

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the May 21, 2014 Regular Meeting**

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on May 21, 2014, 10th Floor Operations Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Joe Andreana
 Dave Winston
 Althea Brown
 Lyda Ruijter

Staff: Laurie Albano
 Kevin Murray

Guests: Jordan Giles – Half Full Brewery Road Race

 Jon Stellwagen – Half Full Brewery Road Race

 Alex Virvo – Kids Draw Free

 Pamela Conte – Doggie Day Palooza

 Rep. Matt Quiñones – Doggie Day Palooza

 Nick Vivona – Stamford American Little League

 Charles Pia – Movie Night & Softball Tournament

 Diane Selditch – SoundWaters – Signs & Canoe Tours

 John Ruotolo – Dog Area at Kiwanis Park

 Emily Provonsha – Dog Area at Kiwanis Park

 Fran Sikorski – Use of West Beach/Women’s Soccer

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Joe Andreana, Chair.

Mr. Andreana welcomed new Commissioner Lyda Ruijter.

Review of the April 16, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

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

Staff Reports

Laurie Albano

- Lifeguards began Saturday; they will be on duty Saturdays only until June 20, 2014, then 7 days a week thru Labor Day.
- Working on all of the prep work on all summer rec activities. The Tram will start running this Saturday and will continue running continuously 7 days a week 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- All summer hiring is almost complete.
- Park Field Calendars are now on Rec website and City website.
- Terry Conners Ice Rink internal audit report is complete; Ms. Albano distributed to the Commission a copy of her response document to the internal audit.
- Ken Smith will attend the June meeting to answer any questions the Commission may have and give a full Terry Conners Ice Rink update.
- Manhattanville College likely will not be back at Terry Conners; June 11th is the deadline for an answer.
- Still uncertain if Fireworks will take place, Director Orgera still working on getting donations.
- Ms. Albano stated that she would like to suggest making Heroy Park a point of sale on the weekends.
- All sport league permit holders have submitted all of their required paperwork and rosters with the exception of Stamford American Little League who will send ASAP.
- Ms. Albano stated that at the end of the day today she was notified that we will be able to have the summer camp at Davenport School.

- Engineering has been doing some work at Cove; depression was filled in front of the pavilion. Ms. Albano asked Director Orgera to have it hydroseeded so grass will come in quickly and in time for Cove camp and picnics at pavilion.

Kevin Murray

- Mr. Murray presented in writing a brief update on Parks Capital Projects. Projects included: Barrett Park, Cummings Park, West Beach and Marina, Jackie Robinson Park, Mianus River Park, Rosa Hartman Park and Scalzi Park – Phase 3.
- Mr. Murray reported that the Redwood Memorial Bench with plaque costs \$1,409.14 and the Composite with plaque costs \$1,568.00. Pros and cons were discussed. Mr. Andreana would like to have a more in depth discussion regarding the benches at a later meeting when the agenda is not as heavy as tonight's.
- Park staff is about 90% filled with seasonal employees.
- The Stump Grinding Program by the Tree Department has eliminated 50 stumps at Cove Island, Cummings and West Beach areas – Scalzi Park will be next.
- Marina Division staff is currently installing all Lifeguard chairs, swim lines and launching buoys this week prior to Memorial Day Weekend.
- Mr. Andreana received some information from Mr. Mike Pappa regarding field maintenance and passed it on to Mr. Winston for his review. Mr. Andreana asked Mr. Winston to come back at the next meeting with his thoughts, if it's something that should be pursued further.

Consent Agenda

Craig Baker – DOMUS Kids, Inc. – Use of Cove Island Park for DOMUS Niner – Sunday, September 21, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:00 p.m. – 250 Adults.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Penny Mazzucco – Patriotic & Special Events Commission – Memorial Day Parade – Use of Veterans' Park on Sunday, May 25, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Ingemar Heredia – Comite Civico Ecuatoriano – Use of Columbus Park for Ecuadorian Flag Raising – Saturday, August 9, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 4:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 7:30 p.m. – 35 Adults and 5 Children.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve request for Saturday, August 9, 2014 or Sunday, August 10, 2014, if needed, if the park is available.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Villa Divino Amore School – Graduation and Family Picnic at Cove Island Park – Saturday, June 21, 2014. Request to Waive the \$15.00 Fee for the One-Day Parking Pass (Cove Island) for 30 Families.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Our Lady of Grace School – Graduation and Family Picnic at Cove Island Park – Sunday, June 22, 2014. Request to Waive the \$15.00 Fee for the One-Day Parking Pass (Cove Island) for 30 Families.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Craig Lippmann – Thompson Reuters – Company Softball Tournament – Use of Cummings 1 & 2 on Saturday, July 12, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Special Events

Jordan Giles – Half Full Brewery, Inc. – Half Full Brewery Road Race – Walk Thru Kosciuszko Park – Sunday, June 29, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – 400 Adults and 100 Children.

