

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

**DRAFT**

**DRAFT**

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on March 20, 2013, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

**In attendance were:**

Commissioners:           Tim McGuinness  
                                  Joe Andreana  
                                  David Winston  
                                  Althea Brown

Staff:                       Laurie Albano  
                                  Kevin Murray  
                                  Denis McKiernan

Guests:                    Rep. Harry Day – KIC IT Triathlon  
  
                                  Jon Stellwagen – KIC IT Triathlon  
  
                                  Lynne Colatrella – D.S.S.D.  
  
                                  Annette Einhorn – D.S.S.D.  
  
                                  Rep. Demetrios Frazis – Annunciation Church  
  
                                  Glendy Arriola – Wedding at Cummings Park  
  
                                  Hayron Obedo – Wedding at Cummings Park  
  
                                  Barbara Bowen – Wedding at Horseshoe Beach  
  
                                  Gerald Todd Beck – Wedding at Horseshoe Beach  
  
                                  Claudette Marshall – Crusade at Jackie Robinson Park  
  
                                  Zoe Panopoulos – NEDA Walk  
  
                                  Kari Pollak – Parking Spots at Lione Park  
  
                                  Jack Stoecker – Mianus River Park

David Roberts – Mianus River Park  
Erin McKenna – Land Use Bureau  
John Lawrence – Mianus River Park  
Pete Sofman – Mianus River Park  
Keith Leventhal – Manhattanville College/Use of Terry Conners  
David Turco – Manhattanville College/Use of Terry Conners  
Arlen Marshal – Manhattanville College/Use of Terry Conners  
Noah Strone – Manhattanville College/Use of Terry Conners  
Mike Cotela – Boys & Girls Club Playground  
Rick Redniss – Boys & Girls Club Playground  
Marc Fraioli – Middle School Girls Softball  
Chris Brecciano – Middle School Girls Softball

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Tim McGuinness, Chair.

Mr. Macari did not attend the meeting.

Mr. Winston made a motion to add Stamford Tree Foundation to the end of the Agenda.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

Mr. McGuinness stated that there has been an ongoing issue with Newman Mills Park and complaints from the neighbors. Mr. McGuinness asked the Commission to make a Resolution regarding the opening times and the closing times of the park. The Resolution will then go to the Board of Representatives, Parks & Recreation Committee, and then they will formally pass the Resolution.

Mr. McGuinness proposed a Resolution that Newman Mill Park opens at 8:00 a.m. and closes at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

### **Review of the February 20, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Laurie Albano – Recreation & Directors Report**

- Recreation Leader has been hired, he has previously worked for the Town of Guilford Parks & Recreation.
- There were second interviews today for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Recreation. Ms. Albano is down to two candidates, reference checks will be done.
- Camp registrations and Spring Program registrations have been done; numbers so far look pretty good.
- Ms. Albano received a request from Frank Fedeli for a young man that would like to do a film shoot for a school project at Cove Island Park, in the pavilion area, not where the construction is taking place. The film shoot will only take an hour and it will be done during the week. The Commission did not have a problem with that.
- Budget presentation to the Board of Finance will take place on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at around 7:00 p.m.; Ms. Albano invited the Commissioners to attend. After the Mayor's first round of cuts, the Recreation Department is a little over 2 Million. Maintenance (combined Parks & Facilities) it's about 5.8 Million and Marinas are about \$436,000. Beach Enforcement is \$20, 737 (this is only for Tram drivers), and \$752,599 for Terry Conners Ice Rink. We lost a carpenter's position and the position for the Government Center Building Manager. Mr. Winston asked Ms. Albano to mail him a copy of the Budget Presentation.
- The Sharkey Laureno plaque has been stolen from Scalzi Park. Ms. Albano is hoping there is going to be some kind of fund raiser to get the plaque replaced. She contacted all who have expressed concern and interest asking them to rally around the cause and replace the plaque. Mr. Andreana would like the new plaque to fit the current philosophy on plaques, in the ground rather than the monument. Mr. Winston and Mr. McGuinness do not agree with Mr. Andreana, they feel that this plaque it's grandfathered in.
- Scalzi Construction should wrap up around May 1, 2013 as well at the Cove Playground.

