

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Nolan at 6:35pm on September 10, 2013 in accordance with the sunshine law.

Present: John Gallagher, Lori Nolan, Diane Birkbeck, Paul Hydro, Bart Beck, Director Thomas and Commissioner Sarno. Invited to attend was City Solicitor Amy Weintrob.

Motion was made to approve August 2013 minutes by Paul hydro and second by Bart Beck.

Special Events Apps:

1. F.A.C.E.S awareness for autism. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for this walk from St James to Suffolk Ave, on the boardwalk on Sept 21, 2013. Expect about 50 people. Checks and insurances are included. Motion was made to approve by John Gallagher and second by Diane Birkbeck.

2. The Sandstock Inc. A Latin festival .Representatives came to discuss this event on Sept 21 & 22, 2013. Spokesperson was John Groff- Business Manager for the event. The event location is 4900 Wellington Ave which is owned privately by Jonathan Vogel.

Ms. Weintrob was present because the city had some major safety concerns and ordinance concerns with this event. Mr. Groff spoke and wanted to give the board a history of how they are finally coming to the recreation board.

This is all being repeated by Mr. Groff (business mgr for Sandstock). Couple of months ago they were refereed to Ventnor from Atlantic City because the event was cancelled there and they need a new venue. They were referred to Mayor Bagnell and Tom Quirk in the Mayor office for assistance from Yvette Soto who is involved in events in AC. First they were interested in the beach area and they were told by Mr. Quirk don't have it there, it's not the right spot, one of the Commissioners has a friend that owns property on Wellington Ave and it would be perfect. So Mr. Vogel was contacted by Mr. Quirk and a meeting was set up. Mr. Groff was surprised when Mr. Quirk was at the site to meet them along with the city's intern. After looking at the property they came back to the Mayor's office, Mr. Quirk was a little bit longer coming back , so Mr. Groff and Dave waited for him in the reception area and began speaking to the Mayor's secretary Patti. They told her what they wanted to do and she (the mayor's secretary Patti) started to explain the policy and procedures and the departments that needed to be involved while they waited. Then Mr. Quirk appeared and rushed them into his office and closed the door behind them, and when Mr. Groff stated all the information and procedures they needed to do, Mr. Quirk's comment was she (the secretary Patti) doesn't know anything forget about what she said. I'm gonna take care of it, it's all gonna be ok, it was a "done deal" don't worry about anything.

6:55pm two residents walk in from the public.

They signed the special events application on August 7, 2013 and attached a \$25.00 check and instructions from Mr. Quirk to bring it to him in a sealed envelope. He came to the Mayor's office to do this, and Mr. Quirk was in the office so he handed it to him and again, Mr. Quirk closed the door with them in the office. Usually the intern was in the office with them if she was working that day.

Also an issue brought up by Mr. Groff was a co (certificate of occupancy) on the property. He was told that there was a co and everything is good.

In the meantime they have made an agreement with Mr. Vogel to lease the space for \$10,000.00 at 4900 Wellington Ave. Mr. Groff's attorneys have to review the documents and during that entire time, Mr. Quirk kept telling him to pay the entire amount, don't worry about it, it's all ok.

Mr. Groff stated that on one occasion when they met with Mr. Quirk ( can't remember the date) that he was told by Mr. Quirk that they would need to give a check in the amount of \$5,000.00 to the Home & School Assoc. Mr. Groff again asked how all this was going happen in such a short period of time, Mr. Quirk stated that he was ordered to make it happen. This was a separate from the deal you made with Jonathan, Mr. Quirk said to Mr. Groff.

Meanwhile last week, Mr. Groff was asked to attend a meeting in the mayor's office with the city attorney, the fire department and the Police Department , building and code official, Mayor Bagnell , Tom Quirk since they (city officials ) had some safety concerns about the property at 4900 Wellington Ave and the event. (this was around wed, September 4,2013. In the meeting the city attorney asked them if they were a non- profit organization? They answered no. Ms. Weintrob stated that is the first ordinance policies that your event does not fall under of a non-profit but also the safety factor is a huge issue to us. Mr. Groff stated that they were told by Mr. Quirk as long as they are associated with a non- profit group it can get by. He was implying (American Red Cross, Hope for healing, Long term recovery, etc). This is what Mr. Quirk told them at the very beginning they can be with them since they know them, put us all together. Then the fire department had concerns about the structure that was on the property plus all the holes in the parking lot area where all the people will be. Mr. Groff also stated that he sent Mr. Quirk a full blown plan of the event and where everything would be , cars, vendors supply trucks , bands placement safety measure etc and no one at the meeting ever saw it, he kept it to himself and didn't pass on to these other officials for suggestions prior to his meeting today. Then at the meeting, Mr. Quirk made copies for everyone to see and then all these concerns & issues came up from the city officials.

Mr. Groff stated that at this meeting with other officials is the first time ANY of these concerns were brought up.... Never before mentioned by Mr. Quirk and since he is representing the Mayor and the city then he would know what is expected and allowed and since nothing came up, he thought (Mr. Groff) that we are good to go ahead. Then all this happens.

Then the very next day, (Thursday) after this meeting with all the city officials took place the day before, he received a phone call from Mr. Quirk and he says that this is not going to be a problem, it's just a paperwork problem.

Now just the other day in a voice mail, they got a phone call from Mr. Quirk stating that the Mayor just spoke to Amy (our city attorney) and sorry this didn't work out.

So now they are here in front of the recreation board to tell their story and see if there application can get approved.

Asked again by Ms. Weintrob: are you a non –profit organization? They answer no they are not. So they cannot be eligible for the special events application and also all the safety concerns, the police department will not sign off on it. Ms. Weintrob had a letter from the code official, Jim Agnesino with his concerns about the property in question (this was provided to Mr.Groff) and also Mr. Weintrob has a phone conversation just prior to tonight's recreation board meeting with the Fire Department as well, and they to are not comfortable with the structure on the property in question or the parking lot area. A motion was made to approve this application as it stands now, without proper insurance, or fees or any safety concerns (a letter from Jimmie Agnesino – Construction official) and a verbal conversation with the Fire Dept not being addressed by John Gallagher. There was no motion made to seconded it therefore the application was denied. \$25.00 check was returned to them at the meeting.

Also Commissioner Sarno (present at tonight's meeting) wanted on the record that he is the Commissioner that recommended the property 4900 Wellington Ave but did not inspect the property prior just knew there were 2 big vacant properties in Ventnor that maybe could help the Sandstock organization with their problem.

Public portion speaks 8:05

Eileen Johnstone- wants a dog park.

Mary Lanahan- wanted to do a seminar on monarch butterflies. Jerry Thomas is looking into a informational class about the butterflies. And the dog park the rec board will talk about.

Director's report discussed.

Motion was made to adjourn meeting at 8:35pmby Lori Nolan and second by Diane Birkbeck.