large attendance event.

949

01:53:12.520 --> 01:53:13.280

Peter Uhry: Now.

950

01:53:13.660 --> 01:53:26.570

Peter Uhry: having said that, how about the fireworks? How does that work? Well, there's a lot of pre-planning that goes into that, and parking is is adjusted accordingly. There's a big difference, too, between the kind of event

951

01:53:26.640 --> 01:53:30.150

Peter Uhry: that we find are sponsored by the town, and

952

01:53:30.180 --> 01:53:35.150

Peter Uhry: a for profit. opportunity, or or event in the park.

953

01:53:35.230 --> 01:53:45.210

Peter Uhry: When you think about the fireworks, or you think about the summer concerts. So we have in the park. If you reflect on

954

01:53:45.830 --> 01:53:50.260

Peter Uhry: the sailboat rather than a sailboat. Races, for example, are in the part

955

01:53:50.350 --> 01:53:56.870

Peter Uhry: which is sponsored by the merchants, and probably comes closest to what

956

01:53:57.070 --> 01:53:59.040

this Thomasino does.

957

01:53:59.790 --> 01:54:03.660

Peter Uhry: All those events are open to the public.

958

01:54:03.720 --> 01:54:14.050

Peter Uhry: They do not. There's no charge to get into the the the venue, the way as Thomasino does. She charges \$10 per person to get in, which means.

959

01:54:14.950 --> 01:54:21.080

Peter Uhry: I I think, and I've not spoken to this time about this, but if I, you know, had

960

01:54:21.180 --> 01:54:27.160

Peter Uhry: if I run on her team, I I think that even you should have a fee for for younger

961

01:54:27.210 --> 01:54:44.510

Peter Uhry: people like a one year old pays \$10 and a and a 70 year old person place \$10, and if you, by the way, I was doing the math. Why, you were talking about that. If you take 1,500 people and you do it times 10, that's \$15,000, and if you have 10 tense

962

01:54:44.590 --> 01:55:03.030

Peter Uhry: and you have \$200, that's another \$2,000. So you've got \$17,000 in revenue, and I don't know what all the expenses are, but but it it seems to work for you, I mean, and you didn't really specify how well you did with this. Maybe that's not something you should have to share. I don't really know, but

963

01:55:03.330 --> 01:55:06.000

Peter Uhry: I guess my point about that, is it it? Just

964

01:55:07.480 --> 01:55:16.060

Peter Uhry: when you go to the fireworks. It's there it's a it's a gift to the town from the town. If you go to a model sailboat race.

965

01:55:16.120 --> 01:55:22.020

Peter Uhry: there may be an entry fee all that, all that goes back to the over

966

01:55:22.040 --> 01:55:25.870

Peter Uhry: Herbicide Community center art in the park.

967

01:55:26.240 --> 01:55:32.550

Peter Uhry: That is a fundraiser. Yes, the the artists do pay for their tents, and that's fine.

968

01:55:32.640 --> 01:55:43.660

Peter Uhry: and they do take those proceeds. You should know that. And but what happens is any any surplus reference? The whole thing is a fundraiser to help

969

01:55:43.790 --> 01:55:50.040

Peter Uhry: fund the first light festival in the village. And so there's a total. Get back.

970

01:55:50.600 --> 01:56:09.520

Peter Uhry: It'll get back. I don't think

971

01:56:09.820 --> 01:56:15.300

Scott R. Johnson: that are eager to speak so I i'd like to.

972

01:56:15.590 --> 01:56:19.840

Peter Uhry: Well, I just I I would like you to I I'll close, I hear you.

973

01:56:20.020 --> 01:56:23.680

I will close with these comments I will, I will say that

974

01:56:25.210 --> 01:56:29.160

Peter Uhry: the friends have been a parked on stand alone in this it it also

975

01:56:29.350 --> 01:56:30.160

Peter Uhry: I could.

976

01:56:30.460 --> 01:56:35.600

Peter Uhry: The old Branch Merchants Association Garden Club of all Gradient.

977

01:56:35.670 --> 01:56:48.650

Peter Uhry: all Greenwich Association itself. I got a call, by the way, when you're doing the hockey conversation from Steve Mesker, saying, I can't get my email to you, but I think it's a horrible idea.

978

01:56:49.100 --> 01:56:52.240

Peter Uhry: I heard from Diane Fox. She's not in favor of it.

979

01:56:52.840 --> 01:57:00.330

Peter Uhry: Mary Hall, executive Director of green and clean, said 2 years ago she didn't think it was such a grand idea.

980

01:57:00.720 --> 01:57:03.170

Peter Uhry: and I just

981

01:57:03.180 --> 01:57:09.620

Peter Uhry: Sue Baker, I think, is also expressed some negative thoughts about this and to your committee.

982

01:57:09.880 --> 01:57:10.750

Peter Uhry: So

983

01:57:11.010 --> 01:57:23.200

Peter Uhry: all right, we're against it, and we think it not so much it to be killed. The idea of should be killed as much as it should be moved. Get it out of any. That's the bottom line, and I hope with this whole

984

01:57:23.500 --> 01:57:29.760

Peter Uhry: evening has done is raised, and awareness that the Board of Parks and Recreation

985

01:57:29.820 --> 01:57:32.390

Peter Uhry: should look at this

986

01:57:32.530 --> 01:57:36.150

Peter Uhry: topic and see how they handle it. Because if we let

987

01:57:36.250 --> 01:57:40.130

Peter Uhry: Liz go ahead a third year. It's a tradition.

988

01:57:40.180 --> 01:57:43.670

Peter Uhry: Then then it would be very hard to move her out, and then we could.

989

01:57:43.880 --> 01:57:49.140

Peter Uhry: would be forced to let other people in, and I don't want to see Benny Park be that way. Thank you.

990

01:57:49.800 --> 01:58:06.190

Scott R. Johnson: Thanks, Peter. So in our celebrity list here we have lays on Suit Acre. who I like to get to. She can speak for herself, but she is a representative of the Conservation Commission.

991

01:58:06.360 --> 01:58:13.140

Scott R. Johnson: and also, I I believe, worked with Sarah, who's the assistant director.

