

**RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
CITY HALL – ROOM A300  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2008**

**ATTENDANCE:** Fred Bondi, Chair; Rev. Phyllis Bolden (7:08 p.m.);  
Richard Bonenfant; Richard McQuaid; Steven Serasis

**STAFF:** Michael Mocciae, Director, Recreation and Parks; Alan Lo,  
Building and Facilities Manager

**OTHERS:** Douglas Hempstead, Chair, Land Use and Building Management  
Committee; Laurel Lindstrom, Michael Geake; Douglas Sutton,  
Land Use and Building Management Committee

**PRESENTATION BY STEPPING STONES MUSEUM**

Mr. Bondi opened the presentation by Stepping Stones Museum for Children at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Peter Nolan, Sandak Hennessey & Grecco, represented the Museum. He explained that they have a current lease for part of the Park and are asking for some additions to the lease. He said that this evening's presentation will go through the history of the Museum and their future plans. He said that they are here because 11 years ago, the Common Council and the City of Norwalk made a selection to have Stepping Stones come to Norwalk.

Ms. Rhonda Keist, Executive Director gave a power point presentation showing the plans for the Museum. She read the Museum's mission statement.

Rev. Bolden joined the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Ms. Keist said that they are a private, non-profit organization and their target audience is children 10 years of age and under. She said that they were incorporated in 1992 and began construction in 1997. The Museum opened in March 2000 and since opening they began developing a Master Plan. In 2005 they began exploring, what's next and noted that they have seen a steady growth in their attendance.

Ms. Keist said that it is their hope to break ground as early as the first quarter of 2009 and open in December 2010.

Ms. Keist presented aerial photographs of the site, showing the existing site, the proposed site, the original lease line and the new addition. She said that they are interested in improving the paved area by adding 38 parking spaces and bringing in a new green area. Ms. Keist said that they also hope that it begins to set up a vision to convert Mathews Park into a green area.

Ms. Keist presented their site plans, which she said supports the Mathews Park Master Plan.

Mr. Bruce Beinfeld, architect for the project, explained how the traffic turnaround will connect the existing parking to the new proposed parking. He presented the building enhancement and expansion plan. The plan achieves LEED Gold Certification.

Mr. Beinfeld presented the rest of the plans. He said that the old Police building raises safety concerns. Mr. Beinfeld said that he would like to see the building demolished. The proposal reinforces the desire to get greener and revitalize Mathews Park.

Mr. Nolin noted that the Stepping Stones Museum was built with private funds and the funding they have gotten so far for the expansion is phenomenal; the expansion will be built using private donations.

Mr. Nolin said that they were here to ask for an expansion of their building plan. The Museum proposes to pay for the parking lot out of their own funds. Parking has always been shared with other Park users and they propose to go to the Law Department to make than an express part of the lease. Mr. Nolin said that there is concern about future plans for the Park. He said that they propose to add to the lease that the City could reconfigure the Park as long as they have the required number of parking spaces.

Mr. Nolin said that Stepping Stones has a 50 year lease and had originally wanted to increase it to 100 years, but since the Committee suggested that was not feasible, they have withdrawn that request. Mr. Nolin said that they will pay for parking, but noted that there is money in the DPW budget to remove the tanks; they are therefore asking the City to remove the tanks. Mr. Nolin said that to keep this application moving he asked that this Committee refer this item to the Planning Commission for 8-24 review. Mr. Nolin said that they are going on the agenda of the Historical Commission, although the Commission does not have any jurisdiction over these plans.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Bondi said that this presentation and public hearing were being held as a joint effort with the Land Use and Building Management Committee and Recreation and Parks Committee. He also acknowledged the presence of members of the Historical Commission.

Mr. Bondi reviewed the public hearing ground rules and asked all speakers to limit their comments to three minutes.

Mr. David Park, Strawberry Hill Avenue, Chairman, Norwalk Historical Commission said that as Chair of the Historical Commission, they do not take a position on the expansion of the Stepping Stones Museum. He said that the organization makes Norwalk a strong community and helps with the success of the Wypointe 95/7 development. In

addition this expansion fits with Mathews Park. Mr. Park said that his goal on the Commission is to see the restoration of the Pine Island Cemetery.