- Cubeta Lease runs out on July 2013, waiting to hear from Law Department.
- Beach Concessionaire's Contract expires at the end of the month and there are issues with his contract extension. Since Mr. Costa's insurance was not active during Storm Sandy, Mr. Costa has to replace City equipment that was damaged during the storm at the cost of about \$12,000.
- Proposals for Maintenance Management Contract are due tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. – The selection Committee (Ernie Orgera, Peter Privitera, Laurie Albano and Staff Engineer Bob Gerbert) will meet next Wednesday afternoon.

### **Kevin Murray – Parks**

- Getting everything together for the season. Seasonals are being hired.
- A Purchase Order has been created for changing of the distribution center at Cubeta. Work will start as soon as all of the materials are ordered and completed by opening day. Work will be done by Shock Electric.
- Will start to repair fences damaged by the storm tomorrow, starting at the softball field.
- Cummings 1 & 2 fields will be professionally laser graded.
- A Purchase Order has been generated to replace damaged areas at Cove Island Marina. Sullivan Flotation was awarded the Purchase Order to replace the section which includes four 6 x18 sections at Cove, also the West Beach Service dock, 6 x 20 sections will be replaced. Cove Marina is priority because of the paying slip customers. Confident to have them in place by opening day, if not, shortly after. The Plan B will be to purchase docks from Brewers Marina. Marina opens on April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Risk Management has selected Belfor Restoration who is order State Contract to do an environmental cleaning at the Cove Marina House, Cummings Marina House, also the concession stands at Cove and Cummings. The cost will be around \$28,000; this is a FEMA reimbursement since this is a Storm Sandy caused problem.
- Cove Marina Electrical Survey will be performed by McLeiven Associates to establish Bid specs for upgrade to all docks at Cove Island.
- Baseball renovations are currently going on. City crews have been working on all City fields for opening day April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Will be interviewing seasonals, will be hiring about 30.
- Volleyball Posts will be back up at Cummings.

- All of the Life Guard Stations will be re-installed in all of the beaches seven locations.
- Work at Quigley Beach bathhouse will be done in-house.
- The Engineering Department will be handling most of the seawalls at Cummings and Cove.
- Mr. Winston asked to be careful when using the big blower not to blow debris towards Long Island Sound. Mr. Winston suggested using the catchers or smaller blowers.
- Hydro Gravitated Surveys are being done for channel dredging for Cove Marina, Cummings and Southfield; this is being overseen by the Engineering Department. Depending upon the survey findings, low end channel dredging for all sites will cost about \$1.7 Million; the high end channel dredging will be about \$4.4 Million.
- Mr. Andreana requested that the Commission gets a monthly Citizens' Complaint Report.

### **Denis McKiernan – Terry Conners Ice Rink**

- Terry Conners Ice Rink's revenue is 2% below last year.
- Had a very busy season, but all worked out pretty well in the end.
- Struggled with resurfacing machine this year. Mr. McKiernan had to auction off his second machine and now it's being rented at \$1,400 a week. Still waiting for new resurfacing machine, it needs to be custom built.
- Spring ice is heavily booked.
- There is a weeklong lesson program for the summer, planning on expanding one more week this year.
- Rink is open all summer except for one week (4<sup>th</sup> of July week).
- Mr. McKiernan stated that Manhattanville College will be coming tonight to request that Terry Conners Ice Rink be their home game arena. Mr. McKiernan feels that this will add several things to the area; number one will be College Hockey.

Mr. McKiernan stated that Manhattanville College would like to rent ice time from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. during the week days for practices, which will produce about \$73,000 in revenue. The practice time that they are requesting is a slow time for the rink and will not affect others. Game times will affect other schedules and Mr. McKiernan has already talked to the High School Coaches and the Athletic Directors to try to work on the schedule. Mr. McKiernan can get the FCIAC schedule for High School for next year and work on the schedule ahead of time.

- Mr. McKiernan stated that \$16,000 were taken out of the budget out of manpower, without that money, Mr. McKiernan will not be able to operate the length of day that he currently does. What will end up happening is that the High Schools will lose their morning practice at 5:00 a.m. and Youth Hockey will lose ice on the weekends.