992

01:58:13.400 --> 01:58:19.250

Scott R. Johnson: It's so, I think, Suzie, once you get, recognize, unmute yourself, and we will

993

01:58:19.370 --> 01:58:28.470

Scott R. Johnson: hear from you, and i'd like to be followed by Gary and Peterson, of the Old Branch Association, too. So, Caroline Don't, leave. Okay, Susie.

994

01:58:31.740 --> 01:58:33.240

Scott R. Johnson: unmute yourself. So

995

01:58:39.210 --> 01:58:40.700

Scott R. Johnson: so you try to mind you.

996

01:58:48.900 --> 01:58:51.810

Scott R. Johnson: Well, nor can you unmute her, or does she have to do herself

997

01:59:11.680 --> 01:59:23.840

sue bakernnnnnbnnnnjnn: really alarmed by the precedent that this could set going forward will be almost impossible for all the parts and wrecks to deal with the kinds of permits that might be requested.

998

01:59:23.890 --> 01:59:43.440

sue bakernnnnnbnnnnjnn: It's a very high impact situation for a fragile park. Our we have several small fragile parts in our town. They are important habitats for all kinds of organisms, all different biomes, Vinnie in particular, with this new native species.

999

01:59:43.440 --> 01:59:53.790

sue bakernnnnnbnnnnjnn: plantings designed to draw wildlife to to the park. It is in jeopardy. This kind of allowed

1000

01:59:54.110 --> 02:00:12.000

sue bakernnnnnbnnnnjnn: high impact activity is is not what we want in Benny. Beyond that I would like to say that the town of Greenwich Conservation Commission Environmental Affairs has sent a statement to a Parks and Rec. And Scott, if you.

1001

02:00:12.000 --> 02:00:26.080

sue bakernnnnnbnnnnjnn: there's no reason. I I don't need to read it if you want to read any parts of it, but it does make an official statement prepared by the Conservation Commission, staff and environmental

1002

02:00:26.160 --> 02:00:28.870

for environmental affairs.

1003

02:00:28.910 --> 02:00:44.050

sue bakernnnnnbnnnnjnn: So it's perfectly clear that the Conservation Commission town of Greenwich is against this kind of activity and our smaller, fragile parts. It is a total commercialization of the parks, and going forward

1004

02:00:44.100 --> 02:00:51.890

would just be a disaster and very difficult to manage. The only other question I would ask is.

1005

02:00:51.910 --> 02:00:58.340

sue bakernnnnnbbnnnnjnn: I would. I heard in Alyssa's very effective presentation, that there were local vendors.

1006

02:00:58.440 --> 02:01:09.720

sue bakernnnnnbbnnnnjnn: I don't know who those local vendors were. My inquiry around town, because I've lived here 55 years is that none of the

1007

02:01:09.880 --> 02:01:13.840

sue bakernnnnnbbnnnnjnn: shops locally participated.

1008

02:01:13.980 --> 02:01:31.990

sue bakernnnnnbbnnnnjnn: So not to reiterate what everybody else has, said. Scott, If you want to read any portion of Sarah's statement, especially the last paragraph that might be of interest. Since this is, and historic, this park is part of the town of Greenwich Historic properties.

1009

02:01:32.760 --> 02:01:34.710

sue bakernnnnnbbnnnnjnn: If you want to read that. Okay.

1010

02:01:35.740 --> 02:01:40.260

Scott R. Johnson: sure, She She mentions several bullet points, including

1011

02:01:40.700 --> 02:01:49.870

Scott R. Johnson: that it's a historic landscape which are notably fragile, and it doesn't need the standards of the Federal historic preservation requirements.

1012

02:01:50.070 --> 02:01:53.300

She doesn't like to the the precedent

1013

02:01:53.370 --> 02:02:04.450

Scott R. Johnson: of allowing private events on fragile Park areas, particularly ones like this, the meeting small areas

1014

02:02:04.620 --> 02:02:09.210

Scott R. Johnson: with environmentally sensitive areas like like a pod and and

1015

02:02:10.680 --> 02:02:21.470

Scott R. Johnson: and native classes, etc. It's a bad precedent. It should be a thought for future restrictions. and

1016

02:02:21.510 --> 02:02:22.890

Scott R. Johnson: I don't want it on

1017

02:02:25.020 --> 02:02:28.260

Scott R. Johnson: I i'd like to also read.

1018

02:02:29.280 --> 02:02:35.960

Scott R. Johnson: Well not read it. But note that I got a letter of opposition from the Garfin Club of old Greenwich.

1019

02:02:36.880 --> 02:02:39.320

Scott R. Johnson: staying similar concerns

1020



02:02:39.700 --> 02:02:45.090  
from Easter Grass Preservation Association

1021  
02:02:47.460 --> 02:02:50.380  
Scott R. Johnson: from the

1022  
02:02:50.900 --> 02:02:59.680  
in a lengthy letter, knowing similar concerns. So maybe, and I don't. We don't need to hear from all those people, because let's

1023  
02:03:00.420 --> 02:03:06.710  
Scott R. Johnson: let's jump. If Sue, you have nothing else. Let's jump to care like Peter, some of the old Branch association.

1024  
02:03:09.180 --> 02:03:17.160  
Scott R. Johnson: if that's okay. So, Carolyn, what you on Mute. introduce yourself and and and give your comments where they are.

1025  
02:03:18.600 --> 02:03:19.850  
Carolyn Petersen (OGA): Hello! Can you hear me?

1026  
02:03:20.160 --> 02:03:21.350  
Scott R. Johnson: Yes, we can.

1027  
02:03:21.460 --> 02:03:27.670  
Carolyn Petersen (OGA): Wonderful! Thank you. My name is Caroline Peterson, and I'm. President of the Old Greenwich Association.

1028  
02:03:27.800 --> 02:03:34.280  
Carolyn Petersen (OGA): I just like to share our short letter that we sent in advance to the Board of Parks and Rec.

1029  
02:03:34.610 --> 02:03:43.090  
Carolyn Petersen (OGA): Which I will read now. The board of the old Greenwich Association is against the old Greenwich festival being granted a permit to trade in Minneapolis.

1030  
02:03:43.360 --> 02:03:54.790  
Carolyn Petersen (OGA): In considering our position carefully, we reviewed your Board's Mission, which is to quote pursue and promote a standard of excellence in the development of comprehensive park systems and quality facilities

1031  
02:03:54.980 --> 02:04:00.750  
which encourage diverse recreational opportunities and the preservation of natural resources.