Mr. Tad Diesel, and that this is the time to embrace any competitive advantage. He said that he is in support of this proposal. It is an enhancement of the Museum and of the City. The Stepping Stones Museum has been an important asset to the City; the design inside and out is brilliant. This is a project that is good for Stepping Stones and all of the visitors to Mathews Park.

Ms. Lauralee Simon, Hawthorne Drive, Westport said that as a life long child advocate who served as an advisor to the Stepping Stones Museum she was here to testify in support of the application.

Ms. Carla Conway, Family Outreach Coordinator, Norwalk Housing Authority. She said that the Norwalk Housing Authority supports this expansion. She described the Gift Through Open Arms program and noted that the Stepping Stones Museum is a partner with the Norwalk Housing Authority. She said that the children will benefit so much more from the expansion. She said that Stepping Stones brought award winning programs to the children.

Ms. Cathy Gallagher, Foxboro Drive, Vice Principal, Jefferson Science Magnet School said that Stepping Stones is a strong partner with the School that encompasses 250 students. She said that the Museum involved families and each year provides a full family membership to every Kindergarten family. They are a good neighbor and they fully support the expansion.

Mr. Al Raymond read his written statement asking when is enough, enough. He said that the Stepping Stones Museum is a great facility, but added that there are five parking garages being built and they should think about filling them before creating additional parking in Mathews Park. He asked the Committee not to vote on this item this evening.

Ms. Diane Witkowski, Truman Street, submitted a letter on behalf of Ms. Carol Ann Falasca asking the Committee to postpone their decision.

Ms. Witkowski asked the Committee to table this vote; the Park is a mere fragment of what it was when the City purchased it as a public park in 1941. She said that this is public land that belongs to the tax payers who would benefit from the green space.

Ms. Witkowski said that no one doubts the find work that Stepping Stones does, but they are consuming public land.

Ms. Marilyn Robinson, Past Chair, Historical Commission submitted a letter on behalf of Gail Wall.

Ms. Robinson said that the Stepping Stones Museum is a great place, but the problem is that in 1941, the City bought the Lockwood Mathews Mansion and 30 acres for park

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purposes. Portions of the land have been taken away. Ms. Robinson said that Lockwood Mathews Mansion needs to be restored to its original state. She added that she was disappointed that there has been no conversation between Stepping Stones and the Mansion. Ms. Robinson said that she believed they should not vote without input from the Mansion.

Mr. Guillermo Arteaga, Lois Street, business on Butler Street said that he has witnessed a great change in the neighborhood. In talking with his neighbors on Butler Street, they are in support of the expansion. This is a win win situation for the Stepping Stones Museum, the kids, the City and the neighborhood. This expansion shows that Norwalk continues to be on the move.

Mr. Peter Bondi, Princess Pine Road, Vice Chair, Norwalk Historical Commission. Mr. Bondi said that he was here tonight speaking as a realtor. When his clients ask him about local attractions, he tells them about Stepping Stones, The Maritime Aquarium, the Sheffield Island Lighthouse and the Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum. He tells them how Norwalk is a diverse City. Mr. Bondi said that he was happy to see that the new architecture matches the old.

Mr. Bondi noted that people will be able to use Oyster Shell Park in the near future.

Mr. Edward Musante, President, Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce spoke in support of the expansion. He said that the Chamber has supported the Stepping Stones Museum since its inception and supports it today. He said that this is a fine institution that is going to challenge our young children.

Mr. Musante said that Mr. Nolin made an excellent presentation about how the plan can be flexible. Mr. Musante added that parking is always difficult in any development and this plan is flexible. He said that the Chamber supports this project.

Ms. Susan Sweitzer, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency spoke in support of this item. She said that the Museum has been an energy source for Mathews Park. She said that this will be a great connector to the new communities to the north and the south.

Ms. Sweitzer said that the designer of the Museum respected the Park. It would be better to focus the resources and energy on removing the Police station.

Mr. Tod Bryant, President Norwalk Preservation Trust, Morgan Avenue, said that he was concerned about the impact of the expansion of Stepping Stones Museum on the future expansion of the Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum; he noted that it is a National Historic landmark. Mr. Bryant said that Stepping Stones is a community asset and adds to the quality of life, but the point is that this is Mathews Park, not Stepping Stones.

Mr. Bryant said that as President of the Norwalk Preservation Trust, he came up with some questions. He said that Stepping Stones and the Mansion need to work together and the Mansion needs consideration.

