



Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives

Phil Berns, Co-Chair

Susan Nabel, Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chairs Nabel and Berns, and Committee Member Reps. Boeger, Cottrell, Jacobson, Matheny, Miller and Sherwood. Also present were Reps. Figueroa, Patterson, Shaw, Summerville, and Walston; Sandra Dennies, Director of Administration; Burt Rosenberg and Chris Dellaselva, Law Department; Laurie Albano, Recreation Services; Bridget Fox, Chief of Staff; Michael Hannam Esq., Day Pitney; and Greg Stackpole, Assessor.

Co-Chair Nabel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. LR31.024	RESOLUTION <u>and public hearing</u> ; Approving the Sale of Property Located at 35 Crescent Street to Crescent Housing Partners, LLC. 03/31/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 04/12/22 – Approved by Planning Board 06/09/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 4-2-0	Held 8-0-0

Chair Nabel explained that the public hearing for Item No. 1 was improperly noticed, because no sign was placed on the property. As a result, the public hearing will be renoticed for next month and the item will be taken up at that time. A motion to hold Item No. 1 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Nabel, Berns, Boeger, Cottrell, Jacobson, Matheny, Miller and Sherwood in favor).

2. LR31.031	RESOLUTION <u>and public hearing</u> ; Approving the First Amendment to Lease Between Our Lady Star of the Sea Corporation and the City of Stamford for 1170 Shippan Avenue, Stamford, CT. 06/24/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 06/28/22 – Approved by Planning Board 07/14/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0	Approved 7-1-0
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Chair Nabel opened the public hearing. Kieran Edmondson spoke in favor of the lease with Our Lady Star of the Sea Corporation. There being no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that the original lease was executed in November 2017 for a five year term. This amendment has a term of 7/1/22 through 6/30/22. The lease enables the Parks & Recreation Department to run numerous programs including after school and summer camps.

The terms of the amendment are very favorable to the City with a rent of \$17.23 per ft² and an increase of 2.08% per year.

Ms. Albano stated that the programs at Our Lady Star of the Sea serve 3000 children from all over the City per year. It is more available reliable than the school facilities and permits an extra week of camp.

Committee members discussed the proposed agreement with the invited guests:

- If the resolution is not approved, the lease will continue on a month-to-month basis
- All religious symbols in the building have been removed or covered
- P&R doesn't generally do programming on Sundays because there is not much demand for it and it is difficult to get staff.
- The entire building is rented over the summer
- A Sunday program would most likely be run in a park, which would be less costly
- The summer program serves 150 kids up to age 10
- The fees vary, depending upon the program; the City tries to keep the price low; there is a sponsorship program available for kids who receive free or reduced lunch
- The Corporation is a member entity of the Roman Catholic Church and is tax exempt under state and federal law
- The City has rented facilities in other religious institutions in the past
- The lease has a yearly termination right for the City as well as a right to terminate if the funds are not appropriated
- The facility is not available on Sunday because masses are going on and there is no parking.

A motion to hold Item No. 2 was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 1-7-0 (Rep. Jacobson in favor; Reps. Nabel, Berns, Boeger, Cottrell, Matheny, Miller and Sherwood opposed).

A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made seconded and approved by a vote of 7-1-0 (Reps. Nabel, Berns, Boeger, Cottrell, Matheny, Miller and Sherwood in favor; Rep. Jacobson opposed).

3. [LR31.025](#) APPROVAL; Agreement with Sustainable Strategies Inc. for Federal Lobbying Services under RFP No. 854 [Amount of Agreement \$132,600/yr. – See backup for additional terms].
06/24/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
07/14/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0 **Approved 6-1-0**

Ms. Fox stated that the administration did an open process in which they interviewed a large number of firms and decided that Sustainable Strategies' expertise was aligned with the interests of the City. The firm provides both lobbying and grant writing services, helps the City identify federal funding support, and shepherds the City through the earmark process, which has led to a great deal of success. They notify the City of upcoming funding opportunities and will facilitate seeking funds under the Infrastructure Bill.

