

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

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

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Joe Andreana
Dave Winston
Althea Brown
Beth Cooper

Staff: Laurie Albano
Ron Markey for Kevin Murray
Ken Smith

Guests: Sue Rigano – Cedar Street Park
Monica Miller – Cedar Street Park
Silvia Santacruz – Zumba Fundraiser
David Miranda – Use of Jackie Robinson Park
Luz Miranda – Use of Jackie Robinson Park
Daniel Raymer – D.S.S.D. – Zumba at Latham Park
Steve Rosati – YMCA – Zumba at Latham Park
Amy Melashvili – Smoking at Stamford Public Beaches
Rick Redniss – Veterans' Park
Jeffrey Lorrius – Basketball Tournament/Scalzi Park

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 did not attend the meeting; Ron Markey attended in his place.

Mr. Andreana welcomed Mrs. Beth Cooper back to the Commission.

Review of the June 18, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

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

Mrs. Cooper abstained because she did not attend the June 18, 2014 meeting.

Staff Reports

Ken Smith – Terry Conners Ice Rink

- Mr. Smith has been the Acting Rink Manager since late November; currently he is also the Rink Operator. Ms. Albano commended Mr. Smith for doing a very good job.
- Mr. Smith handed out a Revenue Report. The Rink is \$10,000 dollars less than projected from last year. This figure fluctuates because people do not pay on time, so this figure is actually a little closer to even than we were last year.
- Manhattanville College will not be coming back this year. To try to counter balance this revenue loss there is a Women's Hockey Team that skates during the time that Manhattanville used to have and they will be bringing in \$14,000. In order to bring in more revenue, one of the rooms at the rink is being rent out for a little girls Ballet Class and they will bring in \$5,000. Stamford Youth Hockey organization wants more ice on Fridays and Saturdays this year, which will bring in another \$14,000.
- There was an emergency repair necessary for a cooling tower fan a few weeks ago, which required an emergency bid waiver.
- Camps are in their all time high, they had 41 kids this week at the Skate Camp.

- The rink will hopefully get a face lift soon with infrastructure repairs, bids are out for the repair of the roof.
- Ms. Albano stated that the building is getting old and tired and mentioned again the Geothermal option that was discussed in the past and how other rinks are using it successfully.

Laurie Albano – Recreation

- Ms. Albano will e-mail or bring a copy of the Revenue Report next month. Recreation was down a little bit in revenue this year due to the weather.
- Camps are into week 4 and end on August 8th.
- West Beach has gone through some issues this year. The new playground has brought in a lot of new people and changed the dynamics there. Since there are so many kids at West Beach now, they have created a designated ball playing area. Some want it and some don't.
- In house adult leagues are all well.
- Cove Tram running well, a third person was added on busy weekends, allowing tram to run non-stop without a lunch break.
- Ms. Albano mentioned the article in the newspaper from Mr. Lambert regarding Cummings Beach and the current rule of no swimming on the east side of the jetty. Ms. Albano believes that the Ordinance is very confusing, the Municipal Code and the Park Regulations contradict each other. Valerie from the Mayor's Office sent out a response letter to Mr. Lambert. However we do not have a permit from DEEP for swimming on the east side of Cummings.
- We are starting to have an issue with umbrellas; shade devices and pop up canopies at the beaches. Ms. Albano asked the Commission to address this issue as a Policy or maybe add to our regulations, no pop up tents, regular umbrellas and shade devices must be from the Lifeguard's chair back. Mr. Andreana asked Ms. Albano to come back next month with a written proposal.
- Ms. Albano stated that the Park Regulations has some ball playing language, but it is not very clear, but there is clearer language on the general Park Rules that we have. Ms. Albano feels that the Park Regulations need to be updated and will bring something in writing to the Commission.
- Ms. Albano stated that she has a very old book of Park & Recreation Regulations/Ordinances and offered it to anyone who wants to take a look at it. Mr. Andreana asked her to scan it and send to the Commissioners.

