

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
Minutes of the April 22, 2015 Regular Meeting**

**DRAFT**

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A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on April 22, 2015, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Operations Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

**In attendance were:**

Commissioners: Joe Andreana  
Dave Winston  
Lyda Ruijter  
Althea Brown  
Beth Cooper

Staff: Laurie Albano  
Kevin Murray

Guests: Ludwin Godoy – Evangelistic Campaign  
Othniel Dafinice – Light & Life Evangelical Crusade  
Bethanie Derisine – Light & Life Evangelical Crusade  
D. Smith – Butterfly Legacy Garden  
Lisa Coggins – Butterfly Legacy Garden  
Amanda Mareno – Butterfly Legacy Garden  
David Michel – Butterfly Legacy Garden  
Kieran Ryan – City Representative/Butterfly Legacy Garden  
Jane Waugh – Butterfly Legacy Garden

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Joe Andreana, Chair.

Mrs. Cooper will be a few minutes late.

### **Review of the March 18, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

### **Special Events**

**Ludwin Godoy – Iglesia de Dios el Tabernaculo Real – Use of Jackie Robinson Park for Evangelistic Campaign – Saturday, May 30, 2015 to Sunday, May 31, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 12:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 10:00 p.m. – 400 Adults and 100 Children.**

- The Community Church of Real Tabernacle is located at 795 Atlantic Street.
- Requesting only one day, Saturday, May, 2015, not two days as previously requested in the original application.
- No amplified music is allowed. If amplified music is used and there are complaints from the neighbors, the Commission will not issue a permit in the future.
- Tent needs to be inspected by the Building Inspector and it can be set up the Friday before.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve request from Iglesia de Dios el Tabernaculo Real for use of Jackie Robinson Park for Evangelistic Campaign on Saturday, May 30, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

**Arthur Lauture – Light and Life Association – Use of Jackie Robinson Park for Evangelical Crusade – Sunday, August 30, 2015 to Sunday, September 6, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts on Saturday, August 29, 2015 and Clean-Up Ends on Monday, September 7, 2015 – 500 Adults and 200 Children.**

- Mr. Winton stated that every year for the last four years he has had to explain to this organization that the tent is only allowed to be up for seven days. The reason for this is to protect the grass.

- The tent has to go up on a Friday so it can be inspected by the Building Inspector, which gives them an entire weekend. If the tent is not removed until the following Monday that means that the tent is up for 10 days.
- Mr. Andreana explained that in the past the Commission has received numerous complaints regarding this event. Last year the Commission received complaints that the music was blasted past 11:00 p.m., when the organizers were asked to tone it down, they never did. If a Permit is issued for the Revival this year and there are any complaints, this will be the last time Light and Life Association will get a Permit for any of the parks in the City of Stamford.
- Mr. Andreana suggested that they can duplicate the dates from last year, where they were permitted from Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup> (taking down the tent on September 2<sup>nd</sup>). They will have to come back to the Commission with a revised application; event must end at 10:00 p.m. They will not have amplified music or music that is disturbing to the neighborhood.
- Mr. Winston stated that they cannot be at the park for two weekends.
- Representative Gloria DePina stated that she received a lot of complaints from the neighbors about the noise. The neighbors are not against the event, but they need to understand there a lot of people that have small children and would like to be able to go to sleep and the loud music disturbs them. Another issue is the parking.
- **Mrs. Cooper arrived at 7:12 p.m.**
- No decision was made; a revised application has to be submitted. The Commission suggested that they can set-up on a Monday, Tuesday will be the first day and finish on Sunday, the take down on the following Monday.

## **Old Business**

### **Kevin Murray – Cummings/Soundview Gate Schedule.**

- Mr. Murray explained an alternative plan. Tentatively during the off season there is a Parks Police Officer on duty approximately at 10:00 a.m., which does not serve our purpose, but Mr. Murray can move his schedule to accommodate the off season gates. This is an option to think about or we can go into other alternative plans as well.
- Other possibilities are: the Police Department, the Friends Groups or to pay the overtime.

## **Laurie Albano – Report on Basketball Program – Stamford Peace and Tom Pia.**

- For the Winter House League:
  - Stamford Peace – Boys Basketball (elementary through middle school house league).
  - Stamford Youngtimers Girls Basketball League – Girls Basketball (elementary through 9<sup>th</sup> grade).
  - Tom Pia – Boys High School Basketball House League.
  