- The benefactor of the race will be Achilles International CT Chapter. Archilles mission is to enable people with all types of disabilities to participate in mainstream athletics.
- Half Full Brewery plans to donate 50% of ticket sales to the Archilles CT Chapter and 100% of beer sales to the charity. Half Full Brewery is prepared to donate \$1 for every runner to the City of Stamford Parks and Recreation Department. Half Full

Brewery will donate a minimum of \$500 regardless of the registration with no current cap on race entry at this time. Mr. Andreana suggested that Mr. Giles contact Laurie Albano and Kevin Murray to see if there is something the department needs to get with the donation.

- The race will start on the boardwalk, go thru Kosciuszko Park, they will do three laps in the park and end on the boardwalk. The race will not go near the area that still has not been repaired from the storm.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

Alex Virvo – Kids Draw Free.Com – Use of Kiwanis Park for Kids Draw Free “Kid Empowerment through Art” – Saturdays through October 18, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. – 30+ Adults and 60+ Children.

- This program has been run previously by the D.S.S.D.
- There will be no food or merchandise for sale.
- Mr. Virvo can have a donation box.
- Mr. Virvo would like to get non-profits to sponsor the program.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve request without the merchandise for sale concept.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Pamela Conte – STARelief – Use of Dog Park for Doggy Day Palooza – Saturday, August 23, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up ends at 5:00 p.m.

- STARelief is a non-profit organization for low income residents who have pets that they can't afford to support with food, housing, leashes, etc.
- Ms. Conte stated that STARelief would like to host a doggy awareness day; they would like to do a dog wash and a car wash at the Dog Park. All profits will go to STARelief.
- Ms. Conte would like to request a rain date of Sunday, August 24, 2014. Ms. Albano suggested that Ms. Conte clear the dates with Cashiering and Permitting.

- Representative Matt Quiñones stated that they have been working on a way to make this happen in a way that it will not affect traffic that goes thru the area. Volunteers will help to keep the flow of traffic. Representative Quiñones stated that Director Orgera agreed that this should not be a problem.
- Mr. Winston requested that they use biodegradable soaps.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

Jennifer Ayala – Use of Goodbody Garden for Wedding Ceremony – Saturday, June 7, 2014 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – 40 Adults and 10 Children.

- No representative was present.

Charlie Pia – Stamford Babe Ruth Softball – Use of Cove Island Ball Fields for Movie Night – Friday, May 30, 2014 – Rain Date Friday, June 6, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

- Mr. Pia stated that the softball games will be cancelled on June 6, 2014 to show a movie for the kids.
- Mr. Winston expressed his concern that if by allowing this movie night to take place, it will make the field available for movies by anyone else. Mr. Pia explained that this event is for the kids of the league. The league has the permit to use the field and the parents and kids will respect and take care of the field.
- Mr. Andreana sees this issue as Stamford Babe Ruth Girls Softball having a function on their field. Ms. Albano stated that we are better off allowing the permit holder to organize the events on the fields.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

YES: Ms. Brown
 YES: Ms. Ruijter
 YES: Mr. Andreana
 NO: Mr. Winston

Old Business

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

- Stamford American Little would like to replace the Foul Poles at Northrop and Caporizzo Fields at their cost.
- Mr. Andreana stated that Mr. Vivona will have to contact the Engineering Department and have them approve the drawings.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve the installation of 12 ft. Foul Poles at Northrop and Caporizzo Fields.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

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

- Mr. Vivona explained that Stamford American Little League would like to install a permanent sign that says Stamford American Little League at Caporizzo Field to replace the current banner. The three poles measure 14 ft. – 4 ft. high. Mr. Andreana stated that a 4' x 14' sign is too big and asked Mr. Murray to find out what the typical size of Little League field sign is. The sign should not be bigger than the already approved signs for other fields.
- The size of the existing banner is 3' x 7'; the Commission agreed that this is a good size for the sign.
- Mr. Vivona also mentioned the Northrop sign, but was told by Mr. Andreana that before doing anything with that sign, the league needs to address the Commission.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve request contingent upon the final drawing of the sign and what it's going to look like.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

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

- Mr. Vivona stated that American Little League would like to install a permanent shed at Northrop in the same location the existing one is, only bigger. Mr. Andreana stated that the Commission would like to see full drawings and renderings before they bring it to the Board.