- Working on the fall brochure now, it will get to the printer by the end of July, early August.
- The Cummings Park/West Beach Master Plan is in process, there will be more Public Hearings coming up. The next meeting will be on July 31st.
- Mayor's Softball Team vs. Board of Representatives game has been cancelled and will be re-scheduled.
- Ms. Albano presented a proposal for in house approval/permit process for park weddings.

Mr. Andreana stated that the number of attendees should be raised to 50 from 20. Also, approval will be given within 3 to 5 business days.

- Stamford American Little League contacted Ms. Albano; they are having a hard time getting volunteers to run the concession stand at the Vine Road field. They wanted to know if there could be a provision made or if it is allowed for them to sub-let their existing stand. Commission feels that this needs to be discussed in detail.
- Fireworks went great.

Ron Markey for Kevin Murray – Parks

- Fireworks on Saturday, July 5th were a big success.
- Frank's Hot Dog Food Truck will be getting a street permit and has moved truck off of the grass area located across from the Bank of America on Shippan Avenue.
- Parks Department will assist the Engineering Department with the installation of 4 benches to be installed at Barrett Park.
- Parks Department will be getting 9 summer workers for eight weeks from 2014 Summer Youth Earn & Learn Employment Program (SYELEP). Employees will be paid by the State of Connecticut and will be assisting in the following work areas:
 - (1) Secretary assistant – 20 hours, filing and data entry (works with Executive Secretary).
 - (4) Park attendants – will monitor the Cove Point from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; will also maintain three bathrooms at Cove Island.
 - (4) Bathroom attendants – will monitor and clean bathrooms at the following locations on Friday, Saturday, and Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Scalzi Park Dorothy Heroy, Cummings Park and West Beach.
- Tournament Update:

- Babe Ruth Regional Tournament hosted at Cubeta Stadium 7/19 to 7/22, 7/23.
- American Legion State Tournament Hosted at Cubeta Stadium 7/26 or 8/3.
- Parks Department will start to release 30 seasonal employees in two waves this season; first wave will be September 15th and second will be September 30th to help reduce seasonal budget line.
- Mr. Andreana stated that he would like to get a monthly report from Engineering or representative come to the Commission meeting to give an update on park projects.

Consent Agenda

No Consent Agenda.

Special Events

Silvia Santacruz – Injured Marine Semper FI Fund – Use of Cummings Beach or West Beach for Zumba Fitness on the Beach – Sunday, August 3, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. – 40 Adults and 10 Children.

- Ms. Santacruz requested the event date to be changed to Sunday, August 31, 2014, Ms. Santacruz will need to check with the Cashiering and Permitting Department to make sure the park is available.
- They will ask for a donation of \$15 and will also have a door price.
- No amplified music is allowed.
- Mrs. Cooper stated that she would like to see a better outline of the event.

Mr. Winston made a motion to table the request to the August meeting, the Commission needs more definitive information on the event.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Ms. Cooper left the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Pastor Bethy Flores or David Miranda – Comunidad Cristiana Vida Abundante C.C.V.A. – Use of Jackie Robinson Park for Church Service with Music – Saturday, August 9, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 3:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 10:00 p.m. – 250 Adults and 50 Children.

- Mr. David Miranda asked for information regarding renting the Showmobile.
- Amplified music is not allowed.

- Mr. Miranda needs to provide the Non-Profit number.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Steve Rosati & Jackie Wetenhall – D.S.S.D. and YMCA – Use of Latham Park for Y Without Walls: Wellness Under the Sun – Yoga and Zumba Classes Saturdays in July and August, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:45 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 11:15 a.m. – 100 Adults.

- The D.S.S.D. in conjunction with the YMCA would like permission to use Latham Park for Zumba and Yoga classes for six weeks in the summer. The Zumba class will run from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and the Yoga class from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

Monica Miller – Cedar Street Playground Rebuild Proposal.

