

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
Minutes of the June 18, 2014 Regular Meeting**

**DRAFT**

**DRAFT**

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on June 18, 2014, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Operations Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

**In attendance were:**

Commissioners:            Joe Andreana  
                                      Dave Winston  
                                      Althea Brown

Staff:                         Laurie Albano  
                                      Kevin Murray

Guests:                      Soraya Molina – Wedding at Fort Stamford  
  
                                      William Valenti – Kane Avenue Field  
  
                                      Nick Vivona – Kane Avenue Field  
  
                                      Gaetana Ottaviano – Kane Avenue Field  
  
                                      Pat Ottaviano – Kane Avenue Field  
  
                                      David Roberts – Kiosk/Mianus River Park  
  
                                      Mike Papa – Organic Lawn Care

**Call to Order**

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

Ms. Ruijter did not attend the meeting.

Mr. Murray will be late to the meeting.

## **Review of the May 21, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Laurie Albano – Recreation**

- Plans for Fireworks are falling into place. Trying very hard to get a bigger barge, since the Mayor wants to have an extra five minutes added to the program.
- Day Camps and Activity Programs with Recreation will open on June 25<sup>th</sup>.
- All Terry Conners Rink Skate Camps will open next week Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Heroy Pool will open on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. The pool will be open 7 days a week from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekends and 3:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. during the weekdays for open public swim – Camps from 10:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
- LAZ Parking vendor will start this weekend at Heroy; they will be there from 11:00 a.m. thru 7:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday thru August 17<sup>th</sup> and July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Lifeguards will start paying Union dues. This will not help with retention and recruitment.
- Starting to get schedules for the Little League post season and the tournaments that follow that, the District I and the Friendship Tournament.
- Denis McKiernan has officially retired and will not be coming back. Will post Rink Manager position as soon as possible.
- Mayor's Team vs. Board of Representatives softball game will take place on Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at Boccuzzi Park at 6:00 p.m. – Commissioners are invited.
- There has been a constant problem at the Cove Point every year, anything from fishing to jumping to diving to swimming and climbing the rocks. Recreation budget will pay for some maintenance seasonals to be out there on the weekends to patrol as ambassadors.
- Mr. Andreana expressed his disappointment at the fact that the Commissioners were not invited to the first Public Hearing for the Cummings/West Beach Master Plan on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Albano will talk to Erin McKenna to make sure that this does not happen again.

- Mr. Andreana also expressed his concern about the Hot Dog Truck parked on the park grass right across from the Knights of Columbus. Mr. Andreana is not sure if he is permitted to park there, Ms. Albano will check with Director Orgera.
- It does not look like Manhattanville will be coming back to Terry Conners Ice Rink.

**Kevin Murray – Parks**

- Bid for restoration of masonry walls/ bollards at Fort Stamford to repair crack and damaged areas. The mandatory pre-bid walk through June 17<sup>th</sup> and date of bid opening is set for July 1, 2014.
- Currently fully staff for the season with 31 seasonal employees to maintain all parks with attendants and assistance on grass routes and sport’s maintenance.
- Barrett Park is 100% complete per Frank Vonella, Engineering Department.

**Ken Smith – Terry Conners Ice Rink**

- Ms. Albano and Mr. Smith miscommunicated and Mr. Smith will attend the July meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

**Danette Melchionne – United Way/GE Asset Management – Use of Cove Island Park for 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Walk/Run for United Way – Thursday, September 18, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 3:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 7:00 p.m.**

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

**Joe Delaney – Big 4 Softball Tournament – Use of Cummings 1 and 2 on Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

**Special Events**

**Diane Molina – Use of Fort Stamford Park for Wedding Ceremony on Monday, July 7, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 1:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. – 25 Adults and 5 Children.**

- Ms. Soraya Molina presenting for her sister Diane Molina stated that the time for the wedding has been changed from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

- Mr. Andreana stated that wedding requests should be handled by the Staff rather than coming to the Commission. They can get immediate approval as long as we know that the parties are City residents and that they follow the rules such as no bottled alcohol. Mr. Andreana asked Ms. Albano to come up with a working plan and present it at the July meeting.