- For the Winter Travel League:
  - Stamford Peace – most likely travel teams in the same category as their house league ages.
  - Stamford Youngtimers Girls Basketball League – 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls teams that play in the FCBL.
  - Tom Pia – none.
  
- Spring:
  - Stamford Peace – AAU for boys and girls all grades.
  - Stamford Youngtimers Girls Basketball League – none.
  - Tom Pia – none.

## **Beth Cooper – Enforcement Issues in Parks.**

- Mrs. Cooper discussed concerns about enforcement in the parks. Mrs. Cooper feels that the Parks Department needs to partner with the Police Department to try to solve this issue.
  
- Representative Kieran Ryan, member of the Board of Representatives Parks & Recreation Committee agreed that it would be a good idea for the Commission to meet with the Board of Representatives Parks & Recreation Committee to discuss this issue and try to come up with a solution to the problem. Representative Ryan will try to set up the meeting for May. Police should be invited to the meeting as well.
  
- Ms. Albano spoke with Assistant Chief Matheny and he told Ms. Albano that this year he was planning on assigning a Beach Officer on the weekends to patrol the beach parks. He is going to contact Ms. Albano with more information.
  
- To prepare for the upcoming meeting, Mrs. Copper asked Ms. Albano and Mr. Murray to write down a list of enforcement issues.

## **New Business**

### **Lisa Coggins – Friends of Cummings, West and Czescik – Presentation of Plans for the Design and Installation of a Butterfly Legacy Garden at Czescik Park.**

- Ms. Lisa Coggins stated that Friends of Cummings, West and Czescik has a Board of Directors, Bylaws and are in the process of becoming a non-profit, they are all volunteers.
- Friends of Cummings, West and Czescik wants to give back to the community and to nature. Part of their mission is to protect and preserve Cummings, West and Czescik; they would like to do this through educational and community interactive experiences.
- Ms. Coggins stated that they would like to propose to install a Butterfly Garden around the existing gazebo in Czescik Park.
- Work Schedule:
  - Phase I: Bed Preparation
  - Phase II: Plant Purchase
  - Phase III: Planting
  - Phase IV: Top dressing garden with mulch
- Time Line: May 2<sup>nd</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Phase I: May 2<sup>nd</sup> – May 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Phase II: May 13<sup>th</sup> – May 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Phase III: May 18<sup>th</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Phase IV: Immediately there after
- Perennial Plants:
  - Large Grasses (to be determined)
  - Blue Fescue Grass
  - Coreopsis
  - Daisy (gloriana)
  - Russian Sage
  - Cornflower (Echinacea)
  - Black-eyed Susan Daisy.
- Annual Plants:
  - Marigolds
  - Zinnias
  - Mexican Sunflowers

- Tithonia
  - Snap dragons
  - Aster
- Materials:
- Organic top soil, peat moss, organic fertilizer, perlite and mulch
- Friends of Cummings will take the responsibility of maintaining the garden. Mr. Andreana stated that the Parks Department cannot dedicate park employees to maintain this garden because it will only take away from the other areas of the parks that have to be done.
- Ms. Coggins stated that the Friends of Cummings met with Mr. Murray, Ron D'Amico and other staff to talk about in the future taking over other areas that they maintain.
- A Brownie group will be involved in this project.
- The proposed Butterfly Garden will be 4 ½ feet wide surrounding the gazebo in a circular pattern.
- Friends of Cummings has a volunteer carpenter who has made a list of materials and itemized everything that needs to be done to the gazebo. The carpenter has volunteered to do the work, but there is already a work order in place for the repairs on the gazebo. Friends of Cummings will assist with staining the gazebo.
- Mrs. Cooper stated that the Commission wants to be friends and have a good relationship with Friends of Cummings. Friends of Cummings should address any questions or concerns to Mr. Murray, Ms. Albano or one of the Commissioners.

There are some comments on social media that Mrs. Cooper does not appreciate and she thinks it's inappropriate. Mrs. Cooper wants to open the door for conversations and to create a dialog and a partnership between the Commission and Friends of Cummings.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Laurie Albano – Recreation.**

- All summer camps are about 90% full.