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Ms. Marija Bryant, Morgan Avenue said that she learned about the Lockwood Mathews Mansion from her neighbor Mary Brewer. She said that Ms. Brewer would be appalled. Ms. Bryant said that it is hard to speak against the expansion and the City experts who suggest that this is the best thing in Norwalk. Children can go to Mathews Park for free; Stepping Stones charges a fee. This expansion is going to make them more money.

Ms. Bryant asked how good this is for Norwalk in terms of people going to the Museum and then spending money in Norwalk. She said that since it is easy on and easy off from the turnpike, Norwalk will not get any additional revenue from the Museum. She said that this public asset is being given away to a commercial entity and that does not make sense. Ms. Bryant suggested focusing on removing the old Police station; this is a park, not a parking lot.

Ms. Diane Lauricella, distributed written comments and said that the League of Woman Voters gave her permission to speak on their behalf. She said that they recommended that the Committee refer to the Master Plan of Conservation and Development and return the Police station to green space. Ms. Lauricella said that the League of Women Voters asked the Committee to do their due diligence.

Ms. Lauricella said that as a citizen, there is a way to work with Mr. Seligson to find parking and return all of the asphalt areas to green space; children need that green space.

Mr. Bondi asked if anyone else wished to comment.

Mr. Christopher Cooke, Chairman, Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum, Overbook Road. Mr. Cooke said that he was in favor of the Stepping Stones Museum; they have been a remarkable success. He said that the access, egress and parking they have planned poses a threat to their well being. He asked that the Committee postpone their vote. He noted that the Mansion is holding their Board meeting tomorrow night, at which time they will discuss this issue.

Mr. David Westmoreland, Elmwood Avenue, read from his written comments. He said that the biggest tragedy was the loss of many acres for the development of I-95 and Route 7. He said that Stepping Stones had to be one of the top two reasons people visit Norwalk; the other is The Maritime Aquarium. The actual park grounds at the Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum are seldom used and Norwalk has done well in adding open space.

Mr. Westmoreland suggested relocating the proposed parking to mitigate the impact on the Great Lawn.

Mr. Kim Morquay, Spinnaker/95/7 read a letter in support of the expansion.

Ms. Missy Conrad, Mary Austin Place, said that she attended the original presentation over 8 years ago. She said that she drove to Hartford with Mary Brewer and Kathleen

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Morrow, who save Lockwood Mathews Mansion. She said that they testified against Stepping Stones.

Ms. Conrad recommended that the Committee hear from the Carver Center about open space. She said that Jefferson School is the playground for Colonial Village.

Ms. Conrad said that she respects Stepping Stones for their outreach, but the Committee should not vote on this until they have heard from the Carver Center. She said that they need to coordinate parking with the new development.

Ms. Conrad suggested setting up a fund to get rid of the Police building.

Ms. Mary Beth Becker, said that there has to be a way to find a win win to park the cars, increase open space and revitalize the Museum.

Mr. David Scott Parker, architect for Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum master plan commented on the significance of the Mansion. He said that it was built at the dawn of the gilded age and preceded the Newport mansions.

Mr. Parker said that he worked on the Barnum Museum's Harold Wheeler Mansion Room. The site was acquired by the City as a park and when a huge portion was taken for the construction of the Route 8 connector, the Mansion was demolished. He said that a recreation of a fragment of the Mansion is now on display at the Barnum Museum.

Mr. Parker said that the Stepping Stones museum is fabulous, but they need to consider the context of the Mansion. He added that he did not believe that the parking plans were shared with the Mansion. Mr. Parker implored the Committee to look at the parking plans.

There were no further speakers and Mr. Bondi thanked everyone for coming out and speaking on this item. The public hearing was closed at 8:35 p.m.

The two Committee discussed the plan.

Mr. Hempstead asked Mr. Nolin if they had met with the Mansion. Ms. Keist said that they met with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors in August. Mr. Hempstead disclosed that he is a member of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Hempstead said that he has heard nothing but good about the Museum and does not have any major concerns, except about how the parking will affect the Park as a whole. He asked if Zoning was driving the additional parking.