1032  
02:04:01.270 --> 02:04:05.890  
Carolyn Petersen (OGA): The mission. The mission of the old Greenwich Association is to preserve our community.

1033  
02:04:06.100 --> 02:04:17.580  
Carolyn Petersen (OGA): The mission of the old Greenwich festival is to profit, not preserve in an email said to us from the company: it's all in the details. The producer of the old Greenwich Festival questioned

1034  
02:04:17.690 --> 02:04:19.870  
Carolyn Petersen (OGA): why there was local concern about

1035

02:04:20.390 --> 02:04:29.900

Carolyn Petersen (OGA): concern, quote about for profit events in Benny Park unquote. We quote her own words, which clarify that this is an acknowledged for profit event.

1036

02:04:31.170 --> 02:04:48.280

Carolyn Petersen (OGA): We quote from your own 2,015 master plan for Binny Park, reminding you that in 1,927, when Edwin Binny saved the area of Mini Park from being developed for housing. That quote the deed stated that the land was to be used for park and recreation purposes only.

1037

02:04:48.460 --> 02:04:50.140

Carolyn Petersen (OGA): We need not say more.

1038

02:04:50.610 --> 02:04:55.210

That's from us at the old Greenwich Association Board. Thank you for listening.

1039

02:04:56.690 --> 02:04:57.870

Scott R. Johnson: Thank you, Caroline

1040

02:05:00.370 --> 02:05:02.820

Vicki Young, You

1041

02:05:02.910 --> 02:05:06.110

Scott R. Johnson: You want to be recognized. You're still here. That's you have your hand up.

1042

02:05:09.550 --> 02:05:24.420

Victoria Martin Young: Hi! My name is Victoria Martin Young. I'm. A member of the Rtm. And District 6, and I'm. Also a member of the board of the Old Garnets Association. However, this evening I will be making comments as an individual and a resident of old Greenwich.

1043

02:05:24.960 --> 02:05:44.290

Victoria Martin Young: I think you know that I am personally about opposed to this for profit, commercial event being permitted to operate in Benny Park. I wrote to the town last year with questions, and again this year with additional questions, many of which have still not been answered. I don't understand how this event got a permit to operate, and Benny, in the first place.

1044

02:05:44.290 --> 02:05:56.550

Victoria Martin Young: this is a for profit event by permitting this event to move forward. It's that's a terrible president for the town. On what basis will the town reject other applications from for profit event organizers.

1045

02:05:56.770 --> 02:06:13.890

Victoria Martin Young: I was shocked to hear, and I would be shocked to hear that the friends of Greenwich Point support this event. Todd's point would not allow this kind of event. and Todd's point. There are only 2 events permitted to operate at Todd's Point, and they donate all proceeds after expenses to the beach.

1046

02:06:14.880 --> 02:06:20.920

Victoria Martin Young: This event neither reflects the community of old Greenwich, nor benefits the community of old Greenwich.

1047

02:06:20.970 --> 02:06:33.640

Victoria Martin Young: I also think it's a terrible idea for the town to advertise to any commercial organizer that they can set up shop and Binny Park for \$700 as long as they donate a few percentage points of their earnings.

1048

02:06:33.800 --> 02:06:50.410

Victoria Martin Young: This event closes off a section of the park near the pond, and requires an entrance fee to enter a public park which flies in the face of how the Benny family envision. This park would be used when, like Carolyn, said, it was needed to the town for park and recreational purposes only.

1049

02:06:50.870 --> 02:07:09.010

Victoria Martin Young: I don't know why this was, has been allowed to operate over the last 2 years, and I hope that after listening to the comments from Members this evening you will reconsider and help this organizer find an alternate location in Greenwich, and that the Board will set policy so that this doesn't happen again. Thank you.

1050

02:07:10.820 --> 02:07:20.360

Scott R. Johnson: Thanks to. So we have a fairly long list of other attendees, including some dignitaries and notable

1051

02:07:20.820 --> 02:07:23.270

our 10 people.

1052

02:07:23.990 --> 02:07:35.790

Scott R. Johnson: Let me just ask if you any of you people who are in the tenants want to make comment. do so now. because then all I want to do is to get

1053

02:07:36.040 --> 02:07:39.170

Scott R. Johnson: a brief opportunity to just respond.

1054

02:07:39.380 --> 02:07:42.880

Scott R. Johnson: and then we'll close discussion. So

1055

02:07:43.590 --> 02:07:53.390

Scott R. Johnson: the other attendees chime in. Now, if you want. and by raising your hand. So I see Colleen

1056

02:07:53.930 --> 02:07:58.420

Scott R. Johnson: Colleen Jenkins from District 6 calling. You want to be recognized. Go ahead.

1057

02:08:01.600 --> 02:08:09.420

coline Jenkins: Hello! My name is Colleen Jenkins and I'm, chair of our representative town meeting District 6. I do not speak

1058

02:08:09.480 --> 02:08:18.170

coline Jenkins: in that position, but it's very clear that there has been a great mobilization of very organized groups within the town.

1059

02:08:18.290 --> 02:08:30.900

coline Jenkins: Regarding this, I don't think anybody has really seen the full budget. We know that \$15,000 comes in from fees to enter the park.

1060

02:08:31.020 --> 02:08:43.120

coline Jenkins: But what about the the other 30 vendors that come, for instance, I don't understand why Anderson replacement windows is an enhancement to the park?

1061

02:08:43.290 --> 02:08:54.070

coline Jenkins: I don't understand how a Long Island organization that made health health balls for sale is, you know, a a local merchant.

1062

02:08:54.260 --> 02:08:57.650

So I there's just a I

1063

02:08:58.000 --> 02:08:58.930

coline Jenkins: hey?

1064

02:09:00.360 --> 02:09:13.960

coline Jenkins: A budget that's missing a total budget. We hear a little dribble dribble, so I think it becomes more and more clear. That is a for-profit organization, and One thing that's really missing, and somebody brought it up already is

1065

02:09:14.130 --> 02:09:30.900

coline Jenkins: that there isn't a policy by the town parks and wreck for not only what happens in a park. but not long ago, for multiple, many years there was the teak furniture sale at the civic center.