- Busy planning /hiring all seasonal staff – Counselors, Lifeguards, Para Educators and Tram.
- Adult Softball has begun (170 teams), there will be a Beach Volleyball meeting tonight (80+ teams).
- Adult Kickball League starts next week.
- Planning for a late June opening of Heroy Pool. Camp and general public use.
- There were NO cuts for Recreation or Terry Conners from the Board of Finance.
- Working with all the spring/summer field users, allocating permits from sanctioned users, still gathering paperwork.
- There will a Beach Stamford Police Officer this year, more details will be determined. Mr. Andreana requested that Scalzi Park be added.
- 3 Bids were received for Fireworks; the Bids went from \$42,000 to \$80,000. There will be a meeting on Thursday morning.
- The final Public Hearing for Cummings/West Beach Master Plan will take place on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Stamford Government Center, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor – 6:30 p.m.
- Concussion Policy Issue – The current State Law has a Concussion Policy that Public High School athletes have to abide by. There is a group called Pink Concussion that is a very strong advocate, started by women in New Canaan whose children had concussions from playing sports. They want to take that State Law and expand it into municipalities. There is a list of provisions that they are recommending. The Recreation Department will be policing authority to make sure that the organizations are training coaches, every time there is an injury they will have to submit a report and the Recreation Department will have to make sure that player does not play again. This has been sent to our Legal Department for their information at this point. Should Stamford be requested to abide by such extended policy Ms. Albano will keep the Commission posted.
- Working with the Legal Department on staff manual language for injuries.
- July is national Recreation & Parks Month – more details to follow on events to celebrate it.
- Ms. Albano will attend a Parks & Recreation Committee meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss fee increases.
- Federal Hockey League made a proposal through Economic Development Director to use Terry Conners Rink. In their proposal, they requested permission to sell

alcohol, merchandise, they want a cut of the food concession and some Youth Hockey programs will have to be displaced. A decision will be made with Director Orgera when he returns from vacation.

- Recreation Department has a new Recreation Van.
- Ms. Albano submitted Revenue Reports for Recreation and Terry Conners Rink.
- Mr. Andreana asked that Margarita Arenas contact all of the Friends Groups to submit their Bylaws and invite them to come during June, July and August to present what they have done in the last two years, what their plans are for the next year and if there are any issues they would like to address.
- Results of the Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Meeting on April 13, 2015:

### **Consent Agenda**

David Winston – Request for Cove Island Wild Life Sanctuary Volunteer Parking Passes.

#### **Approved**

David Winston – Cove Island Park Conservancy – GE/KT Murphy School – E-Pals – Planting Event at Cove Island Park/Kids Garden in Playground Area – Friday, May 29, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:00 p.m. – 200 Adults and 200 Children.

#### **Approved**

Nikhil Jain and Sahul Sharma – Stamford Cricket Club – Use of Lione Park for Annual Charity Cricket Tournament – Saturday, July 11, 2015 to Sunday July 12, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

#### **Approved**

### **Special Events**

Lauture Arthur – Light and Life Association – Use of Jackie Robinson Park for Evangelical Crusade – Sunday, August 30, 2015 to Sunday, September 6, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts on Saturday, August 29, 2015 and Clean-Up Ends on Monday, September 7, 2015 – 500 Adults and 200 Children.

#### **Denied – Referred to Parks & Recreation Commission**

Alex Karman – Western Connecticut Council of Governments – Use of Veterans' Park for Bike to Work Day – Friday, May 15, 2015 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 9:30 a.m. – 50 Adults.

**Approved**

Kristen Tomaszewicz – Kids in Crisis – Use of Latham Park – Pinwheels for Prevention – Plant 1,864 Small Pinwheels in Latham Park in Recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month – Sunday, April 19, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 12:30 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:15 p.m. – 3 Adults and 20 Children.

**Approved with the condition that Pinwheels are removed by April 25, 2014**

Sister Teresa McCullen – United House of Prayer for All People – Use of Lione Park for Service Day – Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 12:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. – 150 Attendees.

**Denied – Park being used by Cricket League from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15p.m.**

David Langston – Saint Joseph Parenting Center – Use of Czescik Park – Parking Lot Between Harbor Drive and Shippan Avenue for The Newsboy Ride – Sunday, June 14, 2015 from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. – Set-Up Starts at 6:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:00 p.m. – 100 Adults and 100 Children.

**Denied**

Steven Rosati and Jackie Wetenhall – Stamford Family YMCA and D.S.S.D. – Use of Latham Park – Y Without Walls: Zumba and Yoga in the Park/Wellness in the Park Summer Series – Saturday, June 20, 2015 to Saturday, July 25, 2015 (SATURDAY'S ONLY) from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:15 p.m. – 40 Adults and 10 Children.

