

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CONTRACTS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013
SPECIAL MEETING
5:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Co-chair Marella, Council members: Paoletto, Brannelly, Brantley

OTHER(s): Council President McCarthy, Council member Banta

CITY STAFF: M. Anastasi, City Attorney; S. Hladun, Parks & Recreation
R. Weiner, Benefits Manager

Co-chair Marella called the meeting to order at 5:55 pm.

Approval of Committee Minutes of August 5, 2013 (Special Meeting).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Approval of Committee Minutes of August 9, 2013

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

12-12 Proposed Approval of a Consultant for the Bridgeport Public Library Facilities Master Planning Services.

Tom Errichetti, Treasurer Library and Scott Hughes, Executive Director was present to discuss this item.

Mr. Errichetti stated that the contract is to devise a facilities master plan study for the next twenty to twenty-five years. The purpose is to find out what library services will look like and how best to deliver those services on the east end of Bridgeport. The contract is between Antonazzi & Associates and they will hire two additional consultants. The contract was drafted by Associate City Attorney Pacacha and per City Attorney Anastasi it has been approved.

Mr. Errichetti reviewed the costs as they were outlined, \$90,500 fee not to exceed 10% and an out of pocket cost of \$13,500 for a total of \$114k.

Council member Paoletto asked if this approval was a continuation of the item. Mr. Errichetti said yes. He explained that they went back and obtained a lower cost bidder. City Attorney Anastasi added that this fee was dramatically lower at a reduced price. Mr. Errichetti agreed.

Council member Paoletto recalled that Co-chair Marella wasn't the co-chair at the time of the initial contract. He commented that he was glad they came back with a lower cost.

Council member Brantley asked about the building where the Newfield Library is located. Mr. Errichetti said he wasn't sure about the plans for that building.

Council member Brantley asked how they would go about getting community input. Mr. Errichetti said there will be meetings with the community to assess the direction of where library services are going. He said it will be important for the consultant to feel out the community's needs and gear the services toward their input.

Council President McCarthy stated that he was part of the original discussion and he was supportive of the planning process. He commented that there are underserved areas in the city and he thought a better result has been accomplished by the lower bid.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

132-12 Proposed Service Agreement with Pro-Act, Inc to provide a free discount Prescription Card to Residents of Bridgeport.

Richard Weiner, Benefits Manager; Gina Collabro and Jim Finley were present to discuss the item.

Mr. Weiner reviewed the contract details. He stated that Pro-Act will obtain a listing of all Bridgeport residents at their expense and mail a card to them. The discount could be between 24% and 45% and can potentially be used for vision, hearing aids and lasik surgery. The discount card will be primarily for people without prescription coverage. There is no cost to the city and the expenses will be absorbed by Pro-Act and participating pharmacies. He noted that all the pharmacies in Bridgeport have agreed to participate as follows; Wal-Greens, Hancock Pharmacy, CVS, Rite-Aid and Stop & Shop Pharmacy. He relayed that the program has received a lot of favorable press in Danbury.

Council member Brantley asked how the program will impact the Obama Care Plan. Ms. Collabro stated that the impact will be the ability to gain discounts on prescriptions. It was clarified that the program is for uninsured persons with no prescription coverage, although they may have medical coverage. It was noted that the average savings has equated to approximately 85% in Connecticut. It was further explained that even if a person has insurance, but all their medications aren't covered, they can take the discount card into the pharmacy and ask the pharmacist where they can get a lower cost.

Mr. Weiner stated that there are (103) municipalities involved in the program and the contract is for one year; however, if they decided to terminate the contract, then a penalty will apply.

Council member Brannelly asked if the discount covers the deductible, but not the co-pay. Ms. Collabro responded that it doesn't count towards the deductible, because it's not an insurance card, it's only a discount card. It was also stated that the card can be

used for pet prescriptions. And the discount can be used for up to 20% off on eyeglass lens and frames for vision services at locations such as Lens Crafter.

Mr. Weiner clarified that there is no age limit or income level and no forms to fill out for residents; the card can be used immediately when it's received.

Council member Brannelly asked if CCM will do the actual mailing. Ms. Collabro stated that posters will be supplied for posting at designated locations to advertise the program –*she showed a sample of the card that will be mailed*, noting that one(1) card will be used for an entire family. She added that they can also print a card from the website. A flyer has been created for the municipality that outlines the benefits and a list of pharmacies will also be provided. She mentioned that the card can be used throughout the country. She further noted that the progress of the program will be updated every six months and reported via a press release.