### **Consent Agenda**

No Consent Agenda.

### **Special Events**

**Nino Antonelli – Use of Columbus Park for Announcement for Mayor – Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. – 250 Adults and 50 Children.**

- No representative was present.

**Representative Harry Day – KIC IT Triathlon – Use of Cummings Park – Sunday, June 30, 2013 – 3:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – 1,000 Adults and 200 Children.**

- Representative Day stated that they would like to request permission to use Cummings Park and Columbus Park.
- They will not be using Shippan Avenue for the bicycle ride. This year they will come out of Cummings Park, ride through the City and they will make up the distance of Shippan by going up through Rock Rimmon Road.
- Originally they were planning on using Mill River Park, but that is not going to be possible, that is why they are requesting the use of Columbus Park.
- As far as using the parks there will be no changes from last year.
- Mr. McGuinness stated that in the future the KIC IT Triathlon and the KIC IT Kids Triathlon should go on the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

**Representative Harry Day – KIC IT Kids Triathlon – Use of Cove Island Park – Saturday, June 29, 2013 – 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. – Set-Up Starts at 5:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 10:00 a.m. – 100 Adults and 150 Children.**

- There are no changes from last year's event.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

**Lynne Colatrella – D.S.S.D. 2013 Events.**

- Ms. Colatrella requested permission to use parks for certain events for the D.S.S.D.'s 2013 events.
- New Event – Art Park – Use of Kiwanis Park on Saturdays from Noon to 4:00 p.m. – May 18 through July 15, 2013. The object of the event is to encourage youth art alongside adult art.
- Art in Public Places, Downtown Abstractions. June – August, 2013.
- Alive @ Five Outdoor Summer Concert Series – Thursday evenings, June 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8, 15, 2013 – (No Concert July 4) – 5:00 p.m. at Columbus Park. This year the program will run 8 weeks instead of 7.
- Jazz Up July – Wednesday evenings, July 10, 17, 24, 31, August 7, 2013 – 6:30 p.m., Columbus Park – This year the program will run for 5 weeks instead of 4 weeks.
- Arts & Crafts on Bedford – September 21 & 22, 2013 – Use of Latham Park.
- Ms. Colatrella requested the use of Latham Park on November 7, 2013 for balloon training for the Parade.
- Heights & Lights – Rappelling Santa and Holiday Tree Lighting – Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. – use of Latham Park for tree lighting.
- Mr. Andreana stated that he would like to see a limit on the art that goes in Latham Park and keep the center of the park open. Ms. Colatrella will apply to Mr. Andreana's request.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve D.S.S.D. 2013 Events.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

**Representative Demitrios Frazis – Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church – Use of Cove Island Park for 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Approximately 150-200 People Attending.**

- Beach Concessionaire has sole right to provide food, unless they give out fruit or pre-packed food such as chips.
- If there is no Beach Concessionaire on that day and they plan to provide food, approval from the Health Department will be required.

- If the Pavilion is rented they can bring their own caterer.
- No amplified sound is allowed in the park.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Andreana

Unanimously Approved

**Glendy Arriola and Hayron Obedo – Wedding Ceremony at Cummings Park – Saturday, May 25, 2013 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. – Set- Up Starts at 4:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 6:30 p.m. – 50 Adults and 10 Children.**

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

**Gerald Todd Beck – Wedding Ceremony at Horseshoe Beach on Thursday, April 4, 2013 – 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – 25 People Attending.**

- Mr. Beck should contact Frank Fedeli regarding over the bridge passes.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

**Claudette Marshall – Community Tabernacle 7<sup>th</sup> Day Christian Church – Use of Jackie Robinson Park for Church Evangelistic Crusade – Friday, August 16, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. to Sunday, August 18, 2013 at 9:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends on Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. – 130 Adults and 20 Children.**

- They will require electricity – there will be a reimbursement charge of \$152 for the electrician to come in.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

**Zoe Panopulos – National Eating Disorders Association – Use of Cove Island Park for Stamford, CT NEDA Walk – Sunday, April 14, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 3:00 p.m. – Around 80 Adults and 20 Children.**

- Funds raised will go to the national organization. Mr. Winston and Mr. Andreana feel that some of the revenues should stay in Stamford, and maybe do something in conjunction

with the Tully Center.