New Business

Dianne Selditch – Sound Waters – Installation of Small Directional Signs at Cove Island Park.

- Ms. Selditch stated that SoundWaters would like to replace the sign that is on the chain link fence with a new sign that will tell people where SoundWaters is located; the sign will be the same size.
- SoundWaters would like to also replace the sign on grassy island at the entrance to the park. Original sign that was installed in 2000 was knocked over by snowplow and never replaced. The other option is to add replacement sign to the bottom of the existing stand post.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve request to replace the sign at the front and to install the second sign inside park on the existing stand post.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

Dianne Selditch – SoundWaters – Saturday Environmental Education Canoe Tours on Holly Pond During the Summer.

- SoundWaters would like to offer ecology canoe trips to the general public on Holly Pond on Saturdays during the summer. In addition to the canoeing, they will continue with their ecology program. The program focuses on the diversity of bird and animal life and how trash and debris in the pond harm animals.
- There will be two hour and a half trips, one from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and the other from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Every canoe trip will start with a safety talk.
- SoundWaters' Liability Insurance will cover this program.
- Ms. Selditch needs to contact Ann Marie Mones/Risk Manager to make sure their current insurance is sufficient.

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Andreana made a motion to add to the Agenda Representative Anabel Figueroa's request to use Columbus Park for Flash Mob on Wednesday, June 4, 2014.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Representative Anabel Figueroa and Beatrice Chodosh – Crisol/Acuarela – Request to Use Columbus Park on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 for Flash Mob from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 5:00 p.m. – 20 to 50 Adults.

- This demonstration is in support of Immigration Reform with a short display of dancing and posters.

- Mr. Andreana asked Representative Figueroa to let this organization know that in the future they need to follow proper procedure of getting the application in with sufficient time to present it at the Commission meeting.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

Emily Provonsha – D.S.S.D. – Proposed Dog Area at Kiwanis Park.

- When Stamford Downtown began working on beautifying streetscapes and parks, most residential buildings did not allow pets and there were very few downtown residents with dogs. This has changed in recent years, as dog ownership has increased. Dog owners who fail to clean up after their dogs in the downtown area pose a real challenge to the maintenance of downtown gardens, which are taken care of by human hands.
- As an initiative to deal with this issue, Stamford Downtown would like to propose a pilot “dog area” in Kiwanis Park. The area chosen is roughly 6’ x 6’ area in an existing raised garden bed in the southwest corner of the park. The dog area will be covered with pea gravel, bound by an 11” tall fence, and surrounded by shrubs on two sides. To designate the dog area, it was proposed to display six small signs that read “No Dogs – Use Designated Area” in other garden areas of the park.
- The clean-up will be done by a company called Doggy Do Not; they are a pet waste clean-up crew.
- The pea gravel is inexpensive, it can be changed as needed or it can also be hosed down.

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Tournaments

Francesca Sikorski – Use of West Beach 1 for Women’s Soccer – Saturday, June 28, 2014 to Saturday, August 23, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- Same request as last year. Ms. Albano stated that the field is available.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Charlie Pia – Girls Babe Ruth – Babe Ruth Softball State Tournament – Thursday, July 3, 2014 to Sunday, July 13, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Weekends/Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday).

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Correspondence

Letter from David Winston/Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary – Closure of Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary During Fireworks Display.

- Letter from Mr. David Winston regarding the closure of the Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary during Fireworks display on July 3, 2014. Notice will be put up at the kiosk and at the gate in advance notifying that the Sanctuary will be closed.

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to approve closure of the Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary during Fireworks display on July 3, 2014.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

YES: Ms. Brown

YES: Ms. Ruijter

YES: Mr. Andreana

ABSTAINED: Mr. Winston

Mr. Winston made a motion to recommend that Heroy Park be made a point of sale on the weekends.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 18, 2014.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Winston

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
May 23, 2014