

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the April 16, 2014 Regular Meeting**

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A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on April 16, 2014, 10th Floor Operations Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Joe Andreana
Dave Winston
Althea Brown

Staff: Laurie Albano
Kevin Murray

Guests: Tammi Ketler – Run for Hunger 5K
Jon Stellwagen – Run for Hunger 5K
Tiffany Polite – Church Festival
Sondra Durant – Waterside Diversity Fest IV
Patricia Clair – Walk to Stop Diabetes
Alex Karman – Bike to Work Day
Emely Provonsha – Bike to Work Day
Ray Redniss – Opti Team Trials
Matt MacDonald – Waterside School 5K
Daniel Rivas – Use Lione Field
Nikhil Jain – Cricket Tournament
Prakhar Mansukhani – Cricket Tournament
Fortunato Daniele – Use of Lione Field

Alfredo Margorone – Use of Lione Field

Armando Vetti – Use of Lione Field

Call to Order

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

Mr. Winston made a motion to Suspend the Rules to approve the February 19, 2014 and the March 19, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes since there are only two people present that attended each of the meetings.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Review of the February 19, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Review of the March 19, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Staff Reports

Laurie Albano – Recreation

- The Board of Finance made their Budget cuts already. \$5,000 was cut out of the overtime account for Recreation and no cuts were made to Terry Conners Ice Rink.
- There will be a grievance hearing in Wethersfield on May 15th regarding management of the Rink.
- Ken Smith Acting Rink Manager will be attending a Commission meeting soon.
- Busy with Spring/Summer prep.
- Met with Kevin today on openings for beaches, Heroy pool/park and fields, working very closely with Parks Maintenance.
- There is still no decision as to whether Manhattanville College will be renting ice from us for winter 14/15. Their last payment is in and a deadline was given of first week in

May to let us know if they are returning.

- We are waiting on a last large payment from Stamford Youth Hockey. The projections look good for the Rink for the end of the Fiscal Year; it looks like they are going to exceed what they brought in last year.
- Recreation Department is down a little in revenue from previous years, hoping to have a really good spring and bring more revenue.
- The Recreation website has a new look.
- Fireworks are scheduled for July 3, 2014 with a rain date of July 5, 2014. Deadline for the RFP was last Thursday, two proposals were received. Selection Committee will be meeting soon to decide on a donor.
- Sandy Ground Playground festivities/install will take place on May 2, 3, 4, 2014. Ms. Albano informed the Commission that they will be bringing some horses the day of the Ribbon Cutting, the child who the playground is in memory of used to ride horses. As Ms. Albano gets more information she will pass it along to the Commission.
- Central American Soccer League/Dan Rivas wants more time on Lione turf field. Ms. Albano has already met with Mr. Rivas and Recreation has given him as much time as they can. Ms. Albano also offered the outfield of Cummings 4 and 5 to Mr. Rivas.
- Ms. Albano met with Mayor Martin regarding field use and he has some ideas and directions on fields. There have been some internal meetings; they will be meeting again tomorrow morning. The Mayor would like the field schedule to be posted on the website.

Kevin Murray – Parks

- Parks staff will be volunteering their services at installation of Where Angels Play Playground on May 2nd; they will be doing a beach clean-up that day as well that will also involve planting.
- Scalzi #3 is completed as of Monday, April 14th. It was graded and hydro seeded by an outside contractor, play will begin around Monday, May 19th.
- Westover field is scheduled to be graded and hydro seeded by an outside contractor next week, Monday, April 21st, City crew already roto-tilled area.
- 14 Out of 30 park seasonal employees will be in place by Monday, April 21st.
- Board of Finance reductions – Maintenance Salaries was reduced \$80,775 (Building Manager for the Government Center). Overtime was reduced \$10,000, and

Maintenance reduction non-salary of \$117,000.