1066

02:09:31.020 --> 02:09:39.350

coline Jenkins: the civic centers torn down, so I don't know. Maybe next, maybe this summer they would like to have a teak furniture sale in Binny Park?

1067

02:09:39.640 --> 02:09:42.190

I asked, Why does the

1068

02:09:42.360 --> 02:09:44.840

coline Jenkins: civic center

1069

02:09:45.550 --> 02:10:03.920

coline Jenkins: provides furniture sales. It didn't make sense. And the answer from a key person at that civic center was that money came back to the town. Well, that's not really the purpose of a syndic centers to be a fun. You know. We got our money through taxation. That's good enough.

1070

02:10:04.250 --> 02:10:13.560

coline Jenkins: So so, and I would just ask Scott. I know that you have our I've I've received the letter from Ms. Thomasino

1071

02:10:13.640 --> 02:10:20.230

coline Jenkins: that was circulated very, very widely. I've received it multiple times. I would ask Scott that to do the same.

1072

02:10:20.260 --> 02:10:26.640

coline Jenkins: to circulate all of these other letters that are very thoughtful from many, many organizations in all Greenwich

1073

02:10:26.670 --> 02:10:32.870

coline Jenkins: to the Board, and to the first selectment, since you are an advisor group to the first selectman.

1074

02:10:33.020 --> 02:10:35.770

coline Jenkins: So I thank you all, and i'm.

1075

02:10:35.850 --> 02:10:48.380

coline Jenkins: I thank Ms. Thomasino for having good aspirations, but I think that a commercial enterprise in the Park it sets a very bad precedent. Thank you.

1076

02:10:49.580 --> 02:10:50.630

Scott R. Johnson: Thanks, Colleen.

1077

02:10:50.820 --> 02:10:55.930

coline Jenkins: Any other visitors want to speak speak now.

1078

02:10:57.710 --> 02:11:00.900

Scott R. Johnson: I don't see any hands up.

1079

02:11:01.300 --> 02:11:14.990

Scott R. Johnson: so list to be fair to you. Let's if you'd like, let you let's give you free 3 min or so to just respond if you want, because otherwise we'll close discussion and and try to get a vote on this.

1080

02:11:15.240 --> 02:11:28.240

Liz Tommasino: All right. I will do my very best to try and respond as promptly and as thoroughly to some of the points brought up by all the speakers today. And first I want to say.

1081

02:11:28.430 --> 02:11:32.400

Liz Tommasino: I think everybody is concerned. There is some definite

1082

02:11:33.690 --> 02:11:46.950

What a similarities agreements on a couple of concerns. One, I hear, is precedent. One, I hear of is lack of specific policies and and just a lot of other

1083

02:11:47.060 --> 02:11:50.720

Liz Tommasino: concern. So let's move forward with the concerns. Okay.

1084

02:11:50.920 --> 02:11:52.390

parking.

1085

02:11:52.690 --> 02:11:59.280

Liz Tommasino: So parking is always a a a concern and an issue, especially in old Greenwich. But actually, that's all over Town

1086

02:11:59.500 --> 02:12:06.130

Liz Tommasino: is a discussion that I have with the Parks Department when we talk about like the permitting for the event.

1087

02:12:06.300 --> 02:12:13.360

Liz Tommasino: Parking is available for free, or has been in the last 2 years at the old. The parking lot of the

1088

02:12:13.440 --> 02:12:16.840

East to greater civic center. Clearly not this year.

1089

02:12:17.070 --> 02:12:30.310

Liz Tommasino: Free parking is always available at the old credit train station on weekends to anybody permitted or not permitted, and we encourage people to park there. We also got permission from the

1090

02:12:30.470 --> 02:12:38.160

Liz Tommasino: the same Saviors Episcopal Church on a sound beach avenue on Saturdays to have our

1091

02:12:38.220 --> 02:12:49.710

Liz Tommasino: people that were are attending the event to park their in their lot, as well as the church that is, on our street, the name, the the community, that nice community church where they do the Wednesday

1092

02:12:49.710 --> 02:13:00.870

Liz Tommasino: farmers market. They also agreed to have people park there. I insist that my vendors do not park anywhere close. They have to go further, and we've also talked about having the Tag Van

1093

02:13:01.580 --> 02:13:08.360

Liz Tommasino: Run People shuffle people back and forth from Binny Park to the

1094

02:13:08.620 --> 02:13:11.240

Liz Tommasino: riverside train station.

1095

02:13:11.780 --> 02:13:26.210

Liz Tommasino: And then there's all kinds of actual parking places that are free and residential areas that I have marked, and we promote that and talk about that on ticket sales and social media on our website. I put maps out. I clarify as best as I can.

1096

02:13:27.810 --> 02:13:35.590

Liz Tommasino: That is the parking concerns, and I do understand, and the traffic down there is the traffic down there. It's I

1097

02:13:37.700 --> 02:13:49.950

Liz Tommasino: I I I don't know what to say about that last year was especially challenging because of the work being done on the Sound Beach bridge, which I believe is almost it is coming to an end least

1098

02:13:50.010 --> 02:13:54.430

Liz Tommasino: that's what I understand. It won't be in that situation this coming summer.

1099

02:13:56.910 --> 02:13:59.710

Liz Tommasino: I also was having that I wanted to

1100

02:14:01.410 --> 02:14:24.270

Liz Tommasino: beautification program. Peter indicated that I wanted to start a beautification program, but I do need to clarify that it was not me that wanted to start. I wanted to support it, and the merchants of all for it. To some of the residents there in meetings that I listened to on zoom with Fred Camillo and other people in parks, not Parks, but P.

1101

02:14:24.270 --> 02:14:37.150

Liz Tommasino: P. Z. And W. Have wanted people that were leaders in the Og. Community to put together like a beautification task for something, for example, that the they have over in Glenville.

1102

02:14:37.560 --> 02:14:42.290

Liz Tommasino: where they would font raise funds, for they would create awareness for it. It never happened.

1103

02:14:42.440 --> 02:14:48.580

Liz Tommasino: And so sadly there is not a vification task force that I am aware of.

1104

02:14:48.620 --> 02:14:51.390

Liz Tommasino: so that I but I don't

1105

02:14:51.720 --> 02:14:54.810

Liz Tommasino: think that I am responsible for that not happening.

