

**CITY OF NORWALK
HEALTH, WELFARE, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
April 26, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Nick Sacchinelli, Chairman; Barbara Smyth; Doug Stern;
George Tsiranides; Chris Yerinides; Eloisa Melendez

STAFF: Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health; Broderick Sawyer,
Fire Marshal

OTHERS: Mary Oster, Early Childhood Coordinator

I. WELCOME - ROLL CALL

Mr. Sacchinelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that the above members were in attendance and there was a quorum present.

**II. PUBLIC HEARING (POSSIBLE ACTION ON): FIRE MARSHAL
LIQUOR LICENSE FEES**

Diane Lauricella

Ms. Lauricella offered some ideas regarding the liquor license process and said that while she appreciates Fire Marshal Sawyer stating that the reason for asking for additional fees for re-inspection is to not make money, she feels at the very least the fee should reflect the true cost of doing that job, and that the taxpayers would appreciate fees being reasonably increased but also reflect the real cost of staff time and that the taxpayer should recover some of the investment they have made in any departments staff through reasonable fees. She also said that she recommends that the committee witness the closure situation of the restaurants around 2:00AM in certain sections of the city, especially on Washington Street in the summer where many police officers are pulled from all over the city to corral into a safe haven, and suggested that liquor license fees for Washington Street could and should be reflective of the extra high cost for the police department.

III. PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

Fire Marshal Sawyer said that he does not think that Washington Street should be singled out because there are other establishments' in the area that have the same issues. He said what they are looking at is occupancy load and egress issues and it is not about policing Washington Street. He said of the 150 inspections that they do at \$50 they would break even if they do not have to go back for a re-inspection and that the idea is to begin to process so that all of the establishments are aware that they only want to have to inspect one time. He said while he appreciates Ms. Lauricella's concerns with the cost of the police but that is a separate issue from the liquor license fees.

Mr. Stern asked how \$50 would be breaking even if the cost of staff is \$65. Fire Marshal Sawyer said that he had used his salary to determine what the highest cost of staff is. Mr. Stern asked if \$65 would be an appropriate base for an inspection. Fire Marshal Sawyer said that in 2016 he had requested that the fee be increased to \$100 and the last committee said that was too much of an increase. Mr. Tsiranides said if we are trying to get the establishments to get the inspection done once and once only and that if it is a cost to the city of \$65 than he agrees that the fee should be \$65. He complimented Fire Marshal Sawyer's office and said that he had observed Fire Inspectors distributing the load occupancy signs today and they were doing a great job. Ms. Smyth said that she also thinks the \$65 annual inspection fee is reasonable with a \$100 re-inspection fee. Mr. Sacchinelli asked Fire Marshal Sawyer if he thinks the \$65 is reasonable. Fire Marshal Sawyer said "yes" until the pay scales change for staff.

**** MR. YERINIDES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO SEND THE ITEM TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE FOR A LANGUAGE CHANGE.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 22, 2018

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2018 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH (5) FIVE IN FAVOR AND (1) ONE ABSTENTION (MS. MELENDEZ).**

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one from the public commented.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Authorize the Mayor, Harry. Rilling, to execute a Sub-Grant Agreement between the City of Norwalk and Odyssey Learning, Inc. to provide for Child Day Care grant funding in the amount of \$714,228.32 for eligible program expenses.
2. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute a Sub-Grant Agreement between the City of Norwalk and Growing Seeds Child Development Center, Inc., LLC to provide for the Child Day Care grant funding in the amount of \$609,385.92 for eligible program expenses.
3. Authorize the Mayor Harry w. Rilling, to execute a Sub-Grant Agreement between the City of Norwalk and Odyssey Learning, Inc. to allocate \$57,035.40 of Child Day Care grand funding for the operation of the 2018 summer child care programming for Head Start Children.
4. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute a Sub-Grant Agreement between the City of Norwalk and Stepping Stones Museum for Children, Inc. to allocate \$57,862 of Child Day Care grand funding for the operation of the 2018 summer child care programming for Head Start Children.

Ms. Oster said that state funding is received for early childhood education and that there are programs in Nathaniel Ely Center and Ben Franklin Center. She provided an overview of the programs and said it is very important for these children to be in some educational program during the summer, and that both Odyssey Learning and Stepping Stones Museum have offered to hold summer programs and that this is the third year this has been done. Mr. Yerinides

asked how many children participate in the program. Ms. Oster said there are 69 children for Nathaniel Ely and 70 children from Ben Franklin, and that they do not enroll additional children and it is only for the children who are in those programs, and it is open to the three and four year olds. She said that they feel that it is important to keep the programs where they are because for a lot of families' transportation is a huge issue and they could not take advantage of a summer program that is not located in the normal location because a lot of the families do walk to the programs. Mr. Tsiranides said that he thinks the program is a great idea and asked if it is both a learning and activities based program. Ms. Oster said "yes" and that they are doing school readiness activities to get them ready for kindergarten but that it is a play based environment. Mr. Tsiranides asked Ms. Oster though her experience if she has noticed a difference in the children that have and have not attended a summer program. Ms. Oster said absolutely and about 15% of children in Norwalk do not attend a pre-school program. Ms. Melendez said she is in full support of the program and those years are so important especially in the summer. Mr. Stern asked if most of the resources are for staffing. Ms. Oster said "yes" and that they pay the same \$2.50 per square foot that everyone else pays in those buildings.

**** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO APPROVE ITEMS 1-4.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Sacchinelli requested that Ms. D'Amore contact the Fire and Police Chief and request that the next couple of meeting be held at the fire and police headquarters and as part of the meeting tour the facilities.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. YERINDES MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services