Mr. Nolin said that Zoning requires an additional 72 parking spaces, due to their need during peak times. Mr. Hempstead asked if they could get by with less parking spaces. Ms. Keist said that there is the potential for their attendance to increase by 100,000

visitors. They intend for the Park experience to be revitalized and therefore want to be sure there is adequate parking available.

Mr. Bondi said that the Park needs additional parking for other uses. He noted that they are not increasing parking, but will utilize the existing parking area. Mr. Bondi said that the City may or may not commit money for public parking across the street.

Mr. Hempstead said that another non-profit said that they needed parking, but their attendance projections were not met and they have a garage with empty spaces.

Mr. Nolin said that the Mansion does not have enough parking and visitors park on the grass. Mr. Hempstead said that if the additional parking is part of the finalized plans, he asked that they use a permeable surface.

Mr. Krummel asked if Mathews Park had any historic designation. Mr. Nolin said that only the Mansion was designated on the National Historic Registry. Mr. Krummel asked what the plans were for the Museum during construction. Ms. Keist said that they hope to remain open during construction, but they may be partially closed during the fall of 2009. They have the potential to be closed for less than three months in 2010.

Mr. Krummel said that they have to do as much as possible to preserve the Park to its original state.

Ms. Lindstrom said that they picked up on the sensitivity of the needs of the Park. The Museum needs to do more exploration with the Mansion.

Mr. Nolin said that they tried to make the Park more harmonious with the addition of a Great Lawn.

Mr. Bruce Beinfeld said that what they are proposing will not have an impact on the Mansion's plans. The proposed parking plan is flexible and they can use a permeable surface. They need to focus on demolishing the old Police station to make the Park shine.

Mr. Nolin noted that Stepping Stones helped remove the DPW garage from the Park.

Mr. Nolin said that he would work *pro-bono* for the City to remove the old Police Station from Mathews Park.

Mr. Nolin said that this proposal does not need State approval; that responsibility was delegated to the City.

Mr. Bonenfant said that over the past month, he had had concerns about this plan; he said that he was happy that Stepping Stones dropped the 50 year lease. He said that he appreciates the need for parking, but this is not a hard design and they did indicate that they would share parking.

Mr. Geake asked Mr. Nolin if they had talked with the Waypointe people about using their parking garage. Mr. Nolin said that would create a problem with Zoning. Mr. Bondi added that he was not sure when Waypoint would be completed.

Rev. Bolden said that she was in favor of this expansion. She likes what the public said about how they are an asset to the children. She added that she was concerned about green space and everyone wants the Police station gone.

Rev. Bolden said that she was in favor of this plan and subscribed to using permeable parking. She said that there is room for creativity in the plan. Rev. Bolden said that Stepping Stones and the Mansion are two different entities. She said that this plan is for the expansion of Stepping Stones.

Mr. McQuaid said that he uses Stepping Stones the most and wishes that more kids played on the open space. These were the same concerns expressed when the original plan began, but it was worse then because the DPW garage was there and the Police station was in operation.

Mr. McQuaid said that they have an opportunity with this wonderful museum and have a chance to get rid of the Police station which could become open space. The City needs Stepping Stones; it is someplace people can go to over and over.

Mr. McQuaid said that his only concern was holding a public hearing on the same night they plan to vote. He said that he is in favor of this plan but would like to hold off voting until the next Common Council meeting.

Mr. Serasis said that he echoed Mr. McQuaid's sentiments, but they have to be sure they have a good relationship with the Mansion. He said that he would love to see the Police station go.

Mr. Serasis said that he is involved a lot with Stepping Stones; many people do not realize the scope of their outreach to at risk children. The Maritime Aquarium and Stepping Stones are two visible members of the community who go out and do outreach; they are constantly looking at ways to increase that outreach. When both organizations are asked for anything, they always try to find ways to do more. If there was a Stepping Stones next to Ryan Park, the bad element would not be there.

Mr. Serasis suggested selling combination tickets for Stepping Stones and the Mansion. If the Police station was removed, they would increase the Great Lawn and more people would use it. Mr. Nolin replied that was the goal.

Mr. Hempstead said that great lawns make the experience of the Mansion.

Mr. Lo suggested that Mr. Nolin submit a revised proposal for resubmission to the Committee and they can then determine which Committee is responsible for what.

