



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
 LONGSHORE CLUB PARK
 260 SOUTH COMPO ROAD, WESTPORT, CT 06880

Levitt Pavilion Sub-Committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission
Final Minutes
February 25, 2021

The Levitt Pavilion Sub-Committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission held a meeting on Thursday, February 25, 2021 @7:48pm. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order No. 7B, there was no physical location for this meeting. It was held electronically and recorded via Zoom.

Members Present:

Charles Haberstroh, Chairman; Alec Stevens

Members Absent:

Stephen Axthelm

Andy Fleischman, Friends of the Levitt Board Member; Carleigh Welsh, Levitt Pavilion - Director of Marketing & Development, along with members of the public.

1. Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Alec Stevens, seconded by Charles Haberstroh, the minutes of the November 9, 2021 Levitt Pavilion Sub Committee were approved 2-1 (one absent).

2. Public Comment:

John Suggs, 64 Center Street, would like to know if the RTM Library and the Museum & Arts Committee that has scheduled a hearing for the Library's budget in April is going to receive the financial statement for the Levitt Pavilion under their proper authority for review and is that going to be scheduled at the same time as the Library in April? John Suggs also wants to see the audited Financial Reports for the Levitt Pavilion.

Morley Boyd, 6 Violet Lane would like this committee to review and address the sound/noise issue addressed as soon as possible.

Sal Liccione, RTM Member #9, 50 Church Lane stated that he used to work for the Downtown Merchants Association and for the Parks and Recreation Department. He is concerned that the Board of Education is charged to use the Levitt Pavilion.

Lawrence Tirreno, 137 Riverside Avenue wanted to talk about the noise/sound coming from the Levitt Pavilion.

3. Review and discussion on the 2019 990 Financial Report. No vote will be taken.

Charles Haberstroh stated that the 990 Financial Report is the standard document for 501c3 organizations, and asked Alec Stevens if he had an opportunity to review the Levitt's 990 Financial Report. Alec Stevens confirmed he had.

Charles Haberstroh openly discussed the financials by line and page and stated that the financial report being reviewed was from 2019, as the 2020 990 Financial Reports do not get filed until March or April.

Charles Haberstroh asked Carleigh Welsh, Levitt Pavilion - Director of Marketing & Development to speak about the 2019 990 Financial Report. Carleigh Welsh spoke in detail about the financials of the Levitt Pavilion. This discussion included, but was not limited to, their mission goals, grants, loans, funding, budget, the monetary costs of dealing with the pandemic and programming.

Public Comment:

Richard Lowenstein, RTM District #5 would like to see the dollar allocations made from the Parks and Recreation Department to the Levitt. *Charles Haberstroh stated he has that information and will share with the RTM members.*

Morley Boyd, 6 Violet Lane wanted to know the amount of the PPE Loan. *Carleigh Welsh responded that it was roughly \$37,500.* Morley Boyd asked how much do we charge the Board of Education to host events at the Levitt Pavilion? *Charles Haberstroh reviewed those costs with the public.*

Sal Liccione, RTM District #9, 50 Church Lane asked if the Levitt Pavilion pays rent to Parks and Recreation for office space at their building and to explain the \$20,000 that the Parks and Recreation Department gives to the Levitt Pavilion, was that used for maintenance fees for the Levitt? *Carleigh Welsh stated that the Levitt has not used the money that was allocated to them in 2020. However, she said that the Levitt Pavilion does issue Parks and Recreation Department an invoice with the breakdown of how that money is used.*

John Suggs, 64 Center Street said he is concerned about the YTD figures for the Levitt and will the upcoming season be "business as usual" due to COVID. He would like to see Staples students access the Levitt Pavilion free of charge. *Carleigh Welsh said there are plans to open this year, and to open safely, however strict COVID protocols will be in place. Charles Haberstroh said this will be reviewed in a future meeting.*

Commissioner Comments:

Alec Stevens asked about the \$20,000 annual spend by Parks and Recreation. *Charles Haberstroh stated that this is part of the Parks and Recreation Budget as a contribution from the Town to support the Levitt Pavilion and as such gets approved by both the Board of Finance and the RTM.*

4. Review of current sound protocols and discussion of sound issues. No vote will be taken.

Charles Haberstroh stated that this has been a very controversial issue for the past 30 years and asked Carleigh Welsh to review their current sound protocols.