- Ms. Monica Miller is a Professor at the University of Connecticut, Stamford Campus. Ms. Miller is partnering with Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF) and Stamford Public Schools on a service learning project for the 2014-2015 school year.
- Ms. Miller stated that they would like to do a playground rebuild and suggested the Cedar Street playground.
- Ms. Miller will be teaching two classes in the fall, one course is on low income families, and the other course is on family school partnerships, part of the course will be being in the class learning the concepts and then they will go out onto the community to have the course concepts come to live.
- This will be a two day project.
- The basic rebuild proposed is as follows:
 - Trash removal
 - Graffiti removal from playground equipment

- Remove old plants and replace with new ones
 - Paint asphalt games
 - Paint a half of basketball court
 - Replace the basketball net
 - Mulch the playground
 - Repaint the walls around the playground
 - Build planter benches
- Ms. Miller asked if the Parks Department has any equipment that has been donated that can be spruced up and reused.
 - In addition to doing the October playground rebuild, they would like to come back in the spring and do some planting.
 - Funding will be through donations.
 - Paint and spray for removal of graffiti will be made available by the Parks Department.
 - Mr. Andreana asked Ms. Miller to contact Kevin Murray.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve the rehabilitation of the Cedar Street Playground.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Amy Melashvili – Smoking at the Stamford Public Beaches.

- Ms. Amy Melashvili wants to propose making Stamford public beaches smoke free or considering a designated smoking area. Ms. Melashvili stated that other beaches such as Pennington Beach in Long Island and the beaches in New Jersey are also proposing smoke free beaches.
- After some discussion, Mr. Andreana stated that Ms. Melashvili is the first person to bring up this issue. Mr. Andreana stated that as far as the Commission approving or disapproving the request, he feels that one voice is not representing the full population in Stamford.
- Mr. Andreana suggested that the Commission take no action on this request at this time.
- Ms. Melashvili should reach out to the community and get more people on board with her.

- Ms. Melashvili needs to contact her local Representatives from the Board of Representatives for their support and maybe they can have a Public Hearing to discuss this issue.

Rick Redniss – Veterans’ Park Improvements.

- Mr. Redniss reported that he finally received the Soil Report for the Boys & Girls Club. The Report showed that some issues were found with the soil in the park. There are also drainage issues in the park.
- Mr. Redniss stated that they would like to add lights in the park.
- Mr. Andreana would like to see the preliminary design in conjunction with the Engineering Department and Land Use/Park Planning (Erin McKenna).
- The Stamford D.S.S.D. and various stakeholders including private landowners, Veterans, and City staff have joined together to form the Vet’s Park Ad-Hoc Committee. Their hope is to develop a plan for the redesign of Veterans’ Park. The City has set aside \$50,000 for this design process, and stakeholders have also committed to \$50,000 in matching funds. There are some issues with underground utilities, they found out that there is another City Department that apparently has a \$100,000 Grant that they can use to do this remedial work. They are close to getting all of this money assigned over to the D.S.S.D. so that they can do the process.
- Mr. Redniss invited the Commissioners or a designee to be involved in the planning process which will include the general public as well.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the emphasis of the design should be on preserving Veterans’ Memorial Park.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the RFP proposes a playground, a splash pad and grills. Mr. Andreana does not think that grills and playgrounds would be appropriate in a park of this nature. Mr. Redniss feels that the park does not work the way it is right now and would like the park to be enhanced so that it has more meaning for the veterans and for the people who go there. The suggestions on the RFP are just suggestions and they have not agreed to anything yet, they are just gathering thoughts and ideas. Mr. Winston stated that he believes that Mr. Redniss can find an artist that can make this park something special.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the food trucks must be on private property.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the features in the RFP should be features that the Commission agrees to. Mr. Redniss agreed with Mr. Andreana.

- After some discussion, Mr. Redniss stated that he will go back to his Committee and express the Commission's feelings and thoughts.
- Again, Mr. Redniss invited the Commission to be part of their Committee. The Committee meetings are once a month and Mr. Redniss will send the Commissioners an e-mail with the information for the next meeting.

Tournaments

Jeffrey Lorrius – Christian Basketball Tournament – Use of Scalzi Basketball Court – Thursday, July 24, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Correspondence

No Correspondence.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 20, 2014.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Brown

Seconded by Ms. Winston

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
July 21, 2014