



Board of Park Commissioners
Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services - 51 High Street, Bristol CT
Special Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order

- a. Chair Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
- b. Attendance

Present: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano, Chair
Robert Fiorito, Vice Chair
Sandra Bogdanski, Commissioner
Cynthia Donovan, Commissioner
Leonard Lamothe, Commissioner
Emily Michaud, Commissioner
Andrew Howe, City Council Liaison (Virtual)

Dr. Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent

Absent: Robert Lawson, Commissioner
Marie O'Brien, Board of Finance Liaison
Sarah Larson, Deputy Superintendent

2. Public Participation

- a. Members of the public addressed the Commission both for and against the installing of a historic bell in Quinlan Park.
- b. Representation from the Veterans Council shared concerns regarding the proposed location of the bell at Quinlan Park.
- c. Chair Mayor Caggiano read submitted written testimony from Donna Gianoni of the Forestville Village Association in opposition of placing the bell in a Veterans Park.
- d. Chair Mayor Caggiano read submitted written testimony from John J. Gianoni of the Forestville Village Association in opposition of placing the bell in a Veterans Park and requesting the association be the determiners of the bells location, proposing it be placed near the 150 Central Restaurant in Forestville which was its original location years ago.
- e. Brian Avery of American Legion Post #209 submitted an informational packet on the history of the bell, for the record, and expressed his support on behalf of American Legion Post #209 being in favor of the bell location at Quinlan Park.
- f. A Representative from the American Legion provided testimony in support of the Bell Location.
- g. David Preleski, Treasurer of the City of Bristol, provided history of the bell and testimony in support of the bells location at Quinlan Park.
- h. Mr. Martino, Bristol resident, shared concerns over the location of the bell at Quinlan Park.
- i. Mr. Lee, Bristol resident, submitted a list of constituents' names, for the record, who were in favor of the location of the bell at Quinlan Park.
- j. City Council Liaison Howe reported he was against the location of the bell at Quinlan Park and



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wanted his stance on record.

- k. **MOTION:** Made by Chair Mayor Caggiano to close Public Participation.
Seconded by: Vice Chair Fiorito, all in favor; motion carried.

3 . Old Business

- a. Superintendent Medeiros re-reviewed the events of the request by American Legion Post #209 to install a historic bell in Quinlan Park which led to the calling of this special meeting.
- Chair Mayor Caggiano explained to the Commission and public the steps that would need to be taken to keep the original motion from the regular Board of Park Commissioners meeting held on July 20, 2022 as is or to overturn vote.
 - Vice Chair Fiorito shared that he appreciated the concerns that were brought to his attention by the public and suggested the Commission consider a policy surrounding artifacts to be stored in parks.
 - Commissioner Michaud inquired who in the past made the decisions on what artifacts could be stored in Bristol parks. Discussion followed.
 - Commissioner Lamothe expressed concerns over the bell being appreciated by all of Bristol not just Forestville.
- b. **MOTION:** Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to keep the original motion from the regular Board of Park Commissioners meeting held on July 20, 2022 granting permission to install the historic bell as a monument in the intended location at Quinlan Park.
Seconded by: Commissioner Michaud, all in favor; motion carried.

4. Adjourn

- a. **MOTION:** Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 p.m.
Seconded by: Commissioner Donovan, all in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Aubrey Lee Minkler