

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the February 19, 2014 Regular Meeting

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A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on February 19, 2014, 10th Floor Operations Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Joe Andreana
 Mike Macari
 David Winston

Staff: Laurie Albano
 Kevin Murray

Guests: Eden Huang – Health Department – Family Day 2014
 Patricia Lamothe – Health Department – Family Day 2014
 Robert Zmarzlak – North Stamford Little League – Patio
 Terry Lockery – North Stamford Little League – Patio
 Frank Wainwright – North Stamford Little League – Patio
 Jerry Pia – Stamford Little League
 Jon Hoch – Stamford Little League
 John Della Jacono – Stamford Little League
 Frank Trotta – Use of Czescik Marina Parking Lot
 Chris Sabia – Stamford Legion Baseball
 Michael Schacter – DOMUS – Stamford Rugby

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Joe Andreana.

Ms. Brown did not attend the meeting.

Mr. Winston made a motion to postpone the election for new Chairman until after the Staff Reports.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Andreana suggested to suspend the rules to allow only Commissioners Winston and Andreana to approve the January 15, 2014 Minutes. They are the only two Commissioners present that attended the January meeting since Commissioner McGuinness is no longer on the Board.

Mr. Macari made a motion to suspend the rules to allow only Commissioners Winston and Andreana to approve the January 15, 2014 Minutes.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve the January 15, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

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

Mr. Macari abstained because he did not attend the January 15, 2014 Commission Meeting.

Staff Reports

Laurie Albano – Recreation

- Ms. Albano distributed to the Commission a Report that gives them at a glance view of who uses the park fields and where.
- The meeting with the Little Leagues will take place on Thursday, February 27, 2014. Ms. Albano will give the Commission an update at the March meeting.
- Spring/summer Brochure is on line. The actual brochures will come from the printer tomorrow or Friday.
- Getting ready for Camp Registrations in March.
- Busy prepping the spring/summer leagues, softball meetings are taking place.
- Ms. Albano stated that the Recreation Department is trying to do a swim series at Cummings Beach this year as a source of revenue. People that participate on triathlons will probably use it as training. They will need the Marine Police and will probably have to talk to the Harbor Commission about it. Ms. Albano believes the

swim series will be very popular and will keep the Commission informed.

- Everything is going well at Terry Conners Rink. They are doing a great job, Ken Smith specifically, who is taking over the Acting Manager role. Ms. Albano will ask Ken Smith to give an update to the Commission probably in April.
- Ms. Albano stated that the Parks & Recreation Committee of the Board of Representatives requested a review of the Ice Rink; the meeting will take place next Thursday night.
- Getting ready for spring/summer.
- Ms. Albano will add a new software operating system for Recreation to the Capital Budget for next year, the current system is very outdated.
- Mr. Macari feels that the Commission can help from a revenue stand point with the fees for Film Permits and use. Mr. Macari would like to meet with Frank Fedeli and Ms. Albano to put together a fee schedule.
- Ms. Albano stated that the fee for One Day Beach Permit for non- residents should be higher. Ms. Andreana asked Ms. Albano to put together a proposal to be discussed at the next meeting.

Kevin Murray – Parks

- Park season will open on April 1st.
- The Parks staff has helped the Highways Department in 19 snow events this season.
- The grass area at Scalzi III will be done in house and also with contract staff. The Engineering Department estimated that the cost will be \$50,000 for a contractor to do the job, now the cost will be cut in half. Start date for the lower field will be mid-May.
- Work at Kosciuszko Park will begin; the funding is in place to safe up the trail. Opening day still uncertain, waiting to get schedule from Lou Casolo. Mr. Murray will update the Commission next month.
- Mr. Murray will have a meeting next week regarding eligibility of funding for dredging in our marinas for State Grants. Mr. Murray will update the Commission next month.
- Still planning to open Cummings A Dock Section, which host 18/20 boats and also have the Marina House open for the second week of April. Belfor Restoration is currently firming up their permit process to do the repair work, remediation already

took place.

- Mr. Murray attended the Harbor Commission meeting last month. Mr. Murray is trying to put together a game plan in regards to putting out all of the wants and needs for the marinas to upgrade; Mr. Murray wants to get on board with the Harbor Commission to hear their wants as well.
- Mr. Murray will be looking into a complaint regarding a safety hazard at Kosciusko Park. The boaters coming in are complaining that they are getting reflection from the ball field lights.
- The Cove Island Rec House will be boarded up this year, and will have to put in a Capital request going forward. The house is unsafe to use and will be demolished. Mr. Winston asked Mr. Murray make sure that the house is not a historic building.
- Project at Barrett Park is on hold due to the weather.

Election of New Parks & Recreation Commission Chair.

Mr. Winston made a motion to vote Joe Andreana as the new Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Andreana asked Ms. Albano and Mr. Murray to present to the commission their reports in bullet points prior to the meetings.

Ms. Albano stated that she can provide the Commission with a monthly Revenue Report from the Rec Programs and the Rink.

Consent Agenda

Monsignor Stephen DiGiovanni – Basilica of St. John the Evangelist – Use of Columbus Park – Corpus Christi Procession – Sunday, June 22, 2014 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 5:00 p.m. – 750 Adults and 250 Children.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Dianne Selditch – SoundWaters – Make a Difference Day – Spring Family Event – Cove Island Park Shore – Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 1:30 p.m. – 20-25 Adults and 30-35 Children.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Dianne Selditch – SoundWaters – Make a Difference Day – Fall Family Event – Cove Island Park Shore – Sunday, October 5, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 1:30 p.m. – 20-25 Adults and 30-35 Children.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Gerard Gasparino – ARI of Connecticut, Inc. – Use of Cove Island Park and Pavilion for 8th Annual Walk for Independence – Sunday, May 4, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:00 p.m. – 75 Adults and 25 Children.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Rich LoRusso – Babe Ruth Baseball – Babe Ruth New England Regional 16-18 Year Olds – Cubeta Stadium – Friday, July 18, 2014 to Thursday, July 24, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Rich LoRusso – Babe Ruth Baseball – Battle at the Border College Showcase – Cubeta Stadium – Friday, June 6, 2014 to Sunday, June 8, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Rich LoRusso – Babe Ruth Baseball – Babe Ruth Jamboree – Cubeta Stadium – Saturday, April 5, 2014 to Sunday, April 6, 2014 and Saturday, April 12, 2014 to Sunday, April 13, 2014.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve weather permitting.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Davette Stephens – Joshua & Tayler Stephens Memorial Fund – Use of Cove Island Park for J & T Memorial Walkathon – Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. – 40 Adults and 20 Children.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve. In order to continue on the Consent Agenda EIN Number needs to be provided.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Davette Stephens – Joshua & Taylor Stephens Memorial Fund – Use of Cummings 1 & 2 for Men’s Softball Tournament – Saturday, July 5, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve. In order to continue on the Consent Agenda EIN Number needs to be provided.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Winston would like once a year to go through the Consent Agenda and make sure the organizations are truly non-profit organizations.

Mr. Winston would like a copy of the Tax Exception Certificate from the Joshua & Taylor Stephens Memorial Fund and ASHA for Education.

A space should be added to the Special Event Application for the EIN Number.

Special Events

Eden Huang – Stamford Health Department – Use of Lione Park for 14th Annual Family Day – Saturday, May 17, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. – 500 Adults and 1,500 Children.

- Event will take place in the green area closest to the Boys & Girls Club; they will not use the turf field.
- They have permission to use parking lot at Westover School.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

Robert Zmarzlak – North Stamford Little League – Installation of Brick Patio Adjacent to the Existing Concession Stand.

- Plan for the installation of Brick Patio at Chestnut Hill Park was presented to the Commission.
- At the January 15, 2014 Commission meeting, the Commissioners asked Mr. Zmarzlak to look for paved areas at Chestnut Hill Park that can be turned into green space. Mr. Zmarzlak proposed the section as you pull into the park where the stone wall is located. The section is probably 600/700 feet long; it goes from the park area through into the baseball area. There is a path, maybe an old driveway, that ranges anywhere from 5 to 6 feet to 8 to 9 feet. It is overgrown and not used.

Mr. Zmarzlak proposed to rip up the driveway, re-grass probably 10 feet wide and to bring some dirt to level it. Phil D'Amico recommended that about four to six trees be planted. The proposed area will be at least twice the size they will be covering with the patio, if not close to three times.