- Mr. Murray met with LAZ Parking and City staff to go over days and time of operation which includes extended season at all sites.
- Meeting interdepartmental to assure a smooth park/beach/sports season with Recreation staff, Cashiering and Permitting, Marina Division and also Park Police.
- After the winter freeze Operations has decided to remove the “A” dock section at Cummings Marina which was previously considered an option to host 15 to 20 slips. We will await Capital Master Plan to target new marina.
- Regarding the Stamford American Little League Score Board that was approved by the Commission, the donation approval has to go through the Board of Representatives Parks & Recreation Committee. Once the donation is approved by the Committee, the new Score Board can go up. Mr. Murray e-mailed Stamford American Little League and the current owner stating that the old Score Board will stay up until the new one is approved.
- Repairs have been completed at Nemoitin Park playground by the playground installer.
- Mr. Murray met with the new Wright Tech Principal; they discussed a smooth transition and keeping a good neighbor relationship with the school. Wright Tech is scheduled to have a Freshman class this coming fall. They will not have sports the first year.
- Mr. Andreana asked Mr. Murray to provide him with an update on the pricing of the donation benches as well as the type of benches and the service life.

Consent Agenda

Ginger Winston – Cove Island Conservancy – GE- Epals – Planting Children’s Garden – Cove Island Park- Friday, May 30, 2014 – Set-Up Starts at 10:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:00 p.m. – 200 Adults and 200 Children.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

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

Special Events

Jon Stellwagen – Beaner Events LLC – Use of Cove Island Park for Run for Health and Hunger 5K – Saturday, September 20, 2014 from 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. – Set-

Up Starts at 6:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 10:30 a.m. – 150 Adults and 50 Children.

- The event will benefit the Food Bank of lower Fairfield County.
- The event will start at Chelsea Piers, go through Cove Island Park and finish back at Chelsea Piers. The park will be used by the runners for about 20 minutes; walkers will not be using the park.
- Participants are asked to bring non-perishable food items; they also raise money through raffle ticket sales.
- There is a \$35 donation to participate on the run, 100% of the donations go towards the cost of the run. Mr. Andreana suggested asking for a \$40 donation instead, \$35 would go towards the cost of the run and the remaining \$5 would be donated to the Food Bank. Ms. Tammi Ketler from TMK Sports & Entertainment liked the idea.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve request from Jon Stellwagen for use of Cove Island Park for Run for Health and Hunger 5K on Saturday, September 20, 2014 from 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Approval is with the stipulation that the entry donation for the Run be raised, of which a \$5 difference as a minimum go directly to the Food Bank. Mr. Stellwagen will also need to provide the Commission with documentation on how the Run is being projected.

Seconded by Althea Brown

Unanimously Approved

Tiffany Polite – Corner Stone Church of God In Christ – Use of Lione Park or Jackie Robinson Park for Church Festival – Thursday, September 11, 2014 to Sunday, September 14, 2014 – Event Starting and Ending Times Varies Depending on Day.

- A commercial Carnival has never taken place in the parks.
- Commission suggested using Mill River Park or a school parking lot.

Mr. Winston made a motion to deny the request.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Sondra Durant – Waterside Coalition Inc. – Waterside Diversity Fest IV – Use of Boccuzzi Park – Saturday, September 20, 2014 – Rain Date Saturday, September 27, 2014 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. – 150 Adults and 150 Children.

- There are no changes from last year at this time.

- If a Bouncy House is planned to be used, it will require to be inspected by the Building Department. A supervisor will be required to monitor the kids at all times.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Patricia Clair – American Diabetes Association – Use of Cummings Park for Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes – Sunday, October 5, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:00 p.m. – 300 Adults and 50 – 100 Children.

- Walkers will be primarily from Fairfield County.
- This is the only walk in the State.
- Walk supports the entire diabetes community.
- Ms. Brown would like Ms. Clair to let the Commission know next year how the American Diabetes Association is outreaching to the various organizations in Stamford.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Alex Karman – South Western Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA) – Use of Veteran’s Park for Bike to Work Day – Friday, May 16, 2014 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 9:30 a.m. – 40 Adults.