1106

02:14:56.500 --> 02:14:57.330

Liz Tommasino: The

1107

02:14:57.390 --> 02:14:59.380

Liz Tommasino: friends of old any

1108

02:14:59.510 --> 02:15:12.240

Liz Tommasino: Peter, indicated that there is a. You are on Facebook play page that is not officially his friends of Vinnie's organizations

1109

02:15:13.590 --> 02:15:18.540

Liz Tommasino: thing. It's. It's independent, and evidently started by Joe Cora

1110

02:15:18.580 --> 02:15:21.750

Liz Tommasino: Carrera. Who I do know, and I speak with.

1111

02:15:23.050 --> 02:15:28.000

Liz Tommasino: He has a different story, and I'm not going to do it, he said. She said.

1112

02:15:28.110 --> 02:15:40.810

Liz Tommasino: On any of that I just know that he started the poll. I know what the poll, said I, and everybody that was able to read that saw that what the poll said, based on

1113

02:15:41.820 --> 02:15:44.250

Liz Tommasino: the information that was put out.

1114

02:15:44.520 --> 02:15:55.270

Liz Tommasino: and I did take the opportunity, however, to answer. Some of people's concerns on Facebook, and hopes to again be transparent, and to inform the community.

1115

02:15:56.010 --> 02:16:00.830

Liz Tommasino: Peter, you also indicated that some of the merchants were upset

1116

02:16:01.480 --> 02:16:12.750

Liz Tommasino: because they couldn't participate or didn't fill with. I'm. Not appropriate what was conducive for them to participate in an event a quarter mile down the road. But then you said that we were

1117

02:16:13.080 --> 02:16:19.030

Liz Tommasino: bringing in competitors right in their backyard, so i'm not sure. What

1118

02:16:19.120 --> 02:16:24.460

Liz Tommasino: are we right down the road quarter mile? Are we in their back yard competing against them?

1119  
02:16:25.930 --> 02:16:27.340  
Liz Tommasino: That seems very

1120  
02:16:27.810 --> 02:16:29.300  
subjective

1121  
02:16:29.340 --> 02:16:30.990  
Liz Tommasino: to me. But that's okay.

1122  
02:16:31.180 --> 02:16:39.480  
Liz Tommasino: Couple of key points. open space and let's talk about Vin in general. So I printed out

1123  
02:16:39.510 --> 02:16:45.730  
Liz Tommasino: from my I don't even see this. There we go perfect, I think. I hope. because you have the spunky green scheme. Can we see this?

1124  
02:16:45.990 --> 02:16:52.520  
Liz Tommasino: That green, the green screen thing kills me. Everybody knows what any part looks like.

1125  
02:16:53.540 --> 02:16:55.320  
Liz Tommasino: Maybe or not.

1126  
02:16:55.959 --> 02:16:56.870  
Liz Tommasino: we're

1127  
02:16:57.180 --> 02:17:11.709  
Liz Tommasino: the event. Our then is located, and I do understand about not wanting to damage new plantings and grasses and species, and tromping on nests, and and doing anything damaging to the park and the

1128  
02:17:11.780 --> 02:17:16.660  
Liz Tommasino: the the environment, and also the animals that live there that there they call home.

1129  
02:17:16.719 --> 02:17:32.650  
Liz Tommasino: But where this event is, is also where all other events take place, and I think that's the reason that they take place is because there are not in that, especially that time of year, and we are this side, you know we are away from that pavement that goes around

1130  
02:17:32.709 --> 02:17:35.980  
Liz Tommasino: the pond, so that people can go around the pond.

1131  
02:17:37.680 --> 02:17:41.709  
Liz Tommasino: We don't trump or ruin anything

1132  
02:17:41.750 --> 02:17:49.260  
Liz Tommasino: over there if it, if it if grass, which I don't know is, I don't know if grass is classified

1133  
02:17:49.469 --> 02:17:52.330



Liz Tommasino: in this case as a

1134  
02:17:52.639 --> 02:18:01.080  
Liz Tommasino: a species in danger, or as a delicate area. I don't know. I mean, I

1135  
02:18:01.580 --> 02:18:06.530  
Liz Tommasino: again. That may be very a subjective type of classification.

1136  
02:18:07.420 --> 02:18:08.500  
Liz Tommasino: I I don't know.

1137  
02:18:08.680 --> 02:18:15.520  
Liz Tommasino: but we are over there because that's where all other events take place, and typically that avoids

1138  
02:18:16.000 --> 02:18:20.580  
Liz Tommasino: creating havoc to other natural resources in that gorgeous park.

1139  
02:18:21.270 --> 02:18:24.730  
Lastly, I want to talk to

1140  
02:18:25.600 --> 02:18:29.760  
Liz Tommasino: the the Og. A talking about how

1141  
02:18:29.920 --> 02:18:34.230  
Liz Tommasino: the mission of my business is to profit, not

1142  
02:18:34.260 --> 02:18:35.490  
Liz Tommasino: preserve.

1143  
02:18:35.670 --> 02:18:44.219  
Liz Tommasino: I'm not sure where that came from. I would never say something like that. It's not on my website. It's not on any of my social media platforms.

1144  
02:18:44.680 --> 02:18:46.120  
Liz Tommasino: That is

1145  
02:18:46.440 --> 02:18:57.150  
Liz Tommasino: Wow! I don't even know what to say about that. But if you go to my website, or you read all the information that I sent, and it was evidently sent many times. I I

1146  
02:18:57.200 --> 02:19:03.570  
Liz Tommasino: don't know about that either. That is most definitely not our mission.

1147  
02:19:03.620 --> 02:19:15.559  
Liz Tommasino: Yes, I am not. My business is not a non profit organization, unlike, say the Greenwich Town party, and they've done that very strategically. because they can say it's a nonprofit event.

1148  
02:19:15.570 --> 02:19:16.990

Liz Tommasino: but I promise you

1149

02:19:17.139 --> 02:19:28.549

Liz Tommasino: the organizations. The businesses that run produce market, everything, soup to nuts, the Greenwich Town party They are. Probably they're putting money in their pockets. It's

1150

02:19:29.330 --> 02:19:31.360

Liz Tommasino: because that's well.

