

**SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION
ACKNOWLEDGING THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE TRANSFORMATION OF CZESCIK MARINA PARK BY
KATHLEEN MATHEWS AND GREG O'NEILL**

WHEREAS, Kathleen Mathews and Greg O'Neill have spent over a decade leading a small band of volunteers at Czescik Marina Park, and their efforts have resulted in one of the gems of Stamford; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Mathews and Greg O'Neill have focused their efforts on restoring the park infrastructure, cleaning the park land of years of debris, restoring a gazebo, developing new pollinator gardens and cleaning the large, garbage laden estuary; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2011, Kathleen Mathews had the long-term vision to return Czescik Park to a neighborhood place of welcome and safety, and began by organizing volunteers and coordinating with the City to repair and repaint the gazebo and install a copper weather vane on the gazebo roof; transforming the entire space from a neglected eyesore to a safe and peaceful place for the neighborhood to enjoy; and continued to upgrade Czescik Park, working to install an 80 foot butterfly/pollinator garden surrounding the gazebo, a protective deer fence, a large "fountain planter," and 2 large cement urns on the path leading to the stone seating area overlooking the estuary; and

WHEREAS, Greg O'Neill has remained steadfast for the last 10 plus years in his clean-up and maintenance of the estuary, so that, through weekly estuary cleanups and ongoing annual cleanups, he and the volunteers have gathered tons of trash, debris and plastic from the estuary; and has created a program to help eradicate the fields of invasive phragmites in the estuary, and promote the growth of native grasses and plants to take their place; thus encouraging the return of snowy egrets, great blue herons, swans, various species of ducks along with the proliferation of various species of birds and small marine life and fish; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Mathews and Greg O'Neill have initiated numerous improvements at Czescik Park, including the repair, power washing, staining, and painting of 1000 feet of fencing and 8 park benches; the design and installation of a new 150 foot garden surrounding the Czescik Park Bronze Dedication Plaque and Stone, featuring native plants as well as plants that thrive in a seaside environment; and the installation of a new garden dedicated to shade loving plants and ferns, many of which have been funded by Kathleen Mathews personally, and

WHEREAS, Greg O'Neill and Kathleen Mathews along with the Czescik Park volunteers, the Operations Department and the Parks Department, including Kevin Murray, Paul Longo, Ronald Markey and their respective teams, have formed a complimentary partnership which over the years has resulted in a true commitment to initiate new ideas and maintain the park in pristine condition; and have made this "city/citizen partnership" truly work effectively for the benefit of the neighborhood and the City of Stamford.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 31st Board of Representatives thanks Kathleen Mathews and Greg O'Neill for their many hours of volunteer service at Czescik Marina Park for the benefit of the City of Stamford and all of its residents.

*Approved by the 31st Board of Representatives
This 3rd day of June, 2024*

Jeff Curtis, President

Megan Cottrell, Clerk