Carleigh Welsh spoke in-depth about the comprehensive sound monitoring program in place (onsite and offsite), which is both proactive and responsive. She spoke about the installation of a "Sound Hot Line" number which was established in 2016. Carleigh Welsh also said that Jaffe Holden (who designed the sound system) had been called by the Levitt to perform a sound test at different locations in town and at the addresses of the complaints. It was determined that the sound levels were at approved by OSHA and that the Levitt Pavilion has done their due diligence by having neighbors observe sound levels as well. She also spoke about the reviewing of their sound policy with artists prior to the start of the shows and how the Levitt

can mitigate the sound levels as needed during the show. The sound levels are revisited throughout the season, and sound levels are consistently being monitored. She also reviewed how different factors can effect sound and how the Levitt responds.

Carleigh Welsh also spoke about residents calling to complain about ambient noise they thought was coming from the Levitt, when in fact they were not.

Commissioner Comment:

Alec Stevens said he doesn't have a problem with the sound coming from the Levitt, the only issue is the ongoing complaints. He feels that the Levitt is doing their best.

Public Comment:

Morley Boyd, 6 Violet Lane said that tenants of the Levitt have established their own standards for sound, and there needs to be a completely different approach to this issue. He also stated that he felt the sound Hot Line did not work properly and it was not properly published. He would also like to see a new sound modeling study done.

Charles Haberstroh asked Carleigh Welsh if the sound people could attend the next meeting.

Amy Kaplan, RTM LMA Chair asked why the recommendations in the Report on the Jaffe Holden study had not been followed up on. The first recommendation in that Report was to do a modeling study to determine how much and where to the sound from the Levitt is "leaking".

Martha Constable, 37 Evergreen Avenue said that the Hot Line was not widely published and the sound is getting worse. She would like a meeting to include all the neighbors, the Levitt and the sound design people. She would like for the Levitt to do a better job reducing the sound.

John Suggs, 64 Center Street said he feels that the Levitt has made their position clear, they want to be a National Premier Concert Venue, but he does not want it in his neighborhood.

Lawrence Tirreno, 137 Riverside Avenue said he has been dealing with the sound spillage for over 30 years and he would like to see better enforcement of sound levels.

Charles Haberstroh stated that the Town of Westport does not have a noise ordinance law, but believes the Levitt is planning on addressing issues.

Sal Liccione, RTM Member #9, 50 Church Lane is requesting the sound modeling survey be done before summer starts.

Morley Boyd, 6 Violet Lane asked what our peer towns do to address their sound/noise concerns? He would like to another meeting to be scheduled in the near future.

5. General discussion.

Charles Haberstroh said this was a misprint and to moved to agenda item #6.

6. General discussion of the issues concerning the 2021 schedule of the Levitt Pavilion. No vote will be taken.

Carleigh Welsh said they do not have a schedule ready to distribute at this time, but they are planning on having a season with possible restricted capacity and several contingency plans in place. The Levitt Pavilion is diligently working on a safe opening, working with every department to meet or exceed expectations. Fundraising is continuously going on 24/7.

Public Comment:

Sal Liccione, RTM Member #9, 50 Church Lane asked if the Chamber of Commerce and the Remarkable Theater would hold events at the same time as the Levitt Pavilion. *Carleigh Welsh said no, there would not be simultaneous events.*

Morley Boyd, 6 Violet Lane said that the Remarkable Theater and the Chamber of Commerce have confirmed their dates, would there be overlapping dates with the Levitt? *Carleigh Welsh said no, there would be no overlapping dates.*

Charles Haberstroh said the objective is to have the schedule ready early spring.

Commissioner Comments:

Alec Stevens had no comments.

Charles Haberstroh said this is a work in progress and we are moving forward.

Upon a motion by Alec Stevens, seconded by Charles Haberstroh, the meeting adjourned at 10:23pm.

Respectfully,

Debbie Detmer
Recording Secretary