1151

02:19:31.400 --> 02:19:34.150

Liz Tommasino: that's just how it works. The president

1152

02:19:34.170 --> 02:19:36.370

Liz Tommasino: of the Greenwich united Away.

1153

02:19:36.830 --> 02:19:41.510

Liz Tommasino: He gets the salary, but it's a nonprofit organization, and we all

1154

02:19:41.809 --> 02:19:52.150

Liz Tommasino: all of us support it as we can. So there seems to be. I bring this up because there seems to be a bad stigma against profit organizations

1155

02:19:52.220 --> 02:20:00.640

Liz Tommasino: and capitalism in the park. Okay, I get that. It makes some people uncomfortable because it's new.

1156

02:20:01.350 --> 02:20:13.460

Liz Tommasino: It's never been done before I get that lot of people don't like change. but I am not breaking any laws. I am dotting I and crossing Ts with the Parks department.

1157

02:20:13.550 --> 02:20:16.730

Liz Tommasino: I have. I've gone through our town Charter.

1158

02:20:16.760 --> 02:20:24.340

Liz Tommasino: That does not indicate that this type of activity cannot be conducted in our public

1159

02:20:24.390 --> 02:20:25.390

Liz Tommasino: parks.

1160

02:20:25.570 --> 02:20:30.190

Liz Tommasino: and as much as there's all kinds of information here from

1161

02:20:30.270 --> 02:20:31.530

Liz Tommasino: the

1162

02:20:32.410 --> 02:20:41.930

Liz Tommasino: Pardon me, the different master plans and information about the the property that was donated

1163

02:20:41.950 --> 02:20:48.200

Liz Tommasino: to the town for Benny Park. I don't believe that this is law.

1164

02:20:48.460 --> 02:20:54.590

Liz Tommasino: This is recommendation. Now the ford of the Parks and Direct Department

1165

02:20:54.860 --> 02:20:56.220

Liz Tommasino: can decide.

1166

02:20:56.310 --> 02:21:05.360

Liz Tommasino: and we'll decide the fate of this, and I think that in in terms of the policies and the precedence is that most people have been talking about.

1167

02:21:05.530 --> 02:21:09.790

Liz Tommasino: there does need to be consistency, and there needs to be

1168

02:21:10.300 --> 02:21:13.080

Liz Tommasino: some kind of of

1169

02:21:13.260 --> 02:21:17.720

Liz Tommasino: of consistent policy about what events, what parks?

1170

02:21:17.950 --> 02:21:29.730

Liz Tommasino: It needs to be very black and white. Our charter, if you look at it. It's not black and white on a lot of things, and it's left up to interpretation, and one of the speakers.

1171

02:21:29.840 --> 02:21:39.390

Liz Tommasino: and I apologize. I don't remember I did take notes, but I don't type that past right. That passed anymore, said very candidly, and she has a very good point.

1172

02:21:39.550 --> 02:21:40.720

Liz Tommasino: How did we get here?

1173

02:21:41.870 --> 02:21:53.590

Liz Tommasino: So I think you know I look at all kinds of different things about how our town operates, whether it's parks and rec whether it's other, you know, schools, other different things.

1174

02:21:53.920 --> 02:21:57.040

Liz Tommasino: We a lot of very unclear

1175

02:21:57.320 --> 02:22:00.990

recommendations that are not law, unclear.

1176

02:22:01.210 --> 02:22:05.850

Liz Tommasino: charter laws, unclear ordinances, things that are left

1177

02:22:06.070 --> 02:22:13.830

Liz Tommasino: to interpretation. and that is a problem for Greenwich, and it's a problem for the communities.

1178

02:22:13.930 --> 02:22:21.250

Liz Tommasino: and it's. It's a problem for all of us. Hence here we are, and I think that the root of

1179

02:22:21.550 --> 02:22:26.280

Liz Tommasino: the old Bridge festival, whether it's at Binny Park moving forward, or whether it's not.

1180

02:22:26.720 --> 02:22:28.500

Liz Tommasino: the root of this problem

1181

02:22:28.750 --> 02:22:39.740

Liz Tommasino: lies, and the lack of black and white policies, the black and white laws that our town and the community and citizens and organizations

1182

02:22:39.800 --> 02:22:40.980

Liz Tommasino: need to follow.

1183

02:22:43.980 --> 02:22:52.150

Liz Tommasino: I want the one last thing I would like to say in terms of profit, nonprofit. A total budget is missing.

1184

02:22:52.480 --> 02:22:55.780

Ms. Jenkins from D. Sex indicated that.

1185

02:22:56.070 --> 02:23:04.320

Liz Tommasino: And you're right. There is not a policy in town regarding for-profit organizations for my previous comments

1186

02:23:05.040 --> 02:23:11.040

Liz Tommasino: I am not taking around the world cruises on the funds made

1187

02:23:11.050 --> 02:23:21.430

Liz Tommasino: from this event, and I know that many of you have taken your calculators, and you've tallied up what you might assume are what I what the event next in profit.

1188

02:23:21.640 --> 02:23:26.290

but and it was indicated by one of the other speakers that you are

1189

02:23:26.640 --> 02:23:33.490

Liz Tommasino: not aware of the all of the expenses that are incurred. Fine events such as this.

1190

02:23:33.860 --> 02:23:38.660

Liz Tommasino: I ask you to please not make assumptions about

1191

02:23:38.700 --> 02:23:42.760

Liz Tommasino: what the profit is. The bottom line, net or gross.

1192

02:23:43.570 --> 02:23:50.150

Liz Tommasino: just like. I don't ask other people what they make.

1193

02:23:51.070 --> 02:23:55.480

Liz Tommasino: I i'm not a nonprofit organization, as it has been very

1194

02:23:55.780 --> 02:23:58.760

Liz Tommasino: lightly. I acknowledged.

1195

02:23:59.070 --> 02:24:02.970

Liz Tommasino: I am not a public organization with public holding.

1196

02:24:03.280 --> 02:24:07.360

Liz Tommasino: and most of you i'm assuming work in jobs.

1197

02:24:07.450 --> 02:24:10.260

Liz Tommasino: or have businesses that are the same.

