

Park and Recreation Department
Events Committee
Tuesday, September 10, 2019 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, Park Office, 2nd Floor, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, CT
Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairwoman, Paula O'Keefe
Commissioner Donovan
Commissioner Bogdanski
Robert Fiorito
Robert Kalat
Council Liaison, Mr. Scott Rosado
Dr. Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent of Parks Department
Carol Denehy

Absent: Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Mayor

1) Call to order:

Commissioner O'Keefe called to Event Committee meeting at 5:00 p.m.

2) Acceptance of minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Donovan to approve the July 17, 2019 minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Bogdanski.

All in favor; Motion carried.

3) Public Participation

4) Old Business:

A. Recap of the living memorials / evolution of the Boulevard theme.

B. Finalize and confirm event date(s) to be October 16, 2021 and rain date October 17, 2021

C. Discuss framework of the event / layout / timeline.

The Veterans Memorial Boulevard has a rich history dating back to 1921 when Albert Rockwell donated the property to the City of Bristol. In the 1970's the boulevard's name was officially changed to Veterans Memorial Boulevard to honor the veterans of Vietnam.

Over the past 100 years, the boulevard has served as a place of honor for our Bristol veterans as well as a gateway to Downtown Bristol. The boulevard also has a bright future, with the creation of the Memorial Boulevard Arts Magnet School and re-establishing the community theater.

With such a vibrant history, the Events Committee felt it was important to honor the entire history of the boulevard. This will be achieved by taking Bristol residents, young and old, through the evolution of the boulevard and then concluding with a celebration of the future.

The focal point of the event will be a guided tour of the boulevard where guests begin at the far side entrance and will walk among the monuments and trees and learn about the history. The tour will take visitors back through time through different periods of history which will include artifacts, costumes, etc to bring the time period to life. The tour will terminate on the green where musical performances, refreshments and activities for families will be available. The

theme embraces History, the evolution of the boulevard itself and then culminating in a community wide celebration of the future promise. A brief speaking program close out the celebration.

Early Event Concepts

- Guided tours starting every 15 minutes from the far side of the Boulevard leading guests through the monuments, trees and terminating on the green for a celebration. Along the way people in period costumes will provide commentary of the monuments and when they were established and why.
- Old automobiles parked along the boulevard tied to the specific period of time that they were created and in use.
- An art wall/mural that says "I was there for the 100th anniversary of the boulevard" with opportunity to take a photo/selfie and create a social media presence
- Terry Marselle to provide high quality historic photographs blown up to be placed around the boulevard
- Utilize the showmobile for music featuring the Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble and/or 102nd Army Band and/or High School bands
- Design (maybe through the Arts Commission) a holiday ornament featuring the 100th anniversary logo. Ornaments could be sold in advance (\$5.00/each?) in 2020 which would provide startup funding for the event.
- A self-guided tour will be available on Sunday for those that cannot attend the regular event
- The boulevard would be shut down to traffic 10/16-10/17/2021

Future Tasks

- Establish a more fleshed out event concept with programming details
- Develop a draft budget for the event
- Determine if there will be a financial ask from the city or if the budget can be achieved through sponsorships/donations
- Expand the committee or bring in guest experts to provide input on aspects of the event

5) New Business

6) Other Business:

7) Adjourn:

Motion made by Commissioner Bogdanski to adjourn at 5:49 p.m.
Seconded by Commissioner Donovan.
All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wilson
Recording Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners