

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the February 20, 2013 Regular Meeting**

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A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on February 20, 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
Kevin Murray

Guests: Eden Huang – Family Day

Ron Miller – Family Day

Deborah Miller – Family Day

Dianne Selditch – Make a Difference Day

Holly Osuch – Wedding at Fort Stamford

Ryan Larkin – Wedding at Fort Stamford

Ashley Powell – Tent Crusade

Bishop John Green – Sunday School Conference

Helen Green – Sunday School Conference

Scott Miller – Little League Merge & 50/70 Proposal

Brian Maloney – Little League Merge & 50/70 Proposal

Michael Nicholson – Little League Merge & 50/70 Proposal

Jon Hock – Little League Merge & 50/70 Proposal

Chris Brecciano – Little League Merge & 50/70 Proposal

Joseph Sullivan – DOMUS Rugby

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Tim McGuinness.

Review of the January 16, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Staff Reports

Laurie Albano – Recreation & Directors Report

- Parks & Recreation is in the midst of spring and summer preparation.
- The Parks Department still in process of cleaning up the parks and trying to identify what is FEMA and what is insurance.
- Ms. Albano has asked Mr. Murray to put together a list of critical need items that we need to get the parks open for May 1st. These items are most likely not going to get reimbursed by FEMA or Insurance right away. About \$350,000 worth of money has been identified that the City will have to front in order to get the parks open. Ms. Albano will have a meeting on Thursday with OPM Budget Director, Peter Privitera, to discuss where the money is and how she can access it.
- Seasonals and Life Guards are being hired for the upcoming season.
- There will be a meeting with all of the field user groups on March 5, 2013. Volunteer maintenance will also be discussed at this meeting.
- A new Recreation Leader has been hired; he will start on March 4, 2013. The selected candidate is currently working in the town of Gilford's Park & Recreation Department, and comes with a lot of great experience.
- The closing applications for the Assistant Superintendent of Recreation was last Friday, February 15th.
- The Maintenance Management RFP has gone out to bid. Ms. Albano will have a pre-bid mandatory meeting with all of the vendors on Tuesday, February 26th. Ms. Albano anticipates that AFB will be one of the vendors. Questions from vendors are

due March 11th and all of the final proposals are due March 21st. A Selection Committee will be set up to review all of the applicants and the bids.

- Cubeta Lease will be up in July 2013. Ms. Albano will have a meeting with the Legal Department next Tuesday to discuss this issue. Director Orgera is still trying to attempt to get the State to turn Cubeta over to the City.
- Ms. Albano will be discussing the electrical problem at Cubeta with the distribution center and underground wiring with Peter Privitera. If approved, there will be Capital money for the Cubeta lights come July 1st. Currently there is some Capital money for Veterans' Park. Ms. Albano will ask Mr. Privitera if she can use the \$110,000 Capital money for Veterans' Park lighting to fix the problem at Cubeta and reimburse the money after July 1st with the Cubeta money.
- The Terry Conners Ice resurfacers has broken down twice in the last two months. This is the only ice resurfacers that we have. A new one is being built in Canada; it will take about two or three months to be completed. Right now we are renting a second machine; it costs about \$3,500 to rent it through the middle of March.
- The Friends of Mianus River will be coming next month to discuss the off leash dog issue at Mianus River Park.
- Mr. Andreana stated that he would like the Commission to get a monthly complaint report from Citizens' Services. Mr. McGuinness stated that if they see chronic problems on the report, it will be discussed in an agenda item.
- Storm Sandy brought to light that the Concessionaire for the beaches, Frank Costa, does not have insurance. Mr. Costa was supposed to carry property insurance as a requirement. The Risk Manager reported that Mr. Costa dropped the insurance shortly after the bid was awarded to him.
- Storm Sandy caused damage to some of Mr. Costa's equipment as well as some of the City's equipment. Technically Mr. Costa was supposed to have the City's equipment covered by insurance as well. Mr. Costa told Ms. Albano that he does have insurance.
- If Mr. Costa is not awarded the bid for next season, Ms. Albano is not sure if she will be able to get someone else on time for the season.
- Denis McKiernan would like to explore not having a concessionaire for the Ice Rink; he is thinking about vending machines which may bring in more revenue.

Kevin Murray – Parks

- There is an estimated \$12,000 worth of equipment damage at the concession stand at Cummings Park due to Storm Sandy. A few items at Cove Island were damaged

as well.

