

Special Events

Sondra Durant – Waterside Coalition, Inc. – Diversity Fest V – John Boccuzzi Park – Saturday, August 29, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 7:00 p.m. – Rain Date Sunday, August 30, 2015 – 150 Adults and 150 Children.

- Date of the event has been changed to Saturday, September 19, 2015 and rain date of Sunday, September 20, 2015.

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to approve Diversity Fest V with a new date of Saturday, September 19, 2015 and rain date of Sunday, September 20, 2015.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

Friends of Cummings, West and Czescik (FCWCP) Presentation.

- Attached to the minutes is the presentation from Friends of Cummings, West and Czescik Parks to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- Mr. Andreana stated that any plans of installing a fence at the gazebo at Czescik Park needs to be discussed with Kevin Murray.
- FCWCP is in the process of getting their 501 (c) (3) status. They are in the process of affiliating to the Federated Garden Club of CT.
- Ms. Kathleen Matthews who retired from GE Capital stated that GE Capital will match any grants she makes. Ms. Matthews has committed almost \$20,000 a year of her own personal money to projects for the City of Stamford.
- Ms. Brown would like FCWCP to reach out to the community and let the community know what they are doing.
- Ms. Ruijter suggested that FCWCP should have more active members.
- Ms. Ruijter stated that ideally we would like the City to have comprehensive park system, that all the neighborhoods are connected via the parks, where the parks could be the anchors for neighborhoods connections and revitalization.

- Mr. Winston would like the Friends Groups and the Commission to be on the same page.

Friends of Cove Neighborhood Association Presentation.

- Attached to the minutes is the presentation from Friends of Cove Neighborhood Association.

Friends of Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary Presentation.

- Attached to the minutes is the presentation from Friends of Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary.

Officer Frank Green – Discussion of Park Security, Safety and Enforcement.

- Officer Frank Green stated that the Parks Police take pride in what they do. They are very vigilant in enforcing all the City Ordinances that the Commission has approved for our parks.
- Officer Green stated that the Parks Police is understaffed. At one time there were more than 25 Park Police Officers; currently there are only 3 Parks Police Officers on staff.
- Officer Green discussed his concerns with the Commission, including drinking in the parks.
- Citations and infraction tickets are giving out to people who do not follow the City Ordinance/Park Rules regarding drinking in the parks.
- Officer Green stated that last night (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.) SoundWaters had their Board Meeting in Cove Island Park/SoundWaters building, there were about 12 to 15 cars that went over the bridge and were parked in front of the building, on the street and alongside the building. Officer Green is concerned and wonders if it is necessary from a safety prospective. Since there is no parking by SoundWaters, cars were parked on the grass. If we want to continue having beautiful parks, cars should not be allowed to park in the grass area. Officer Green is concerned with the safety of people walking in the park.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the Commission does not control allowing people to drive over the bridge; this is a Cashiering and Permitting function.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the Commission will make note of the situation and discuss it with SoundWaters when they come in front of the Commission to do their presentation.

- Officer Green understands that there has been some discussion about having Park Rangers. The parks need more enforcement not just someone to keep an eye on the parks. Officer Green encourages the Commission to try to work with the City to increase the number of Park Security Officers who have enforcement authority.
- Mr. Winston suggested having a meeting at the end of every park season, in which the Stamford Police Department and Parks Police will give the Commission a report of what has been going on, if there are any chronic issues, etc. An invitation will be sent out by the Enforcement Sub-Committee (Commissioner Cooper and Commissioner Brown) to Chief Fontneau asking to present to the Commission at one of their meetings, maybe October or November, issues and enforcement issues in the parks during the past summer.

Althea Brown – Discussion to Determine Whether or Not to Establish Special Meeting with Board of Representatives, Board of Representatives Parks & Recreation Committee to Help Park & Recreation Commission Define Role, Policy and Procedure.

- Ms. Brown stated that during her re-appointment meeting, she was approached by the Board of Representatives Parks & Recreation Committee to ask the Commission if it is feasible to include them to help the Commission in their decision making.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the Commission's role is defined by Charter to set Policy and Procedures and does not need the help of the Board of Representatives in doing this. The Commission establishes the Policies and procedures, then if it requires an Ordinance or funding, then it goes to the Board of Representatives Committee. Commission meetings are open; members of the Board of Representatives are welcome to attend the meetings. The Charter kept it separate for a reason. If there is something the Board of Representatives does not agree with they have the right to turn it down.

Staff Reports

Laurie Albano – Recreation.

- Lifeguards and Tram Drivers begin 7 days a week this Saturday.
- Beaches going well so far/good lifeguard hiring season.
- Buoys and all swim lines are now out.
- Recreation Day Camps begin on June 29th.
- Camp positions filled.

- Fiscal year 14/15 is closed.
- Fireworks set for Thursday, July 2nd, rain date Friday, July 3rd. Mayor's Office sent out press release.
- July is National Recreation and Parks Month events are set and publicized.
- Concussion survey/State law has not changed.
- School building permits meeting/no feedback yet.
- TC Rink going well/summer skate camps filling up.
- TC Rink new doors/frames hopefully by August.
- TC Rink predicted \$50,000 down from last year, may tighten up June 30th, very good considering the rink lost over \$100,000 from Manhattanville leaving.
- Recreation is down about \$8,500/\$8,600 over last year, mostly due to the fact that Recreation lost the ability to host spring and summer registration for swim lessons at Westhill High School. Doing well with the Day Camp registrations.
- Costa/Concession vendor had some Health Code violations at Terry Conners Rink.
- Mr. Winston stated that the Commission should be more active in the lease concessionaires for the parks.
- Recreation Fees on P & R Committee Agenda for June 25th again for Public Hearing.
- TC Rink Fees full menu will be submitted as well.
- Lifeguard duty to respond outside swim lines/legal opinion pending/fence at Cove Pt.
- Recreation will be using new Recreation Management Software.
- Results of the Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Meeting on June 3, 2015:

Consent Agenda

Danette Melchionne – United Way/GE – United Way 5K Walk/Run – Cove Island Park on Thursday, September 24, 2015 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 3:30 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 8:00 p.m. – 150 Adults and 50 Children.

