

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the January 16, 2013 Regular Meeting**

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on January 16, 2013, 10th Floor Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Tim McGuinness
 Joe Andreana
 Mike Macari
 David Winston
 Althea Brown

Staff: Laurie Albano

Guests: Susan Delaney – Domestic Violence Crisis Center

 Michael Feighan – St. Patrick’s Day Parade

 Francesca Sikorski – Co-Ed Soccer League

 Fortunato Capomolla – Co-Ed Soccer League

 Fortunato Daniele – Co-Ed Soccer League

 Gale Capomolla – Co-Ed Soccer League

 Sandra Hampson – Co-Ed Soccer League

 Frank Costello – Co-Ed Soccer League

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Joe Andreana.

Ms. Brown arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Review of the December 19, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

YES: Mr. Macari
YES: Mr. Andreana
YES: Mr. Winston
ABSTAINED: Mr. McGuinness

Mr. McGuinness abstained because he did not attend the December 19, 2012 Commission Meeting.

Staff Reports

Laurie Albano – Recreation & Directors Report

- Budgets were due yesterday.
- The Maintenance Management Contract which is currently held by AFB Corporation will be up on August 31, 2013. The specifications are almost done and the contract will be going out to bid and advertised in the paper in early February and the proposals will be due the end of March.
- Beach Restoration – weekly meetings have been held to discuss Hurricane Sandy restoration mostly in the City parks, it is moving pretty well. The City is working very closely with FEMA.

Cummings Park is almost completed. The big concern with Cummings is the Marina, which is almost gone. It does not look like the Marina will be ready in time for the spring season. We are looking at alternative options as best as possible, like putting people into the other Marinas. We have pricing for a new Marina there.

- FEMA is now looking more at a mitigation program. Instead of putting things back the way they were, they now want to put things back with more sustainability.
- Staff has now moved to West Beach. The parking lot has been cleared, screening and moving sand, putting it back at the mean high tideline which is DEEP mandated. Cove Island will be next.
- At Cove Island the storm caused a huge sand bar at the boat channel side of Quigley Beach and it has narrowed the boat channel considerably. Lou Casolo, City Engineer, has been trying to contact the Army Corp and the DEEP to try to find out what needs to be done there, we will probably have an answer by the next Parks Restoration Meeting.
- The Scalzi River Walk Nature Preserve Group has been awarded the Adult Volunteer Group of the Year by the United Way, Ms. Albano nominated them.
- Barrett Park Plan has been approved after much public input and meeting for a walking trail and new entrance. This was approved by the Commission. There is

now a small opposition by two individuals, both whom were part of the original meetings and approval process.

- Erin McKenna is coordinating the Master Planting Plan for Cove Island Park; there will be a meeting on February 8th.
- Still short two people in Recreation, but the good news is that the closing date for the Rec Leader position was January 2, 2013. Putting in a Personnel Action Request to have the Assistant Superintendent of Recreation position filled.
- Ms. Albano received a call from Scott Miller stating that Federal Little League received approval from Little League National to combine Federal Little League and National Leone Little League. They will be attending the February meeting for the Commission's approval to continue to do that and will explain all of the details.
- Manhattanville College will be attending the February Commission meeting to request the use of Terry Conners Ice Rink for their home games.

Mr. McGuinness acknowledged and welcomed Althea Brown as the new Parks and Recreation Commissioner.

Consent Agenda

Roslyn Gilhuly – Cystic Fibrosis Foundation – Use of Cummings Park for Annual Great Stride Walk-a-Thon – Sunday, May 19, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Set-Up will Start at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up will End at 2:00 p.m. – 100 Adults and 75 Children.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Kevin Ziperstein – Traitor Softball Tournament – Use of Cummings 1, 2, 4 & 5 and Kosciuszko Field – Saturday, April 13, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Rain Date Saturday, April 20, 2013.

- The Commission does not issue rain dates. If the requested rain date is available at the time of the tournament they will be able to use it, but the date will not be held for them.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Special Events

Susan Delaney – Domestic Violence Crisis Center – Use of Latham Park for DVCC/One Billion Rising CT (Rally) – Thursday, February 14, 2013 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. – About 75 to 100 Adults.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Michael Feighan – Use of Columbus Park – Staging for St. Patrick’s Day Parade – Saturday, March 9, 2013 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 11:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 1:30 p.m.

