

TARRYWILE PARK AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING

May 19, 2009

CALL TO ORDER:

On Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at 6:37 p.m., the regular meeting of the Tarrywile Park Authority, was called to order at Tarrywile Mansion, 70 Southern Blvd., Danbury, CT, by Vice-Chairman T. Cutsumpas.

ATTENDANCE

The following board members were recorded as present:

Board Members: R. McGarrigal, J. Preston, W. Platz, M. Repole, J. Harner & T. Cutsumpas

Board Members Absent: M. Marcus, B. Talarico & D. Manacek

Park Staff Present: S. Moy

Guests: Gina Dennehy (Friends Chairwoman), Pam Sauls, Fran & Jim Ostrove

Public Speaking: Pam Sauls spoke about the trees that the City recently cut down that border her property and Tarrywile property. The trees were cut down, but before that happened she claims falling limbs damaged the gutters on her home that were less than 3 years old and she wanted to know who is going to pay for the repairs. When she contacted the Tarrywile office, S. Moy explained that any insurance claims would need to go through the City's Risk Management office, as they are responsible for any claims made against the park as it is a City owned property. Mrs. Sauls spoke to someone in the City who told her it would be the responsibility of Tarrywile. Vice-Chairman Cutsumpas and S. Moy will discuss the matter and Vice-Chairman Cutsumpas will get back to Mrs. Sauls. Mrs. Sauls also expressed her concern about the tenants of the Farmhouse and the parties that they have been having.

Mr. & Mrs. Ostrove also had come to the meeting to express their concerns in regards to the Farmhouse tenants. They stated that the tenants had parties on a weekly basis that go into the early hours of the morning and are often loud. These parties also cause problems in regards to parking along the side streets on the edge of neighbors' lawns and beer bottles the next morning on these lawns.

Vice-Chairman Cutsumpas did report that Executive Director Moy had been keeping the Authority up to date on 4 previous complaints that have been received into the office in the last 18 months (since they had moved in). The tenants had been advised after those complaints that where as visitors may be allowed to stop over to the Farmhouse, that parties were not allowed. Vice-Chairman Cutsumpas thanked the guests for coming to the meeting and will take their comments under advisement.

AGENDA:

1. Friends of Tarrywile Report: Vice-Chairman Cutsumpas reported that he had attended the last meeting of the Friends and that everything appears to be going very well for the fundraiser coming up. Friends Chairwoman Gina Dennehy went on to further report that plans for the "Evening at the Mansion" were going very well and that the first ever "Yearbook" has raised apx. \$4,000. Invitations for the event have already gone out and most everyone should have already received them. Discussion followed. The event is shaping up nicely and is only about three weeks away.

Gina also has been attending workshops offered by G.D.N.R.C in regards to grant opportunities for 501c3 non-profits. She has learned quite a bit and will be looking further into these grant opportunities.

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2. **Minutes:** A motion was made by M. Repole to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2009 regular meeting. R. McGarrigal seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Financial:**

A. **Financial Report – April 2009:** The Board looked over the reports that were emailed out with the Agenda. Discussion followed in regards to the data. S. Moy noted that on this months balance sheets, the Authority will notice a number of different accounts. This is a reflection of the new Union Savings accounts and some of the old Webster accounts that we are still waiting for checks to clear before closing.

A motion was made by M. Repole to approve the April 2009 Financial Reports. J. Preston seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Mayor's Propose Budget 2009-2010:** T. Cutsumpas reported that he and S. Moy have been discussing the budget and how best to handle the 10% decrease. Discussion followed. T. Cutsumpas has already put a ban on all overtime. A committee consisting of J. Preston (Committee Chairman), W. Platz & R. McGarrigal will go over the revised budget before the next Board meeting that S. Moy and T. Cutsumpas will be working on in the next two weeks.

4. **Correspondence:** NONE

5. **Committee Reports:**

A. **Website:** R. McGarrigal reported that the committee has been meeting and looking for ways to generate revenue with the new website. They are in the beginning stages of research and will have more to report hopefully at the next Board meeting.

6. **Staff Reports:**

A. **New Business:**

1. **May Park & Mansion Use Report:** The May use report stated that there are 8 events scheduled for the Park with 330 people anticipated. There are 12 events scheduled for the Mansion with apx. 628 people attending. In May a total of 20 events will be held at the Park and Mansion with apx. 958 people attending.

B. **Old Business:**

1. **Clean City Danbury Day:** S. Moy reported that there were 9 volunteers on the Tarrywile crew for Clean City Danbury Day that cleaned the Mountainville Rd. area of the Park.

7. **Other Business:**

A. **Authority Vacation Schedule – June thru September:** S. Moy asked that the Authority check their calendars and let her know if they were going to be present for the next four meetings to help determine if quorum was going to be met.

B. **Castle Task Force Committee:** T. Cutsumpas reported that there are no current updates.

C. **Master Plan:** Vice-Chairman Cutsumpas reported that he has talked to Patti Cohen-Hecht of the Volunteer Center about facilitating a meeting concerning the Master Plan. Her schedule does not open up anytime until July. T. Cutsumpas will work on setting up a meeting date with her.

7. Other Business – continued:

D. TPA Goal Review: R. McGarrigal discussed that he feels that the Authority needs to look at, review and establish goals for the Authority and the Park that would coincide with the Master Plan. Ray recommended that we set a September deadline for the Master Plan discussions and a November deadline for establishing goals for the 2010 calendar year. Discussion followed. Vacation schedules allowing, the Board will try to stick to the suggested time line.

E. Tenant Review – Farmhouse and School Building Lease Renewal: S. Moy reported that the Tenant Review Committee meet and has recommended the following.

In regards to the School Building, S. Moy noted that the tenant wishes to stay another year, however this is pending as to whether she can get more enrollments. If she doesn't she may be retiring and she would give us a letter stating that. S. Moy will keep the Board advised as to the status of the tenant. The Tenant Review Committee recommended that with the Consumer Price Index showing a decrease, that the rent be left the same at \$1,085 a month for the building.

A motion was made by W. Platz to accept the recommendation of the Tenant Review Committee and leave the rent the same. M. Repole seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

In regards to the Farmhouse, S. Moy reported that the Tenant Review Committee recommended that with the Consumer Price Index showing a decrease, that the rent be left the same at \$1,905 a month for the Farmhouse. Discussion followed in reference to the neighbors and their concerns that were previously talked about during Public Session. G. Dennehy also noted that her Grandmother has had problems with these parties. Several suggestions/ideas were brought up in regards to how we can address the inappropriate parties, renew the lease but also address the problems that the neighbors have brought to us. Further discussion followed.

A motion was made by R. McGarrigal to form a committee to look at the issue. J. Harner seconded.

Further discussion followed. S. Moy noted that because the lease expires on July 18th, the matter would need to be addressed and the Committee would need to meet in the next month, so it could be voted on at the June Authority meeting. The Committee shall consist of R. McGarrigal (Committee Chair), D. Manacek & M. Repole.

Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made by M. Repole to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Seconded by R. McGarrigal. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeffrey Preston, Secretary