1198

02:24:11.230 --> 02:24:16.870

Liz Tommasino: And I can't imagine asking any of you what your take home is

1199

02:24:18.230 --> 02:24:24.120

Liz Tommasino: so. The bottom line on all this is I asked the Board of Parks and Recreation

1200

02:24:24.300 --> 02:24:29.880

Liz Tommasino: not just to consider the fate of the old branch festival at any park moving forward.

1201

02:24:30.810 --> 02:24:32.520

Liz Tommasino: but, more importantly.

1202

02:24:33.670 --> 02:24:40.460

Liz Tommasino: to really iron out specific policies. put them into the charter

1203

02:24:41.260 --> 02:24:44.900

Liz Tommasino: and do it diligently and in a timely manner.

1204

02:24:44.940 --> 02:24:46.490

Liz Tommasino: So these

1205

02:24:46.590 --> 02:24:53.580

Liz Tommasino: scenarios, with any event, any circumstance, any situation in any part of town.

1206

02:24:53.980 --> 02:24:55.390

Liz Tommasino: Don't, arise.

1207

02:24:55.790 --> 02:24:59.780

Liz Tommasino: It's upsetting to me that so many people are really put off.

1208

02:25:00.010 --> 02:25:11.930

Liz Tommasino: and against an event that has the intentions. a bringing community together, making children happy. having letting people have fun

1209

02:25:12.340 --> 02:25:16.370

Liz Tommasino: and doing nothing in harm, anything or anybody.

1210

02:25:18.020 --> 02:25:19.980

Liz Tommasino: I thank you very much for hurting me out.

1211

02:25:22.160 --> 02:25:23.210

Scott R. Johnson: Thank you, Liz.

1212

02:25:23.220 --> 02:25:26.190

Scott R. Johnson: So, no matter what I think, we.

1213

02:25:26.220 --> 02:25:34.230

Scott R. Johnson: this is a good conversation for the board as well as staff and as well as from this. Thank you. This

1214

02:25:34.380 --> 02:25:35.650

Liz Tommasino: come on.

1215

02:25:35.710 --> 02:25:41.430

Scott R. Johnson: So I i'd like to close discussion. I don't see any other hands raised.

1216

02:25:42.980 --> 02:25:47.430

Scott R. Johnson: Yeah, i'd like to see if somebody wants to make a motion.

1217

02:25:49.190 --> 02:25:59.010

Scott R. Johnson: I think, Nancy, you you had talked about that, and then let's see if we can move this one way or the other. So anybody have a motion that they can make

1218

02:25:59.590 --> 02:26:01.130

Scott R. Johnson: overall.

1219

02:26:02.170 --> 02:26:19.530

Nancy Chapin: Okay, Scott, Can I be recognize? Okay, first? Thank you, Liz, because you emphasize what I opened with at the very beginning of this meeting, that and i'm actually gonna take a moment to just read, and then i'll move on because I I do have a motion i'd like to make

1220

02:26:19.760 --> 02:26:27.780

Nancy Chapin: from the Conservation Commission. There's one line that Scott didn't read, and it says, clear guidelines on what types of parks are appropriate for events.

1221

02:26:27.890 --> 02:26:31.240

Nancy Chapin: and time and space allowed to take place need to be developed.

1222

02:26:31.280 --> 02:26:40.770

Nancy Chapin: so not every park can be everything for everyone, and I think that is the clear message of this evening. You mentioned the town party.

1223

02:26:40.890 --> 02:26:47.260

Nancy Chapin: the town

1224

02:26:47.290 --> 02:26:49.980

Nancy Chapin: that have never occurred in any.

1225

02:26:50.130 --> 02:27:08.760

Nancy Chapin: And so I think I think what you're hearing is nobody's against your event, or your or your organization, or your i'm not sure what it's. What your organization is called, not against that. It's just the venue. So it's been a long night.

1226

02:27:08.760 --> 02:27:14.990

Nancy Chapin: It's been great to see you in person. I think you know you have some great ideas.

1227

02:27:15.040 --> 02:27:18.550

Nancy Chapin: but I think what I would like to do is

1228

02:27:18.930 --> 02:27:24.160

Nancy Chapin: close with a motion, so that we can put this to rest

1229

02:27:24.380 --> 02:27:37.340

Nancy Chapin: and get, you know, down the troops. And really look at how we got here. And yes, I was the one who said, how did we get here? So I guess I would like if if Scott, if you recognize, i'd like to move

1230

02:27:37.660 --> 02:27:47.260

Nancy Chapin: that the request for a permit for the old garage festival be denied, based on the testimonies of this evening and the material that's been submitted to this board.

1231

02:27:48.860 --> 02:27:52.010

Matt Popp: Anybody want to. Second that.

1232

02:27:52.900 --> 02:27:58.600

Scott R. Johnson: Okay, Matt: Thank you. Okay, let's let's let's vote by

1233

02:27:58.670 --> 02:28:01.190

Scott R. Johnson: this will go. We go to everybody individually.

1234

02:28:01.540 --> 02:28:02.850

Tracy.

1235

02:28:09.830 --> 02:28:10.810

Tracy Freedman: So

1236

02:28:10.900 --> 02:28:15.160

Tracy Freedman: do you agree with Nancy's.

1237

02:28:15.550 --> 02:28:16.370

Tracy Freedman: Oh.

1238

02:28:17.080 --> 02:28:18.530

Scott R. Johnson: Mike Pacino.

1239

02:28:22.010 --> 02:28:25.660

Michael Bocchino: it's this is very difficult. We Don't have a policy in place.

1240

02:28:25.870 --> 02:28:32.000

Michael Bocchino: and 1,500 people attended this particular event, and a lot of them are residents.

1241

02:28:32.570 --> 02:28:37.230

Michael Bocchino: I'm gonna have to say No, because I want it, and i'm saying it as a red flag

1242

02:28:37.500 --> 02:28:42.350

Michael Bocchino: to make sure that we're gonna put together a policy for all the parts.

1243

02:28:42.440 --> 02:28:45.440

Michael Bocchino: and something in and in the future.

1244

02:28:45.670 --> 02:28:48.720

Scott R. Johnson: Okay, so that's it. That's no Vivian.

1245

02:28:50.520 --> 02:28:52.370

Scott R. Johnson: I i'm mute yourself.

1246

02:28:54.200 --> 02:28:57.180

Scott R. Johnson: I I agree with Nancy.