Council member Stafstrom asked what the purpose was of the city being the signatory to the program. Mr. Weiner replied that the city is only endorsing the program on the basis of the “city name”.

Council member Stafstrom said his only concern was that Pro-Act is an out of state firm located in Syracuse. He suggested amending the contract to add the wording below if there is a dispute between Pro-Act and the City of Bridgeport that “any lawsuit arising hereunder shall be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction; within the State of Connecticut”.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADD THE WORDING UNDER SECTION 8.3 CHOICE OF LAW TO READ “any lawsuit arising hereunder shall be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction; within the State of Connecticut”.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

Council member Brantley asked if Pro-Act was a medical company. Mr. Weiner said the company has been doing prescription based employee programs for years and they were approached to do something for residents. He noted that New Jersey was the first state to offer the program and then Connecticut.

Council member Brantley asked if they could consider making the program available to the Department of Children and Family agencies in the state. Mr. Finley said they could reach out to state agencies as another way to market the program.

City Attorney Anastasi stated that they need to agree that Pro-Act will be the exclusive provider during the term of the contract. He asked about the insurance provision that stands by indemnification. Ms. Collabro said she could provide that information. City Attorney Anastasi clarified that they want to ensure that the city is fully protected by the insurance provision. He recommended that the committee approve the item ***subject to the amendment that was made and subject to providing evidence of the insurance provision that should be submitted to the city council prior to the full city council vote.***

Upon further discussion, there was a recommendation to table the item for the purpose of providing the information outlined above.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO TABLE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN
OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO)**

134-12 Proposed Resolution regarding a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Bridgeport and the City of Bridgeport and its Board of Park Commissioners pertaining to Softball Field Diamond #2 at Seaside Park.

George Estrada and Steve Hladen presented this item. Mr. Hladen stated that the resolution was a great opportunity for the parks department to look at the fields in Seaside Park and partnership with the University of Bridgeport to improve a field that hasn't been utilized for quite a while. The plan is to offer the facility to UB and they will work together to develop a premier facility for high school uses and softball teams. The Board of Park Commissioners voted unanimously to dedicate the resources to improve the park and have UB offer their resources to improve the field.

Mr. Estrada stated that the field has been abandoned for a long time and through partnership, the city did the work with in-kind personnel and surpassed \$75k in improvement costs. He mentioned that all the little leagues unanimously endorse the project and also the high schools who are partnering with the softball teams. He stated that the Parks & Recreation Department will invest to develop the field

and they are only asking for preferential scheduling for the months before the high school season begins during March and April and possibly the beginning of May. He pointed out that the time won't obstruct the time that the university will utilize the field.

Council member Brannelly asked about the language outlined in the contract regarding the Seaside Park fund "as not yet determined fund". She questioned what the intent of the language was. Mr. Hladen replied that the Board of Parks Commission approved the allocation from the parks development fund not to exceed \$50k and most of the amount went towards other aspects of the project. The remainder of the cost will come from the capital fund that has been allocated to help offset the additional costs above and beyond the \$50k.

Mr. Estrada relayed that both sides made a significant investment and it will be a university home field. He said they will always have a dedication to the field to help maintain it and they already engaged a firm to maintain fertilization and maintenance, since it will be heavily used for the softball league and for other sports. He clarified that diamond(2) is located to the left of the statue at Seaside Park per Council member Brannelly's question.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANELLY MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
***Consent calendar**

144-12 Proposed Amendment to City of Bridgeport's Title VI Policy.

City Attorney Anastasi stated this item involved a technical amendment that was reported back by the government, which required modest changes primarily under Section Exhibit-A on page 10-Appendix-A. He explained that they eliminated an overreach and provided one uniform complaint form related to employment –*as read*. He referred to the complaint form on page-12 that listed the detailed process and on page 13 and 14 where it outlines the expanded complaint form relative to race, color and creed. They also added other pertinent information related to the filing date. Overall, the changes involved clean up work and there were no substantive changes, noting the changes were exclusively for city employees. He clarified that Title VI allows the public to complain about discrimination based on race, color or orientation.

Council member Brannelly asked if the changes will bring the city into compliance. City Attorney Anastasi said yes; it was signed off by the Mayor, Janet Finch and it has been submitted to the appropriate federal government agency

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

ADJOURNED

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services