- Mr. McGuinness recused himself from this item of the Agenda.
- Mr. Feighan stated that the route of the Parade will be different this year. The Parade this year will start on Main Street at Washington Boulevard. Not sure of his staging needs yet, he can probably stage on Main Street or West Park Place. Columbus Park will not be used for staging, but it will be used for spillover of people if needed.
- They will take care of the clean-up.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

YES: Mr. Macari
YES: Mr. Andreana
YES: Mr. Winston
YES: Ms. Brown
ABSTAINED: Mr. McGuinness

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

Fortunato Capomolla – Request to Create a New Co-Ed Adult Soccer League – Use of Field Four Nights a Week from June through August – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- Mrs. Francesca Sikorski is a 3rd Grade teacher at Stillmeadow Elementary School. Mrs. Sikorski was born and raised in Stamford and would like to start a Co-Ed Adult Soccer League. This will be a Stamford based league with about six teams with 12 to 15 people per team. They will only need the use of one soccer field; they would

prefer to use West Beach field on a week day.

- Mrs. Sikorski stated that in addition to playing in the new league she would like to continue playing in the existing league as well.
- There might be some players from the existing league that would like to play in the new league as well.
- The existing Co-Ed League has 29 teams. Every team is required to have 75% of its roster either work or live in Stamford.
- Mr. McGuinness stated that there is a moratorium on new leagues and suggested that Mrs. Sikorski work something out to integrate this new league with the existing league. Mrs. Sikorski feels that the existing league is too big and would rather have a smaller league; it would be friendlier and more fun.
- Mrs. Sikorski and Mr. Capomolla feel that the existing league is very expensive if you don't have a sponsor. Mr. Frank Costello from the existing Co-Ed League stated that the reason for the cost being higher is that the fees for the school fields have doubled.
- The average player at the existing Co-Ed League paid \$55 for eight games and play-offs last season. Ms. Albano stated that the charges of the existing league is equivalent to what the City charges for an industrial or corporate or even an open Softball Team, the charges are not out of line. Ms. Albano also likes the fact that the existing league use certified officials.
- The existing league is affiliated with the CT State Soccer Association (CSSA). The existing league does not have as many Stamford referees because the CSSA requires State Certified Referees.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the City has a limited number of fields and an excess of teams that want to play on these fields.
- Mr. Macari stated that they need to find common ground, play soccer and use the field that they already have, Mr. McGuinness agrees with Mr. Macari. Ms. Sandra Hampson agreed that they will embrace them staying in the existing league.

Mr. Winston made a motion to deny request to create a new Co-Ed Adult Soccer League.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

YES: Mr. McGuinness
YES: Mr. Andreana
YES: Mr. Winston
YES: Ms. Brown
OPPOSED: Mr. Macari

Ms. Albano introduced Megan Gearhart who was promoted from Recreation Leader to Recreation Supervisor.

Laurie Albano – Parking Fees for Special Events in May and September.

- Ms. Albano stated that Cashiering and Permitting will now charge a flat fee of \$150 for pre-season parking for Special Events.

Laurie Albano – Limiting Parking Hours at Lione Park.

- Ms. Albano stated that Director Orgera would like to limit the parking hours at Lione Park on Monday thru Friday, 2 hour maximum parking from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 4 hour maximum parking from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve the new parking hours at Lione Park.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

Laurie Albano – Budget Discussion.

- Budget was due yesterday.
- The next step is for the Mayor to review the Budget and then it goes to the Board of Representatives and the Board of Finance. We will get a Budget in May that will begin on July 1st.
- Ms. Albano reviewed the Budget with the Commission.
- Ms. Albano explained that the Parks Maintenance and the Facilities Management are combined into one budget. The Commission stated that they would prefer that they are separated to better understand it.
- Ms. Albano stated that she is requesting 2 full time Parks Maintainers and 1 Tree Climber in the new Budget.
- The Maintenance Contract is a three year contract, a year with a two one year options.

Tournaments

No Tournaments.

Correspondence

No Correspondence.

- Mr. Andreana stated that someone complained to him that he had a hard time with the permitting process after being approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission, especially with Cashiering and Permitting. The only person who helped him was Laurie Albano and this why he was able to use the park.
- Mr. Andreana requested that the Commission be provided with a Monthly Report of all complaints that relate to Parks and Recreation that come thru the Citizens' Service Center.
- The Commission asked Ms. Albano to find out from the Law Department if the Parks & Recreation Commission has jurisdiction on Boat Yard relocation to park land on Magee Avenue.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 20, 2013.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Andreana

Seconded by Mr. Winston

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
January 18, 2013