- They will set up a couple of tables at Veterans’ Park.
- There will be a bike mechanic at the park from a local bike shop to do safety checks.
- There will be a CT Transit Bus present to demonstrate their bike racks.
- There will be a Food Truck located on Reckson property.
- Commission agreed to add Bike to Work Day to the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Ray Redniss – Stamford Yacht Club USODA – Use of Czescik Marina Parking and West Beach Boat Launch Ramp for Optimist Team Trial Event – Wednesday,

April 30, 2014 to Sunday, May 4, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends Sunday, May 4, 2014 – 100 Adults and 210 Children.

- Stamford Yacht Club is hosting the US Optimist Dinghy Association Team Trials May 1 – 4, 2014. This is a National event for junior sailors, kids that are 13 to 15 years old. This event is called the Team Trials; the top 200 or 220 kids in the country come to one place to compete for a place on the U.S. National Team to compete internationally.
- 200 to 230 Competitors, the coaches and parents that accompany them are expected.
- They are looking to be able to launch these boats between Saturday, April 26, 2014 and Tuesday, April 29, 2014, there will be about a dozen boats or so that might get launched. There will be another dozen boats on Tuesday and Wednesday. By Wednesday afternoon everybody will be here and settled into where they need to be.
- They have arranged car parking with George Comfort and Sons for space at Harbor Plaza and parent boat parking at Brewer's Yacht Haven East. In an effort to minimize street traffic and parking, the Club will run launch service to and from Yacht Haven East. They would like to launch the boats at West Beach and store their trailers in the parking areas adjacent to the ramp and/or across the street in the Czescik Park area.
- Most of the launching and storage of trailers will be between Sunday and Wednesday, intermittently.
- The boats will be out of the water on Sunday, the earliest 2:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- Ms. Albano stated that as long as the West Beach boat ramp has trailer parking for residents, she is OK with the request.
- Mr. Andreana asked if the Organizing Authority will consider making a donation to Where Angels Play Playground. Mr. Redniss will ask them.
- Mr. Andreana does not have a problem with the request as long as the issues with the coordination and the logistics with all of the things going on at West Beach that weekend are addressed. Mr. Winston would like them to keep a section of space open at West Beach.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Matt MacDonald – The Waterside School – 5K Run/Walk – Permission to Walk thru Kosciuszko Park – Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. – 300 Adults and 200 Children.

- Mr. MacDonald requested permission to go through Kosciuszko Park, Ms. Albano stated that work there should be done by October. Mr. MacDonald stated that if the park is not ready in October they will do the same route as last year.
- If everything goes well this event should be added to the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

- Mr. Andreana asked Mr. Murray to get an update from the Engineering Department regarding Belltown Park and any other ongoing park projects.

Old Business

Erin McKenna – Request Permission to Put a Kiosk in Mianus River Park.

- Ms. McKenna asked that the request be tabled to the May 2014 Commission Meeting.

Nick Vivona – Stamford American Little League – Foul Poles at Northrop and Caporizzo Fields (Vine Road).

- No representative was present

Nick Vivona – Stamford American Little League – Signs at Caporizzo Field (Vine Road).

- No representative was present

Nick Vivona – Stamford American Little League – Batting Cage at Northrop.

- No representative was present

Nick Vivona – Stamford American Little League – Field Improvements Miscellaneous.

- No representative was present

New Business

Frank Fedeli – Proposed Increase of Special Event Application Fee and Design of Permit Application.

- Mr. Fedeli and the Commission discussed new changes to the Special Application Form. Some of the changes include new fees including the application fee from \$25 to \$100. The new application will also show cost for use of electricity, dumpsters and labor. Mr. Winston stated that Cashiering and Permitting should let applicants know ahead of time if they are going to require a dumpster.
- The application should state that no amplified sound is allowed in City parks.
- If there is a problem with an organization during an event, Mr. Fedeli will let the Commission know. Organization will be notified that if it happens again they will not be able to get a permit the next time.
- Mr. Fedeli should give out a copy of the Regulations with the Special Event Application.
- Mr. Andreana suggested that Mr. Fedeli meets with former Commissioner Mike Macari regarding film fees. Mr. Andreana also suggested inviting Mr. Macari to a future meeting to discuss film fees.
- Special Event Application should read: Violation of City Ordinances or Parks Regulations will result in denial of future Special Event Permits.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve the revised permit application as modified by Frank Fedeli for increased fees.