- No amplified music is allowed in the park.
- 95.9 Fox needs to keep the noise down; sound cannot be amplified too loud.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

**Kari Pollak – Stamford Hospital Foundation – Use of Parking Spots at Lione Park – Groundbreaking and Celebration of the New Stamford Hospital – Tuesday, May 14, 2013 and Wednesday, May 15, 2013.**

- Must have Stamford Hospital staff there telling people where to park.
- It's recommended to hire Police. Ms. Albano stated Park Police have the first right on park overtime, and must be contacted.
- They will put up signs stating that the parking spaces are reserved. They will have the Hospital's security team there as well.
- "No Parking Signs" should go up the night before and signs should come down after the event is done.
- Mr. Andreana suggested that Ms. Pollak check with the businesses at Progress Drive to see if they will allow the park users to park in their parking lot. The Boys & Girls Club was also suggested.
- Ms. Brown suggested that Ms. Pollak contact the NRZ, they work very closely with the community and help spread the word and notify the community.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

**Old Business**

**Kari Pollak – Stamford Hospital Foundation – Use of Columbus Park for Pre-Registration for Hope in Motion Event – Saturday, June 1, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Request to Leave the Tent Set Up Overnight.**

- Item was withdrawn from the Agenda.

**Erin McKenna & Pete Sofman – Ad Hoc Committee of Leash Law Enforcement – Off-Leash Problem in the Mianus River Park.**

- Mr. Sofman expressed his concern about the issue with the off-leash problem at the Mianus River Park.
- The Ad Hoc Committee of Leash Law Enforcement is distinct from the Friends of the Mianus River Park. This Committee was formed to try to alter the dog off-leash mentality in the park using several approaches, education, enforcement and good signage.
- People have been attacked by off-leash dogs, kids are scared, and there is also an environmental issue. This is a serious problem.
- Tickets have been given out by Park Police.
- Representative Harry Day met with Laurie Albano and Laurie Hollywood and is also planning to meet with Chief Fontneau.

### **New Business**

#### **Jack Stoecker and David Roberts – Friends of Mianus River Park – Donation for Urban Oasis in Mianus River Park – Proposal to Enter into a Collaboration and Grant with the Audubon Society.**

- Management structure has been developed.
- Membership has increased to 53.
- Communications improved – over 550 names on Friends e-mail list.
- Building relationship with other organizations, municipal authorities including Audubon Greenwich.
- Over \$6,000 raised in membership fees and donations.
- Received their first significant Grant, \$3,000 from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund.
- Now building up their fund raising efforts. \$2,000 Project funded by Aquarion recently approved.
- Over 700 hours of volunteer work were contributed.
- Over 50 different volunteers worked on trail improvement and plantings.
- Second hardened access to the river opened.
- Two Eagle Scout projects completed.

- 2013 spring plans in place to fence the replant areas adjacent to new hardened access including Aquarion project. Further projects to follow. Fencing is temporary.
- An Ecological Assessment Study is under way, supposed to get it a couple of weeks.
- Urban Oasis planned with Audubon Greenwich, the financing is in place. The idea is to take an area, fence it off, take out all of the invasives, plant it and provide an oasis.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve Urban Oasis.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

**Keith Leventhal – Manhattanville College – Request to Make Terry Conners Ice Rink Its Home Game Arena.**

- Mr. Leventhal requested the use of Terry Conners Ice Rink for their home rink next year. In the past they have used Rye Playland, but due to the storm the rink is out of commission for another year. Manhattanville College has used Terry Conners in the past.
- Mr. Leventhal is looking to rent about 333 hours of ice, 76% of the ice rental will be in the morning hours between 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., 252 hours. 21% of the ice rental will be on the weekends.
- The total number of home games will be 21. They cannot play a game until November 1<sup>st</sup> and the season goes to early March.
- Mr. McKiernan does not believe there will be a big problem with the schedule. Mr. McKiernan can make some changes, such as changing the High School from double to single, changing the figure skaters and the synchronized skating team on weeks that Manhattanville is in. With some changes Mr. McKiernan can make it work.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve request from Manhattanville College to play their 2013 – 2014 home season at Terry Conners Ice Rink.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