### **Old Business**

#### **Nick Vivona – Stamford American Little League – Kane Avenue Field and Batting Cage Issues.**

- Mr. William Valenti, resident of Kane Avenue for 20 years, stated he would occasionally use the field with his son, Mr. Valenti wanted to use the field the other day to play catch with his son, but the gate was locked. There are at least six families on the street that bring their small children to play there, now they are playing on the street. Since Stamford American Little League has been given permission to lock the gates to the fields, now the people who have been using that field in the neighborhood are being locked out. Mr. Valenti stated that he would like to have the gate open.
- Nick Vivona from Stamford American Little League stated that a light was replaced on the flag pole located on Center Field at the Kane Avenue field and apparently someone complained about it, the light has not been working for a long time. Now the light is broken, Mr. Valenti stated that it looks like someone kicked it. Mr. Vivona stated that the light has been there for about 16 years.

#### **Mr. Murray arrived at 7:20 p.m.**

- Mr. Murray stated that he attended to Mr. Ottaviano's complaints of balls going in his yard, and walked the property with him. A new fence is not in question because of budget issues. The Batting Cage stays up and after the season it must come down. To reduce the sound of the ping of the bats, wooden bats must be used in the cage.
- Per the Law Department, Kane Avenue is not a City Park, but it is City owned, which means that there is no requirement in effect that it will be open from dawn to dusk. Per Director Orgera, he agreed to have the park gates open by Stamford American Little League at 4:00 p.m. for the first game and then close after the last game, no later than 9:00 p.m., 7 days a week. There was a problem with a neighbor parking his commercial trucks in the park.

- Mr. Murray stated that by keeping the gates closed it will eliminate motorized vehicles on the park.
- Mr. Murray stated that if the flag is being flown overnight it needs a light on it. Since the neighbors are complaining about the light, Mr. Murray is looking into possibly working with the league to lower the flag at the end of the last game and put it back up when the coaches get there at 4:00 p.m.
- Mr. Murray stated that when games are not going on, there are other kids using the field and that is where a lot of the balls are going into Mr. Ottaviano's yard. Batting practice should not be permitted at Kane Avenue field.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the Commission will not stop the children from the City from using the field. The Commission wants to accommodate the neighbors as much as they can, they are getting cooperation from the league, and Mr. Vivona will bring the issues discussed back to the Board. At the present time we will keep the situation where the coaches open the gate when the games are on and when they need it and close the gate at the end. We need to look at installing a man gate to eliminate vehicles going in the field. Park closes at dusk, anybody in there after dusk is a Police issue.
- Mr. Vivona invited Mr. Ottaviano to attend the Stamford American Little League Board meeting to express his concerns.
- Mr. Andreana asked Mr. Vivona to walk the field with Mr. Ottaviano and to address the problems that the league can address. Mr. Andreana asked Mr. Murray to investigate installing a man gate for the neighbors.
- Mr. Murray will look at the netting; there could be possibly a way they can net off the area where the foul balls are going into Mr. Ottaviano's yard.
- Mr. Winston stated that if the flag is going to be up at night, it should be lit. If the light is not going to be fixed just take the flag down and put it up when they play.

## **New Business**

### **David Roberts – Request Permission to Put a Kiosk in Mianus River Park.**

- Mr. David Roberts reminded the Commission that about a year ago Erin McKenna and he came before the Commission for approval for the creation of an Urban Oasis in Mianus River Park. Currently they have \$8,500 of funding, they have already taken an area that is already fenced and completed the first phase of planting the Urban Oasis.
- Also as part of the project there was a request to put in an additional Kiosk. The idea is to put up an identical Kiosk as the small Kiosk located over the Mianus River

Bridge; it is about 3 ft. wide. The Kiosk will be a two post with a little roof. The Kiosk will sit on the edge of the Urban Oasis.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

- Mr. Andreana suggested planning a field trip to some of the parks in September.

**David Winston – Correspondence from Mike Papa to the Commission Reviewed by Mr. Winston.**

- Mr. Winston reviewed proposal from Mr. Mike Papa regarding Organic Lawn Care.
- Mr. Winston suggested having a pilot program in one of the parks.
- Mr. Andreana stated that knowing that the City does not have funding, maybe something can be done with Grants or Conservancy type of funding.
- Mr. Winston will set up a meeting with Kevin Murray, Phil D’Amico and Mr. Papa to discuss this program and look where a testing area can be located for the pilot program.

**Tournaments**

No Tournaments.

**Correspondence**

No Correspondence.

**The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 16, 2014.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Winston

Seconded by Ms. Brown

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Margarita Arenas  
June 25, 2014