Seconded Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Daniel Rivas – Central American Soccer League – Possible Use of Cummings and Lione Fields – Sunday, April 13, 2014 to Sunday, October 5, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- Because of the work being done at Westover Mr. Rivas will not be able to use the field and asked the Commission permission to use Lione Field. Stamford High School field will be available from June 29th until the end of August, and then Mr. Rivas will need Lione field again in September. Kevin Murray thinks that Westover will be available for play the second week in June, Mr. Rivas thinks it will be too soon to start playing on that field and he is afraid that it will get ruined.
- Mr. Andreana suggested giving Mr. Rivas permission to use Lione Field certain dates, a couple of half days. Instead of using Westover from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. they can play a morning game and an afternoon game there, playing only two

games to not overuse the field for the first couple of weeks that it is ready. Make up some of the games between Lione and Westover. Mr. Rivas can use Stamford High School's field for the summer and if extra games needed to be made up in July and August use Westover.

- Ms. Albano stated that Mr. Rivas biggest problem is May and June. Ms. Albano offered Mr. Rivas the dates that are open at Lione and also offered him the outfields of Cummings 4 and 5, Mr. Murray's crew will be able to put up a full size field there.
- Mr. Rivas needs a field to play for eight weekends; Ms. Albano has five weekends available, May, 11, 18, June 1, 8, 22, and Mr. Rivas can use Cummings for the missing dates. Mr. Andreana asked Mr. Rivas to work it out with Ms. Albano.
- If needed, Mr. Rivas will be able to use Lione Field September through November. Mr. Andreana would rather have Mr. Rivas use Westover if it's available.

Jerry Pia – Jackie Robinson LL Partnership with Bobby Valentine's Sports Academy.

- No representative was present.
- The inclination of the Commission is that this request will not be approved.
- Tabled until Mr. Pia asks to be put on the Agenda again.

Laurie Albano – Full Designation of Lione Field as a Permit Park.

- The community originally wanted to keep Lione Field open for open play, which is good, but there is now commercial activity going on in the park. Lione Field is getting very close to being almost permitted. There is a group on the Agenda tonight that is interested in using Lione Field and the time they are looking for is available. Permitting the league will allow us to collect the revenue from the adult groups and at least we will know who is using the field.
- Mr. Andreana suggested that the field be kept as open play for the neighborhood kids from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays.

Tournaments

Sahul Sharma and Nikhil Jain – Use of Lione Field for Cricket Tournament – Saturday, May 24, 2014 to Sunday, May 25, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- They have not picked a charity for this year yet.

- Commission agreed to add Sahul Sharma and Nikhil Jain's Cricket Tournament to the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

- Mr. Jain asked what the protocol was to apply for a permit to play recreational Cricket at whatever time is available throughout the summer season. They will need 2 to 3 hour slots as early as 7:30 a.m.
- Ms. Albano thinks that there might be some slots open at Lione Field, Sundays might be difficult. Ms. Brown suggested the use Boccuzzi Park.
- Ms. Albano suggested that the Commission might want to designate that Boccuzzi Park will be permitted for Cricket play on Sundays. Mr. Andreana suggested that Mr. Jain tries it for the next couple of weeks. Mr. Jain should get on the May Agenda to discuss the use of the field.

Fortunato Daniele – Stamford Italian Club – Proposed New Men's Soccer League for Commission Sanctioning – Use of Lione Field or West Beach Field from Tuesday, July 1, 2014 to Sunday, Thursday, 28, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- Mr. Fortunato Daniele from Stamford Italian Club requested permission to use Lione Field from July to August from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for an over 30 men's league.
- The first week in July will be from Tuesday, July 1st to Thursday, July 3rd, after that it will be Monday thru Thursday.
- The league will have six to eight teams.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve the request for the use of Lione Field from Tuesday, July 1st to Thursday, August 28th, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Correspondence

No Correspondence.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 21, 2014.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Winston

Seconded by Mr. Brown

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
April 23, 2014