**Approved**

Shanon Kessler – Friendship Circle of Connecticut – Use of Scalzi Park – End of Year Family Field Day – Tuesday, May 19, 2015 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 3:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 7:00 p.m. – 40 Adults and 20 Children.

**Approved without generator and must be at open picnic area**

Ionel Naghi – Use of Goodbody Garden at Fort Stamford – Wedding Ceremony – Saturday, May 23, 2015 from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 3:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 4:30 p.m. – 16 Adults and 2 Children.

**Approved**

Ludwin Godoy – Iglesia de Dios el Tabernaculo Real – Use of Jackie Robinson Park for Evangelistic Campaign – Saturday, May 30, 2015 to Sunday, May 31, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 12:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 10:00 p.m. – 400 Adults and 100 Children.

### **Denied – Referred to Parks & Recreation Commission**

Kishore Pendyala – Use of Cove Island Park – 5K Run in Memory of Kiran Pendyala – Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 1:00 p.m. – 60 Adults and 15 Children.

### **Denied**

Jennifer Ziegler – Girl Scout Troop 50705 – Stamford Animal Shelter Fund Raiser – Dog Park – Permission to Sell Bagged Up Dog Biscuits to Benefit Stamford Animal Shelter – Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – 2 Adults and 7 Children.

### **Approved**

### **Tournaments**

John Kuczo – Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference – Use Troy Field – Softball Tournament FCIAC Championship – Tuesday, May 26, 2015 to Thursday, May 28, 2015 – Tuesday, May 26, 2015 and Wednesday, May 27, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – Thursday, May 28, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### **Denied**

### **Kevin Murray – Parks.**

- **Cummings Gates** – Park Police Officers can be scheduled to open Gates on Saturday/Sunday during the off season at 7:30 a.m. if needed.
- **Lione Park Parking Lot Lighting & Sidewalk Lighting** – Mr. Murray provided the Commission with a written report on Lione Park parking lot and sidewalk lighting.
- **Archstone Property** – It is currently a staging area, it will be the last phase of the Mill River Project to be done. For the record, Mr. Andreana stated that the Commission objects to the fact that the park is being treated as a parking lot.
- **Arbor Day** – Columbus Park, 15 new trees planted; Ceremony Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.
- **Cummings/West Master Plan** – Meeting is set for Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. – Government Center Café.

- **Cubeta Lights** – Supply and install 6 new 1500 watt light fixtures, supply and install 17 lamps and 4 new panels. Al Barbarotta helped facilitate a five year lease that will get signed soon.
- **Dorothy Heroy Update** – Mr. Murray provided the Commission with a written report on the State visit/observation.
- **Citywide Playground** – Obtaining 18 City Playground inspection reports from Innovative Playground Services and will schedule repairs as needed. Met with Representative DiCostanzo, Stark School administration engineers and Parks foreman to come up with a plan regarding safety concerns on Northrop Park playground adjacent to Stark School.

Mr. Andreana asked Mr. Murray to contact Paul Grillo from Sterling Farms and to give him information on what needs to be done to have their playground inspected.

Mr. Andreana stated that the City of Stamford should have established standards for the installation of playgrounds. Mr. Andreana asked Mr. Murray to check with the Engineering Department to see if these standards already exist.

- **Phase 3 Seasonal Employees** – Seven additional hires are set for start date April 27<sup>th</sup>, this will bring our seasonal number up to 24 employees for the Park season. Phase 4 will be middle of May and final phase end of May early June. Total 32 to 34 employees under Parks and Facilities.
- **Veterans Memorial Park Meeting** – Presentation of 4 options with discussion, details to follow next month.
- Mr. Murray submitted paperwork on Board of Finance budget cuts and also the impact on the department. There was a \$30,000 budget cut for Parks Maintenance, which will result on the removal of all port-a-johns in City parks.

## **Discussion**

### **Vision of Parks Though 2035.**

- Tabled to the May 2015 Commission Meeting.
- Mr. Winston will Chair the discussions on Policy and Procedures for the months of May and June.

## **Correspondence**

### **E-Mail Regarding Freedom of Information Training.**

- Mr. Andreana strongly suggests that Commissioners attend the Freedom of Information Training.

**The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 20, 2015.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Ruijter

Seconded by Mr. Winston

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Margarita Arenas  
May 4, 2015