- The plan is to auction off all of the damaged equipment through Operations Vehicle Maintenance Department and go through Risk Management to get all of the property the City owns replaced.
- City personnel from the Highways Department and Parks Department did a great job during Winter Storm Nemo getting all of the bridges, underpasses, sidewalks, park entranceways cleared in a timely manner.
- Mr. Murray will e-mail the Commissioners a copy of the itemized list of storm damages at the parks and critical repair for our season opening.
- Park restoration is currently on hold due to the snow.
- Sand at Cove Island has been screened and brought to the mead high tide line on East Beach.
- The repair for Quigley Beach House will be done in-house. Job will be completed in 30 to 35 days. The repair will cost around \$20,000 to \$30,000.
- Due to storm damage, Cummings Marina will be closed this spring/summer and the overflow will be pushed to Czescik and Cove. The channel dredging at Cove is a major issue. All electrical on the docks have been submerged and before the marina opens for service, it will need to be repaired. Mr. Murray contacted an Electrical Engineer to do a stamped drawing to speed up the process. Mr. Murray does not know how much it is going to cost to do the drawing.
- Czescik Marina had some damage as well as Cove.
- Ms. Albano stated that there was a Cummings Park pre-bid meeting with the architects. An architect will be picked to start creating a Master Plan of redevelopment for Cummings.
- A representative from a contingency representing the Hispanic community visited Ms. Albano regarding the poor condition of the Racquetball/Handball Courts at Scalzi and Cumming Park. The representative wanted to know when the City is going to do something about it. Ms. Albano asked Sue Kisken, Engineer in charge of Scalzi Phase II, if there are any savings anywhere within Phase II to redo the courts. Ms. Kisken is working on it and will try to do it. The Courts at Cummings Park will be part of the redevelopment there. Mr. Murray will take a look at the courts to see what can be done in-house.
- Mr. Winston stated that he has met with Lou Casolo and Director Orgera regarding the dredging problem at the Cove. Mr. Winston is working on a pilot project for a

new type of dredging system. Fuss & O'Neill understands the accelerated process and knows the DEEP process; Mr. Winston is hoping to meet with them.

Consent Agenda

Davette Stephens – Josh & Tyler Stephens Memorial Fund – Celebration of Life – Use of Cove Island Park for Walk-a-Thon on Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. – 30 Adults and 30 Children.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Davette Stephens – Josh & Tyler Stephens Memorial Fund – Celebration of Life – Use of Cummings Softball Fields 1 & 2 for Men's Softball Tournament – Saturday, July 6, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 9:00 p.m. – 60 Adults.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

George Hallenbeck – Stamford Sail & Power Squadron – Flare Up – Use of West Beach – Monday, June 3, 2013 from 5:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 5:30 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 9:35 p.m. – 60 Adults and 20 Children.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Kari Pollak – Stamford Hospital Foundation – Hope in Motion – Use of Columbus Park – Sunday, June 2, 2013 from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 3:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 3:00 p.m. – 4,800 Adults and 200 Children.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Gerard Gasparino – ARI of Connecticut – Walk for Independence – Use of Cove Island Park and Pavilion on Sunday, May 5, 2013 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. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Judd Bell – Sharkey Laurenno Tournament – Use of Cubeta – Thursday, August 1, 2013 to Sunday, August 11, 2013.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Rich LoRusso – Babe Ruth – Use of Cubeta – The Battle at the Border Tournament – June 7th, 8th & 9th, 2013.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Rich LoRusso – Use of Cubeta – Babe Ruth 16/18 State Tournament – July 17, 2013 thru July 25, 2013.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Phil Giordano – Memorial Bench in Memory of His Wife Marion Bottonly Santarsiero Giordano, His Stepdaughter Gloriajean Santarsiero Ferris, and Her Son Theodore J. Milone, Jr. – Memorial Bench to be Placed at Cummings Park Along the Channel – (To be Installed when Feasible).

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Special Events

Kerri Hagan – Stamford Health Department – Shamrock 5K Walk/Run – Walk through Kosciuszko Park – Sunday, March 17, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. – 250 People.

- Item was withdrawn from the Agenda due to the Kosciuszko Park path not being safe from Storm Sandy.

Ron Miller and Eden Huang – Stamford Health Department – Use of Lione Park for 13th Annual Family Day at Boys & Girls Club – Saturday, May 18, 2013 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.