Committee members discussed Item No. 3 with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- This contract is an increase over the \$120,000 the firm received last year and will be providing more original support.
- Other cities may get more funds because of they have fewer resources, the poverty level or qualification for specific programs

- The Administration is aggressively seeking funds from the government rather than residents
- The firm provides a dedicated person for the City
- This is more cost-effective than hiring an additional grant writer
- The firm can give a presentation to the BOR as it did to the BOF
- Success will be based on the number of accepted applications, earmark dollars and grant dollars; there are no projected monetary goals at this point because the NOFO's have not come out
- The City got \$52 M in federal funds last year
- This is a 1 year contract with 2 1 year extension options
- The City had 11 or 12 responses to the RFP and interviewed 5

A motion to approve Item No. 3 was made seconded and approved by a vote of 6-1-1 (Reps. Nabel, Berns, Cottrell, Jacobson , Matheny, Miller and in favor; Rep. Sherwood opposed, Rep. Boeger abstaining).

4. [LR31.030](#) REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS; Planning Board and Board of Finance Recommendations Re: **Recommendation made 8-0-0**
 Triennial List of City-Owned and Leased Real Properties as Transmitted by the Board of Finance.
 06/20/22 – Submitted by Sandra Dennies
 06/28/22 – Considered by Planning Board
 07/14/22 – Considered by Board of Finance

Ms. Dennies explained that under Code §9-4, the Planning Board had made recommendations to the BOF regarding the sale of unused properties other than 0 Haig Avenue, which will be taken up at a later meeting. The BOF only recommended the sale of the 0 Rockrimmon properties and tha the Administration consider a special sale of 0 Haig Ave.

The 2 Rockrimmon properties are each less than 2 acres and could be subdivided into 2 dwellings each. Their values are about \$400,000 each. These are currently vacant properties. The BOF did not feel it was appropriate to use them as open space due to limited access.

Committee Members discussed Item No. 4 with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- The properties are totally surrounded by built-upon lots
- Zoning rules would still apply to the properties
- It might be better for the environment to leave these properties as trees
- The property could be donated to the Land Trust or the Arboretum; the lack of access may not make it acceptable as part of the Land Trust
- These should not become trouble spots for the City

A motion to recommend to the Mayor that the two 0 Rockrimmon Road properties be retained as a preserve was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Nabel, Berns, Boeger, Cottrell, Jacobson, Matheny, Miller and Sherwood in favor).

The Committee took a 5 minutes recess at 9:52 p.m.

5. [LR31.028](#) APPROVAL; Amendment to the Board of Representatives Rules of Procedure Section III.B.8_ **Approved, as amended, 7-0-0**
Relating to the Filling of Vacancies in any Citywide Elected Office.
06/06/22 – Submitted by Reps. Jacobson and Sherwood
06/27/22 – Report Made & Held by Committee 7-0-0

Rep. Jacobson and Rep. Sherwood explained that they put this item on the Agenda in order to eliminate names for Citywide vacancies having to be placed on the Steering agenda or taken up under a suspension of the rules.

Committee members had a lengthy discussion regarding the role of the Appointments Committee in this process. The Committee can interview each candidate and make a recommendation to the full Board.

A motion to amend the proposed language as follows (shown in blue): “Whenever the Board is required to elect a successor to fill a vacancy in any citywide elective office, such as a vacancy on the Board of Finance or the Board of Education, pursuant to C1-80-2 of the Charter and Code of the City of Stamford, the President or Clerk shall notify all members of the Board as soon as possible and submit an item to the Steering Committee shortly thereafter.” was made and seconded.

A motion to change “shortly thereafter” to “no later than 24 hours thereafter” was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 0-7-0 (Reps. Nabel, Boeger, Cottrell, Jacobson, Matheny, Miller and Sherwood opposed).

The original motion to amend was approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Nabel, Boeger, Cottrell, Jacobson, Matheny, Miller and Sherwood in favor).

A motion to change “__ days/hours” to “72 hours” and “__ day/hour” to “72 hours” or “72 hour” in the proposed amendment was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Nabel, Boeger, Cottrell, Jacobson, Matheny, Miller and Sherwood in favor).

A motion to approve Item No. 5, as amended, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Nabel, Boeger, Cottrell, Jacobson, Matheny, Miller and Sherwood in favor).

6. [LR31.029](#) APPROVAL; Amendment to the Board of Representatives Rules of Procedure to Amend Section III.C to add Requirements Regarding Submission of Documentation for Candidates to be Interviewed by the Appointments Committee. **Held 7-0-0**
07/06/22 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood, Stella, Curtis, Cottrell, Figueroa, and Jacobson

A motion to hold Item No. 6 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Nabel, Boeger, Cottrell, Jacobson, Matheny, Miller and Sherwood in favor).

Co-Chair Nabel adjourned the meeting at 10:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Nabel, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).