Mr. Krummel said that he was hesitant about what he was going to say. He said that Mr. Serasis talked about how the Museum provides outreach and asked how they were going to use the space if they can bring the museum functions to where the children live. Mr. Serasis said that the Museum does more and more outreach every year. The bigger they get the more they enhance the opportunity to the community. In addition they give one night a month free for families.

Mr. Krummel asked if they need more centralized space if they are doing outreach. He questioned the need for 9,000 sq. ft. of administrative space. Mr. Nolin said that some of the administrative space is located off site, which is not optimal.

Mr. Beinfeld described the multimedia space which would give children visiting the Museum the ability to talk to other children around the world. He noted that is not something that can be mobile. Mr. Krummel said that he like to see how the services could be directed to the neighborhoods.

Ms. Keist said that their demand is greater than what they can serve within their current footprint.

Mr. Nolin said that he hears that the Committee wants time to consider the proposal, but it is imperative that the Planning Commission get this request on their agenda. He said that he will draft a revision and asked if he could send that to the Planning Commission for 8-24 review. He said that they need their comments first. Mr. Hempstead said that the only hedge is with the parking.

Mr. Bondi said that this was on their agenda last month. He said that the public hearing was not necessary, but he wanted to hear the views of the public. He said that he was disappointed that no one from the Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum was here tonight. Mr. Hempstead said that their Board Chairman was here; their meeting is tomorrow night and Mr. Cooke wants their comments.

Ms. Keist said that they shared the plans with the Executive Committee and staff and will meet with them again at their request. She said that she is happy to continue the conversation.

Mr. Bondi said that the Mansion should step on board with Stepping Stones and do joint project to increase their visitor ship. He said that it is nice to have this gem, but nicer to have visitors to the Mansion. He said that this is a project that has to move forward. Rev. Bolden noted that they were not asking for a new parking lot; they want to share parking.

### **REGULAR MEETING**

Mr. Bondi called the meeting to order at 9:32 p.m.

## Roll Call

Mr. Bondi called the Roll.

## Minutes of August 20, 2008

- \*\* REV. BOLDEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED
- \*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. MCQUAID)

## Old Business

**Date change – Approve the use of Ryan Park by Chozen Few Entertainment LLC for a Forever Rest Memorial to be held Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 12:00 Noon – 8:00 PM with a rain date of Saturday, October 11, 2008. Estimated attendance 100.**

This item was cancelled.

## New Business

**Approve the use of the Shea-McGrath Athletic Complex at Norwalk High School by the Norwalk Marching Band for their annual Cavalcade of Bands to be held Saturday, November 1, 2008 from 2:00 PM – 9:30 PM. Estimated attendance 3,000+.**

There was no discussion. It was inadvertently added to the agenda.

- \*\* MR. BONENFANT MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM

**Approve the grounds of the Lockwood Mathews Museum by the Museum for an Antiques Appraisal Weekend to be held Sunday, October 19, 2008 from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Estimated attendance 300.**

- \*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. SERASIS)

- \*\* MR. BONENFANT MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM

**Approve the use of the Trails at Cranbury Park by Targettraining for a Trail Run Race to be held Sunday, November 23, 2008 from 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Estimated attendance 100.**

Mr. Dominick Gillian explained that this is a 10k trail race – 2 loops of 5k each. There may be kids Fun Run following the race. The race is open to all ages. Target training will provide refreshments. They are the title sponsors and have a retail store in Westport.

Mr. Mocciae asked Mr. Gillian to keep in touch with the Department because of wetland intrusion.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* REV. BOLDEN MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

**Approve the use of Wolfpit Elementary School Grounds by the School PTA for their Annual Pumpkin Festival to be held Saturday, October 11, 2008 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Estimated attendance 100 – 150.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* REV. BOLDEN MOVED THE FOLLOWING TWO ITEMS**

**5. A) Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to execute any and all documents to apply, receive and implement the terms and requirements of the grant requirements of Connecticut Commission on Cultural and Tourism (Historic Preservation and Museum Division) Capital Improvement Grant Program. The grant request of \$200,000 is a 50/50 match with 50% coming from a special appropriation. The grant is for the property at 328 Flax Hill Road , Fodor Farm original homestead**

**B) Including a preservation easement in favor of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism.**

Mr. Bonenfant said that he also serves on the Finance Claims Committee. He said that in page 2 of the grant it states that the City will not receive the grant until the project is completed. Mr. Mocciae said that they are looking for \$400,000 if it goes beyond that they will look to fundraise. He said that the completed project may cost \$600,000, but they are not asking the City for any more than \$400,000. Mr. Mocciae said that the grant request was reviewed with the City Grant writer.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Committee discussed the following item.