**Michael Cotela and Rick Redniss – Stamford Boys & Girls Club Kaboom Playground.**

- Mr. Cotela informed the Commission that there is an opportunity to put in a playground with a company called Kaboom, which is a community playground operation.
- Although the playground is part of the overall project that they are trying to do in the park, it in itself can be separated.
- Through Kaboom the Boys & Girls Club has the opportunity to build a playground at minimal cost. Kaboom has a funder, which they will not disclose until a contract is signed

with them. The funder will come in and fund the project and the Boys & Girls Club will take the lead and get the project done.

- Ms. Albano stated that Recreation requests that the surface is a synthetic tile or poured in place surface. Not wood chips.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the playground should be for all ages.
- Mr. Andreana stated that he would like to know who the funder is before signing the contract; the Commission wants to make sure the funds are coming from a reputable source. Mr. Redniss suggested that the City signs the contract with asterisks that either the funder remains anonymous or the funder needs to be approved.
- The design has to have input from the community and Ms. Albano will have a say in the final design.
- The funding source has to be approved by Ms. Albano.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve Stamford Boys & Girls Club Kaboom Playground contingent upon the design input from the community; either the donor remains anonymous or the City and the Boys & Girls Club approve the donor before signing the contract.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

**Marc Fraioli & Chris Brecciano – Stamford American Little League – Request for Transfer of 2013 Middle School Softball Program to Stamford American Little League.**

- Request was originally to transfer 2013 Middle School Softball Program to the Stamford Youth Foundation; instead the request is to make the transfer to Stamford American Little League.
- Mr. Fraioli showed a video of girls from the Middle School Softball Program stating that they played very few games in the last two years.
- Mr. Fraioli stated his concerns about the lack of games played by the Girl's Middle School Softball Program. The girls and the parents are not happy.
- Mr. Fraioli stated that the Principal from his daughter's school signed a letter stating that he does not want to participate in this program. Seven of the eight Middle Schools have signed the document saying that they request a change to the structure of the current program.
- Mr. Brecciano stated that he is representing Stamford American Little League who currently under their Little League Charter has the ability to institute a Softball Program.

- The Board of Education suggested that Stamford Youth take back the program, but they do not want the program back.
- Stamford Babe Ruth Softball ran the program last year.
- Ms. Albano stated that Youth Foundation is not sanction for Girls Softball or Middle School Baseball.
- Mr. McGuinness stated that his assumption was that if it is a school program, the Board of Education has to make the decision.
- Mr. Brecciano stated that what they are proposing is to take their existing Stamford American Little League Charter, which does allow under Little League's insurance and everything else to create a Softball Program. They are requesting to allow their Board to take over. A Committee will be created made up of representatives of each of the eight teams.
- Mr. McGuinness stated that he has never heard of there being an issue with the Middle School Girl Softball Program in the past.
- Mr. Andreana stated that their request for Girls Softball was disallowed in the past because it is a new league set up.
- Ms. Albano has not received any parental complaints.
- Ms. Albano stated that we do not have control over Board of Education fields.
- The Commission feels that they do not have all of the information. In the future a request such as this one needs to be brought to the Commission at the end of the season so that there is time for the Commission to look at the issue.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to decline request to take over the Middle School Girls Softball Program for 2013.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

### **Tournaments**

No Tournaments.

### **Correspondence**

No Correspondence.

**David Winston – Stamford Tree Foundation – Use of Cove Island Park for Arbor Day Ceremony – April 26, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:00 p.m. – 25 Adults and 50 Children.**

- The Stamford Tree Foundation donated three trees for Arbor Day for planting in the playground area.
- Mayor will come down to the park and make a Proclamation for Arbor Day.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

YES: Ms. Brown

YES: Mr. McGuinness

YES: Mr. Andreana

ABSTAINED: Mr. Winston

**The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 17, 2013.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Andreana

Seconded by Mr. Winston

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Margarita Arenas

March 25, 2013