**EMERGENCY MEETING**

**BAINBRIDGE TOWN BOARD**

**JULY 16TH, 2020**

Present: Dolores Nabinger Supervisor

Deborah Hromada Councilwoman

Jennifer Sienko Councilwoman

Bob Evans Councilman

Kelly Hromada-Johnson Councilwoman

Gary Richman Highway Superintendent

Recording Secretary: Aric McKown Town Clerk

Supervisor Nabinger called the Regular Meeting to order at 4:00PM.

Councilwoman Johnson stated that the purpose of this meeting is a personnel issue of the entire board, including Town Clerk McKown and Park Superintendent Richman.

Councilwoman Hromada commented this was an emergency issue to address certain issues due to the pandemic.

Councilwoman Johnson informed the town board of a large organized event currently going on at Clinton Park for the second day in a row, and said the town board had made a decision to not have organized events through July and August. Johnson mentioned people from the community will wonder why we're allowing some events and not others.

Dance Studio B Owner Rebecca Rivera came into the meeting, asked if this was a closed meeting and if she could speak. Councilwoman Johnson replied that it was a closed meeting, for a personnel issue and that the town board had already spoke to her about her dance recital that was happening at Clinton Park.

Johnson and Rivera talked about the decision that was made to have her dance recital at the park, when the town board told her she couldn't.

Johnson stated the town board made the decision to not hold events at Clinton Park for the reasons of health and safety.

Supervisor Nabinger stated the town board decided on Tuesday night to close the band shell.

Rebecca Rivera attended the meeting and said she understands and wished she'd known of this discussion, because she would have been here on Tuesday night to explain her very extensive safety plan, and feels it would have affected the decision.

Councilman Evans stated there wasn't a safety plan being used last week on Thursday, when he witnessed her dancers up there and argued they were not 6 feet apart.

Supervisor Nabinger interjected and stated the town board told Town Clerk McKown Tuesday night there were to be no events at Clinton Park, and that meant the band shell too, but the town board failed to say that to McKown before the July 14th, Regular Meeting.

Councilwoman Hromada stated we failed to say that to McKown a month ago and that's how we got to this point.

Nabinger told the town board that at our last town board meeting, we said no events at the pavilions in the park and to cancel everything in the pavilions. She stated we all automatically assumed that McKown would also have done the band shell too, and it was a communication error on our part. Nabinger confirmed with McKown that that point was made clear on Tuesday night, but prior to that, we did not say, 'band shell'.

Supervisor Nabinger apologized to Ms. Rivera, but the band shell is officially closed and there's no other discussion.

Councilwoman Sienko brought up the discussion the town board had at the June meeting, and we agreed to let the Yoga instructor use the lawn.

Councilman Evans wanted it noted that we are having this meeting, because of a crisis due to the pandemic, and we have some personnel issues that need to be discussed in executive session.

Park Superintendent Richman asked if it was okay for Ms. Rivera dance studio to use the grass to dance in.

Supervisor Nabinger said Ms. Rivera is right and that it's an 'open space'. She concluded the town board approved to close the band shell on Tuesday night.

**RESOLUTION #1**

Motion was made Councilwoman Johnson, second by Councilwoman Hromada, to go into executive session with the purpose to discuss personnel issues.

Ayes: Supervisor Nabinger, Councilwoman Hromada, Councilman Evans, Councilwoman Johnson, Councilwoman Sienko; No: none; Motion Carried.

**RESOLUTION #2**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Johnson, second by Councilwoman Hromada,

to come out of executive session.

Ayes: Supervisor Nabinger, Councilwoman Hromada, Councilman Evans, Councilwoman Johnson, Councilwoman Sienko; No: none; Motion Carried.

Councilman Evans brought up a conversation he had with insurance agent, JR Bogert, regarding who needs to provide a certificate of insurance. He said anyone having a wedding or a graduation party, and typically this insurance is part of their homeowner's insurance, as well as any organized event like the dance recital, the summer concert series, and the baseball leagues.

Councilwoman Johnson proposed that the people using the ball fields come to the August 18th meeting with a COVID-19 plan of safety and proof of insurance.

Councilwoman Sienko said the Governor approved youth sports, said nothing about school sports and commented on the allowed number of family members per child. She said things are slowly starting to open up.

Supervisor Nabinger stated that whoever is running this 'rogue' league needs to come to our next meeting and provide proof of insurance and safety plan.

The town board held a conversation on these leagues wanting to use the ball fields and agreed that no league is allowed to use the ball fields until we have their proof of insurance and safety plan.

Councilwoman Johnson brought up making a statement that the town board had made a decision to not support any organized events at the park. Johnson stated she wants it known, that for her, it was educated decision based on fact that we do not have proper information to make informed, educated decisions.

The town board discussed at length whether to put up signs, and what we should say to people about using the park. They decided that we will not schedule any organized group events at the band shell or pavilions for July or August.

The town board made decision to have Town Clerk McKown tell anyone who calls asking about the use of the park to call Councilwoman Sienko for the next couple of months, as it's not his or Deputy Clerk Cooper's responsibility.

Councilwoman Sienko will explain to anyone wanting to plan an event that they'll need to provide their name and information. She will also invite them to the next meeting, and have them plan to address COVID concerns and provide their certificate of insurance.

Town Clerk McKown will need to make sure the town has certificates of insurance for the Grace Christian Church and for all ball teams to have insurance that covers all scheduled tournaments. In addition, no ball teams will be allowed on the ball fields until we have safety plans for addressing COVID guidelines during regular games and tournaments.

The town board instructed Park Superintendent Richman to put up a check list sign for when the bathrooms at Clinton Park are cleaned, as well as signs stating masks must be worn when entering the bathrooms. Signs should also be posted around the Clinton Park, all playgrounds and pavilion at Payne Park, to remind people to follow safety protocols.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:10PM

Respectively Submitted,

Aric McKown

Town Clerk