- Mr. Murray stated that this is a generous proposal and a homerun for the City.
- Patio will be professionally installed, they will use stone dust. Mr. Andreana stated that if it's done in concrete, they will need to submit an Architect or Civil Engineer Stamped and Sealed Plans.
- Mr. Terry Lockery stated that he will contact the Engineering Department.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve the application and they should coordinate with Kevin Murray the installation as soon as the weather breaks.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

- Mr. Murray stated that North Stamford Little League would like to donate slabs to place underneath the bleachers located on the outside left field fence. North Stamford Little League will fund the project. This will be a major improvement for the park.
- Mr. Andreana stated that it needs to be handicap accessible.
- Mr. Andreana would like to see Engineer drawings.
- Mr. Zmarzlak stated that they will study the proposal and count the cost, if it is a project the league can undertake, they will request to be placed on the next Commission Agenda.

Jerry Pia – Discussion and Update on Possible Little League Consolidation.

- Mr. Pia stated that the following Little Leagues have merged leaving Stamford with three leagues:

- Federal and National Lione – now called Stamford National
 - Northrop and Stamford American
 - Springdale and North Stamford
- Mr. Pia explained the boundaries.
 - They will not have just districts anymore, now there are also school districts.
 - The three leagues are equal in size, except for American who might be the smallest.
 - Mr. Macari stated that geographically it makes sense, but he is concerned and feels that the City of Stamford should not be subject to Little League's new school rule. Mr. Macari thinks that this may require them to have Perry Pierce come in front of the Commission. Just because Little League does it, it does not mean that it works in the City of Stamford. Mr. Macari believes that the three Little Leagues need to be of reasonable size, but if any one league was going to control more schools than the other leagues, Mr. Macari will use the Commission's authority to force Little League to modify its boundaries to make sure all three leagues have parity.
 - Mr. Macari stated that once Little League's Charter is in place and there are three leagues, a field should be identified for 50/70 play and travel baseball in Stamford.
 - Mr. Andreana stated that the Commission needs to seriously look at how the field usage for the next ten years is going to fall out.

New Business

Frank Trotta – Boychoir Productions LLC. – Request to Park Campers and Breakfast Truck at Czescik Marina on Thursday, February 27, 2014 – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m.

- Filming will start on Monday, February 24, 2014 through Friday, March 28, 2014. Mr. Frank Trotta requested permission to park seven campers total at Czescik Marina on Thursday, February 27, 2014. They will set up at 7:00 a.m. and leave by 9:00 or 10:00 p.m.
- In case of a significant snow fall prior to Thursday, February 27, 2014 it would be Mr. Trotta's responsibility to clear the parking lot.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve request contingent upon snow removal coordination with Kevin Murray.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

- Mr. Andreana asked Mr. Murray to find out if there are park benches made out of recycled material and let him know at the March meeting.

Tournaments

Chris Sabia – Stamford Legion Baseball – Cubeta Stadium – 2014 CT American Legion State Tournament – Friday, July 25, 2014 to Sunday, August 3, 2014.

- Mr. Sabia requested that the Recreation Department/Parks Department help him facilitate the use of the bathrooms, locker rooms, showers at Wright Tech for the umpires.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Michael Schacter – DOMUS – Stamford Rugby – Use of Lione Park for Three Games Between April 1, 2014 and May 31, 2014.

- Mr. Schacter stated that he had a permit to use Lione field last year to practice for April and May. Mr. Schacter requested to extend the use of Lione field for March and also the first week in June.
- Mr. Schacter would also like to play three Home Games at Lione. The games will be at the same time as practice during the week. April 3rd, April 29th and May 15th.
- Practices will be four to five days a week from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Mr. Macari suggested that a Board of Education field would be better to run a Board of Education program and suggested that Mr. Schacter contact Tony Pavia at Trinity High School.
- Mr. Macari stated that in theory right now without any promise of future or grandfathering this request, the Commission can simply approve the three dates from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. If this program increases it should take place within the schools fields.

Mr. Macari made a motion to accept April 3, 2014, April 29, 2014 and May 15, 2014 for games and practices on Monday thru Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Noel Smith – ULAX University Lacrosse LLC – Use of Lione Park – Men’s and Women’s Lacrosse Games Played Following a Tournament Structure – Sunday, April 13, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

➤ Noel Smith asked to take item off the Agenda.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 19, 2014.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Winston

Seconded by Mr. Macari

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
February 24, 2014