1247

02:28:57.580 --> 02:29:00.690

I don't think that this is the right precedence.

1248

02:29:00.720 --> 02:29:02.710

Vivian Wu: 4: Benny.

1249

02:29:02.910 --> 02:29:05.980

Vivian Wu: to have a commercial activity there.

1250

02:29:07.020 --> 02:29:11.870

Scott R. Johnson: Okay, so that's that's it. Yes, to Nancy's motion.

1251

02:29:14.790 --> 02:29:17.360

Rick Loh: I agree with Nancy. But I hear what Mike's saying.

1252

02:29:17.850 --> 02:29:19.010

Scott R. Johnson: Okay.

1253

02:29:19.550 --> 02:29:22.940

So that so that's a yes to Nancy.

1254



02:29:23.160 --> 02:29:25.690

Scott R. Johnson: Proposition that Matt Mccarty.

1255

02:29:26.530 --> 02:29:31.630

Matt McCarty: Yes, to Nancy's as well. Also a not to Mike that I agree with that, too.

1256

02:29:31.730 --> 02:29:32.640

Scott R. Johnson: Okay?

1257

02:29:33.240 --> 02:29:39.450

Scott R. Johnson: Okay. Who? We have less left. That's still here. That Pop. Sorry, Matt.

1258

02:29:39.610 --> 02:29:52.560

Matt Popp: I Yes, agree with Nancy. I was concerned about the the parking out in the streets, and I'm assuming that this will only grow in size. and so I think, until we get a policy, I think we should hold off on

1259

02:29:52.610 --> 02:29:53.970

Matt Popp: events like this.

1260

02:29:55.110 --> 02:29:58.400

Scott R. Johnson: Okay, and I I vote in support of Nancy's

1261

02:30:00.410 --> 02:30:03.300

Scott R. Johnson: resolution. So we have.

1262

02:30:04.270 --> 02:30:11.580

Scott R. Johnson: We have 1 2 3 4 5 6 in favor

1263

02:30:12.000 --> 02:30:15.770

Scott R. Johnson: Mike Isn't: now, in my doing this correctly.

1264

02:30:15.850 --> 02:30:19.950

Scott R. Johnson: 6 6 in favor of the proposition, one against

1265

02:30:20.270 --> 02:30:22.860

Lenore Caserta-McClester: no Scott, I have 7 1 0,

1266

02:30:23.180 --> 02:30:24.500

Scott R. Johnson: okay, 7.

1267

02:30:26.380 --> 02:30:29.410

Scott R. Johnson: No satellite is, he can't like us? A. No.

1268

02:30:30.010 --> 02:30:32.840

Scott R. Johnson: S0 7 1.

1269

02:30:35.190 --> 02:30:38.210

Scott R. Johnson: No, no abstentions. Is that correct?

1270  
02:30:38.600 --> 02:30:39.400  
Lenore Caserta-McClester: Yes.

1271  
02:30:39.470 --> 02:30:40.380  
Scott R. Johnson: okay.

1272  
02:30:40.560 --> 02:30:44.500  
Scott R. Johnson: okay. So so Nancy's motion passes

1273  
02:30:45.190 --> 02:30:49.480  
Scott R. Johnson: and that ends that matter

1274  
02:30:49.730 --> 02:30:59.400  
Scott R. Johnson: we let me mention very briefly. Well, first of all, thank you all for that. That was that was very helpful. As a long call. Sorry for that.

1275  
02:31:00.700 --> 02:31:01.620  
Scott R. Johnson: We

1276  
02:31:01.890 --> 02:31:06.000  
Scott R. Johnson: I don't want to fail to mention

1277  
02:31:06.580 --> 02:31:09.640  
Scott R. Johnson: that Sue Baker.

1278  
02:31:10.040 --> 02:31:20.900  
Scott R. Johnson: and made a proposal that we will get to next time, and also Offline. or the possibility of having

1279  
02:31:21.370 --> 02:31:24.860  
Scott R. Johnson: or hedge public school or childhood students

1280  
02:31:25.140 --> 02:31:32.180  
Scott R. Johnson: having an an expedited each past system. So if they don't have to go through the rigor, all

1281  
02:31:32.220 --> 02:31:37.220  
Scott R. Johnson: because the ideas that proposed by Nancy and

1282  
02:31:38.000 --> 02:31:42.430  
me, Miss Cov. I forget the first Sophie Covid. I apologize something

1283  
02:31:42.690 --> 02:31:47.520  
Scott R. Johnson: so that they could have an expedited system, so they don't have to go through.

1284  
02:31:47.910 --> 02:31:55.540  
Scott R. Johnson: and that's the part as application system, because the ideas that a lot of just don't do it.

1285

02:31:56.180 --> 02:32:01.370

Scott R. Johnson: And we're trying to encourage students to use the parts. But that's something that's not a lot of administrative

1286

02:32:03.160 --> 02:32:07.950

Scott R. Johnson: impact. So we're going to talk about it. Think about it offline and talk about it more. But I don't want to.

1287

02:32:08.310 --> 02:32:13.110

Scott R. Johnson: I don't want to say that. So we we are working on it, and we'll get back to you on that.

1288

02:32:13.750 --> 02:32:18.920

Scott R. Johnson: So, and we have a motion to close. I don't see anything else.

1289

02:32:19.390 --> 02:32:21.890

Scott R. Johnson: It's a make a motion to to adjourn

1290

02:32:23.200 --> 02:32:24.570

Michael Bocchino: ocean to adjourn.

1291

02:32:24.700 --> 02:32:27.070

Scott R. Johnson: Okay and second, okay, so

1292

02:32:35.450 --> 02:32:39.100

could you? And we'll we'll touch base. Thank you guys.

1293

02:32:39.130 --> 02:32:40.830

Michael Bocchino: Thank you guys have a nice night

1294

02:32:41.010 --> 02:32:42.260

Matt McCarty: and everyone

1295

02:32:43.280 --> 02:32:44.140

Rick Loh: take care.

1296

02:32:44.870 --> 02:32:45.920

Lenore Caserta-McClester: Good night, everyone

1297

02:32:46.790 --> 02:32:47.640

Rick Loh: by one, more

1298

02:32:47.940 --> 02:32:49.400

Vivian Wu: bye.