

JOEL RAPHAEL ARCHITECTURE PC

A R C H I T E C T S

95 ELM ST HARTFORD, CT 06106

March 31, 2016

Re: PROJECT SUMMARY

BUSHNELL PARK CAROUSEL ADDITION REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS

The Bushnell Park Carousel is a vintage 1914 hand carved carousel originally housed in a 24 sided pavilion built in the 1970.s by well known Architect Jack Dollard. In 2014- 2015, the Coity of Hartford, Dept. of Public Works supported by the Bushnell Park Foundation endeavored to repair, insulate, heat and refinish the original building and add an addition composed of building entry, lobby, concession desk, public bathrooms and “Function Room” for parties, meetings and affairs. DPW engaged Architect Joel Raphael (95 Elm Street, Hartford). To provide design services and Capital Restoration Inc as General Contractors.

The Design of the renovation and addition utilizes, and attempts to enhance the “Victorian” stylized elements of the original Dollard design.

The 12 sided Function Room structure is a similar Pavilion structure (to the existing building) composed of an elegant heavy timber tension ring/compression ring design by Ciance Engineering, Inc.. This smaller polygon is composed of 12 sides and is 32’ in diameter with a maximum height at its peak of 24 feet (as opposed to the 24 sided original building which is 80 feet in diameter and over 44 feet high. The exterior of the Function Room Pavilion will be finished to match the original Carousel building including large 6 foot roof overhang, trim, siding and use of the large decorative ‘Victorian’ roof brackets that appear to support the roof. These oversized roof brackets that adorn the original building were painted a bright, festive color and form a landmark signature to the building. Work also included repair of the original 16’ diameter skylight, new roofing, insulation (while not changing the original interior or exterior aesthetic) and addition of heating system.

The Function Room is connected to the existing structure with a one story construction that houses the Entry, entry lobby, Concession desk, male and female accessible toilet facilities, small mechanical space and janitor closet. The Entry lobby ceiling silhouette is composed of two (of the original Architect) Jack Dollard’s decorative roof brackets combined and is reminiscent of a decorated Victorian gable. Interior finishes are stained natural wood, similar to the existing building. The addition is heated and air conditioned.

The experience of approaching and entering the Carousel was designed to be fun and exciting: reminiscent of a festive carnival experience appropriate for a Carousel. Adults and children alike will enter the site thru a carnival arch familiar to a historic Carousel and walk between the original larger round Carousel pavilion and the smaller Function Room round Pavilion. Architect Joel Raphael: *“I wanted the two round Pavilions to feel like they are spinning”*. Once in the lobby, one sees directly ahead the arch opening of the concession desk with beautiful classic Carnival graphics above. To one side the spinning lights of the Carousel are visible. To the other side is the light and sound of the round Function Room. Everything is designed to reinforces Jack Dollard’s original intent which was to enhance the symbolic meaning Carousels have had in history around the world. Jack’s friend, artist Whitey Jenkins told me “Jack would be smiling”. Our Carousel proudly bears the name “City of Hartford Bushnell Park Carousel”.

Joel Raphael, AIA