- Petting Zoo or Pony Rides will not be allowed on the turf field.
- The stage and PA System will be inside the Boys & Girls Club.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Dianne Selditch – SoundWaters – Use of Cove Island Park Shoreline & John Boccuzzi Park for Make a Difference Day – Annual Spring Event – Sunday, May 18, 2013 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. – 25 Adults (at each location) and 30 Children (at each location).

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

Dianne Selditch – SoundWaters – Use of Cove Island Park Shoreline & John Boccuzzi Park Shoreline and Park for Make a Difference Day – Fall – Sunday, September 21, 2013 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. – 25 Adults and 30 Children.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

Holly Osuch & Ryan Larkin – Use of Fort Stamford for Wedding Ceremony – Friday, October 18, 2013 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 2:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 7:00 p.m. – 125-140 People will be Attending.

- The set up will include chairs and battery operated lanterns.
- No alcohol or food will be served.
- Space in the back can be used for parking, cars will be valet parked.
- Mr. Larkin will lock the gate after the ceremony.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

Ashley Powel – Greater Works Community Church of God – Use of Jackie Robinson Park for Annual Tent Crusade – Sunday, June 9, 2013 to Friday, June

14, 2013 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts Saturday, June 8, 2013 and Clean-Up Ends Saturday, June 15, 2013 – Approximately 300 People.

- Tent will be erected on Friday, June 7, 2013; Crusade will start on Sunday, June 9, 2013. The tent will not be used on Saturday, June 8, 2013 or Saturday, June 15, 2013. Commission does not allow the use of the turf for more than six days.
- Commissioners are concerned with damage to the turf. Mr. Macari suggested using Terra Plass under the tent which allows the grass to breath and prevents damage to the grass.
- Mr. Winston requested that Mr. Powel send Ms. Albano a copy of the certificate that states that his organization is a non-profit.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Bishop John H. Green – Apostolic – CT Southern Diocese Sunday School Department – Use of Jackie Robinson Park for Sunday School – Saturday, March 9, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 12:30 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 3:00 p.m. – 20 Adults and 15 Children.

- Bishop Green is requesting permission to use Jackie Robinson Park for Sunday School Conference on March 9, 2013.
- There will be bouncers at the event. Commission stated that adult supervision must be used.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

Scott Miller – CT District One Little League Administrator – Merger of Federal Little League and National Lione Little League and 50/70 Division Proposal.

- Mr. Scott Miller presented to the Commission the merger between Federal Little League and National Lione Little League.

- Due to decreasing enrollment Federal Little League and National Lione Little League want to merge. There have been issues with enrollment in the last three to five years.
- Merging the leagues together will provide better quality of play.
- They are planning on reaching out to Community Center kids and get them to play. Better outreach has to be done.
- Every child that has a free/partial lunch plan at school will get a full scholarship to play.
- Mr. Winston stated that he will be watching the enrollment numbers, if the numbers stay down; he would like to get the fields back so that they can be used for other sports.

Mr. Macari made a motion to recognize the new Stamford National Little League as a merger of two existing leagues and to continue to provide them the three City fields that they have been using up until this point.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

Scott Miller – 50/70 Division Proposal.

- 50/70 Division proposal was discussed as a possible future expansion and no action was taken.

Joseph Sullivan – DOMUS Stamford Academy – Use of Open Field at Scalzi Park for Rugby Practice from Friday, March 8, 2013 to Saturday, June 1, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- Practices will take place in the outfield of Scalzi 1 & 2 Monday thru Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Saturday, June 1, 2013 in case they are in the playoffs).
- The Commission expressed their concern with the start date of March 8th; the fields will still be wet and not ready to be used. Ms. Albano and Mr. Murray suggested having Mr. Sullivan practice at Lione artificial turf field for the month of March and move over to Scalzi in April.
- Ms. Albano stated that Mr. Sullivan will not be able to practice until 6:00 p.m. at Scalzi Park; it cuts it short for the softball teams that start coming in. Mr. Sullivan will have to get off the field at 5:45 p.m.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve request from DOMUS to use Lione Turf Field from March 8, 2013 until Lione Little League starts and then they will move over to Scalzi for the remainder of their request which ends on Saturday, June 1, 2013.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Tournaments

No Tournaments.

Correspondence

No Correspondence.

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Andreana

Seconded by Mr. Macari

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
February 22, 2013