**6. In accordance with the lease agreement by and between the City of Norwalk and Stepping Stones Museum for Children Inc., request the following:**

- A. Approval of the Museum's plans for expansion in Mathews Park.**
- B. Modification of existing lease to add the additional parking shown on the plans to the Museum's leasehold.**
- C. Modification of the Lease to move the boundary of the Museum leasehold at the corner of Butler Street and Crescent Street.**
- D. Extension of lease term to 2097.**
- E. Authorize the Department of Public Works (DPW) to perform the tank removal and any required soil remediation in the area of the Museum's new parking area in conjunction with the Museum's construction plan.**

Mr. McQuaid said that if this item is tabled to the next meeting, it pushes this item three Council meetings out. He asked Mr. Nolin if that was workable. Mr. Moccia said that the Committee already approved moving this forward for 8-24 review.

Mr. McQuaid asked Mr. Bondi if he was in favor of moving this forward to the full Council if everything is in place for the first Council meeting in November. Mr. Bondi said that he was in favor of moving this to the full Council tonight.

**\*\* MR. MCQUAID MOVED TO TABLE THIS ITEM TO THE FIRST COUNCIL MEETING IN NOVEMBER**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## Discussion

### **1. Presentation by Partners for architecture for conceptual plan of the rehabilitated Bath houses at Calf Pasture Beach .**

Mr. Mocciae presented Mr. Steve Grasso, who designed the restrooms at Calf Pasture Beach and Shady Beach. He said that they are using the same architect to have continuity in the design. He said that they are looking to fund this project with large grants. Fish and Wildlife is very interested in this project and have access to grant in excess of \$3 million.

This project will bring activities to Calf Pasture Beach year round. The Seaport Association and Fish and Wildlife would have a permanent location there. In the plan is incorporated a covered pavilion, educational space and potential for funding sources.

Mr. Grasso described the plans. Mr. Mocciae said that they will have to work around strict deed restrictions and therefore will have to be creative in finding funding sources.

Mr. McQuaid noted that the Seaport is out of space because they have stepped up their educational programs. He added that the new bathrooms at the beach are fabulous. He hears wonderful comments everyday.

Mr. Mocciae said that they are only adding on a small piece; this is an adaptive re-use. He said that they are going to start working with Susan Snider. He said that he is going to put money into the capital budget for design work and hopes to work with the Seaport and Fish and Wildlife on grants.

Mr. Mocciae said that this was an informational session to let the Committee know that they are working with the Seaport Association and Fish and Wildlife.

Mr. Bonenfant asked Mr. Mocciae if they take significant grants from the Government, can people be told they are not permitted to use the Beach. Mr. Mocciae said that the city on charges for parking at the Beach. Anyone can walk in or ride; he said that he will fully research the grant.

Mr. Bondi asked Mr. Grasso if he could guess at the cost of this project. Mr. Grasso said \$2.5 - \$3 million, but they could bring it in at \$2 million. Mr. Bondi said that he hoped that Fish and Wildlife comes through with a grant.

Mr. Grasso presented preliminary sketches.

Mr. Mocciae said that they will have to get CAM approvals for this project.

## Park Stickers

Mr. Mocciaie suggested that the Committee begin talking about charging a fee for beach stickers. It was suggested that senior citizens not get charged.

Mr. Mocciaie said that there is a problem with theft of service because the stickers are free. He added that they are more than Beach stickers; they are also used at the transfer station.

Mr. Mocciaie said that the stipulation would be that the money from the sale of park stickers goes back into park operations. An ordinance change would be required to accomplish this.

Mr. Mocciaie commented that the stickers have more value if people have to pay for them. He said that the new stickers are coming out in March. He asked the Committee if they want to discuss this further at the next meeting and then bring this to the Ordinance Committee.

Mr. McQuaid announced that the Personnel Committee meeting was cancelled because it was scheduled for the same evening as the Dan Walsh dinner.

Rev. Bolden said that several people have asked her if they will be able to have their same plots at the community garden next year. Mr. Mocciaie said that they will be getting letters.

**\*\* MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services