Approved

Special Events

Jon Stellwagen – Half Full Brewer, Inc. – Half Full Brewery Road Race (5K and Festival) Use of Kosciuszko Park – Saturday, June 20, 2015 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 6:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:30 p.m. – 450 Adults and 50 Children.

Approved with the condition that they use the abbreviated route, cannot walk thru the whole park.

Matt MacDonald – The Waterside School – Run for Waterside 5K – Use of Kosciuszko Park – Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. – 500 Adults and 250 Children.

Approved pending approval from the Traffic Advisory Committee and the condition that they use the abbreviated route, cannot walk thru the whole park.

Kari Pollak – Stamford Hospital Foundation – Hope In Motion Walk & Run – Addendum to an Approved Special Events Permit – Use of a 16' x 16' Area for a Small Petting Zoo at Columbus Park – Sunday, June 7, 2015 from 6:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Approved

New Business

Erin McKenna – Approval of DEEP Sign.

Approved

Tournaments

Charles Pia – Stamford Babe Ruth Softball – Troy Field – Babe Ruth Softball Tournament – Wednesday, July 1, 2015 to Thursday July 2, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Approved – Bouncy House approval pending Risk Manager's approval.

Fortunato Daniele – Stamford Italian Soccer Club – Request Permission to Start Over 30 Co-Ed Soccer League on June 15, 2015 at Lione Field from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Approved

Kevin Murray, Parks.

➤ **Mayor Tours Parks:** Visited Cove Island, Cummings and West Beach on May 22nd.

- **Fireworks:** Thursday, July 2nd with a rain date of July 3rd, with City operations/vendor.
- **Scalzi Park Bathrooms:** Officially open, few punch list items that have been addressed by the contractors.
- **Playground Question:** The City does not have a standard specification for Playgrounds. The City follows Federal and State guidelines only currently and follows CPSI protocol/inspections on an annual basis. Most City/States are now looking to have these specifications in place to make sure of quality of product. To get this accomplished City engineers must work with a design consultant to create guidelines to follow.

Letter from Design Consultant:

To follow up, I just looked through our New York State Parks Playground Design Standards booklet that we're currently preparing. In our reference section, we note the following associations/organizations/acts:

CPSC – Consumer Product Safety Commission

CPSIA – Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act

ASTM – American Society for Testing and Materials (not AASHTO as I mentioned on the phone)

IPEMA – International Play Equipment Manufacturer's Association

ADA – The American Disabilities Act

These basically govern the materials properties and accessibility standards for all new playgrounds. However, they don't get into physical, engineered design standards except for critical fall heights. These are often left up to the specific designer/consultant or contractor....unfortunately, allowing things like edging, curbs, surfacing, drainage, etc. to vary from site to site. Clear, concise overall design standards are definitely a great way to ensure that high-quality, durable play areas are being designed and constructed throughout the City. And as I mentioned, many municipalities are moving in this direction.

I think this is a great idea for Stamford. Let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Thanks,
Brian

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- Mr. Murray will pursue the Engineering Department to meet with the Design Consultant to come up with the playground specs.
- **Park Season:** Parks are very active with beach users/athletics and leisure activities.
- **Barrett Park:** The Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF), in partnership with Deloitte/Friends of Barrett Park conducted a park, playground and facility improvement project at Stamford's Barrett Park on Friday, June 5th.
- **Heroy Pool:** Meeting at site on Thursday to go over punch list as pool is set to be open June 20th.
- **Park Capital Updates – Cummings Park, West Beach & Cummings Marina:** The master plan was presented to the public on April 23, 2015. It will be presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission at their July 15th meeting by Stantec staff.
- **Cummings, Cove, and Boccuzzi Park Marinas:** Dredging design, cost estimates, and permitting under way for all 3 marinas.
- **Lione Park:** Grant funding is available to implement the plan for an expanded parking lot and park improvements that has been approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission. City staff and the Boys and Girls Club are in discussion to prepare for final design and construction.
- **McKeithen Park:** The master plan process is almost complete, and we are doing it in partnership with Charter Oak Communities, Family Centers, the local Representatives and neighbors groups. The City of Stamford has been officially offered a community built playground by KaBOOM! Inc. and the funder is the MetLife Foundation. The City is working on the construction of the curbing, drainage, and poured-in-place safety surface in preparation for the Build Day, currently scheduled for August 28th. David Winston attended the 2nd public planning meeting.
- **Veteran's Park:** The master plan was presented to the public last night at the Ferguson Library. Parks & Recreation Commission member David Winston has attended the majority of the stakeholder meetings, and Lyda Ruijter attended the

presentation last night. Veteran's groups were well represented through the process, and in fact there was one design meeting dedicated to getting their input. They are particularly pleased with the result.

Discussion

Vision of Parks Through 2035.

- Tabled to the July 2015 meeting. Ms. Brown will take leading discussions on Vision of the Parks during the months of July and August.
- Mr. Andreana would like to accomplish within the next two months, what is the Commission going to produce, what are the Commission's deliverables and when.

Correspondence

No Correspondence.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 15, 2015.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Winston

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
June 22, 2015