

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the July 17, 2013 Regular Meeting

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on July 17, 2013, 10th Floor Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Tim McGuinness
 Joe Andreana
 David Winston
 Mike Macari

Staff: Laurie Albano
 Kevin Murray

Guests: Ernie Orgera – Cummings Park Roadways

 Rep. Mary Uva – Cummings Park Roadways

 Christine Powers – MarcUs for Change 5K Run

 Rose McInerney – MarcUs for Change 5K Run

 Erin McInerney – MarcUs for Change 5K Run

 Chris Berlingo – SYHA Kickoff Picnic

 Anthony Cardillo – Wedding at Cummings Park

 Andrea Valvo – Ministerios Bethania

 Cesar A. Parra – Ministerios Bethania

 John Zito – Use of Boccuzzi Park

 Elaine Marrero – Use of Boccuzzi Park

 Vincent O'Banner – Use of Boccuzzi Park

 Rep. Mary Fedeli – Sleepy Hollow Park

 Captain Sue Bretthauer – Sleepy Hollow Park

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Tim McGuinness.

Althea Brown did not attend the meeting. Ms. Brown gave the Commission prior notice.

Kevin Murray will be a few minutes late.

Review of the June 19, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

Staff Reports

Ernie Orgera and Representative Mary Uva – Cummings Park Roadways

- Director Orgera explained that there are several entrances to Cummings Park. One entrance is off of Shippan Avenue and two entrances off of Soundview Avenue, one goes by the tennis courts and the other goes east of Tupper Drive. Late in the evening there are many vehicles that travel the eastern most roadway of Cummings Park, it runs past east fields, Cummings 4 & 5. Director Orgera questioned if that roadway needed to be open in the evening, so motorcycles can be driving through there with loud mufflers and racing vehicles.

Director Orgera asked the Commission if the road from Soundview Avenue to the Stop Sign that intersects with the roadway that runs into the beach can be closed. As you come over the barrier you will not be able to make a left hand turn to go out to Soundview Avenue or if you are on Soundview Avenue you will not be able to enter the park from that roadway. Director Orgera made clear that the request is for the evening hours only from 9:00 p.m. until the morning hours when the park opens.

Representative Uva stated that by closing the roadway at the same time that the east lot closes it will help bring down the noise and the racing that goes on this roadway.

- In order to close the roadway a gate will have to be installed or a chain like the one that already exists at East Beach. Ms. Albano stated that the gate could be locked at night by the Police as they do for the beach lot now.
- Director Orgera suggested to do traffic counts in the evening hours to get an idea of how many vehicles go through this roadway. As a test Director Orgera suggested to

put barricades.

- This request will also need to go in front of the Park and Recreation Committee of the Board of Representatives.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve the proposal to block off the east roadway of Cummings Park.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Macari made a motion to add to the Agenda request from Director Ernie Orgera for the use of Mianus River Park by the Homeland Security.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Ernie Orgera – Homeland Security – Use of Mianus River Park for Field Training Exercise – Thursday, August 8, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- Homeland Security is requesting the use of Mianus River Park for a Field Training Exercise. The training Exercise would be conducted by their Office's Rapid Response Team (RRT), whose mission includes humanitarian support to those impacted by disasters, emergencies, or other significant events.
- Director Orgera explained that they would like to go to the Mianus River Park where there are several trails that have tree damage from previous storms that have not been cleared out yet. They would like to run an exercise to cut these trees down and clear paths so people can use them.
- Homeland Security will clear with the Police Department. They will be armed and they will be wearing Police jackets that say Police Homeland Security on them. The training will be for only one day. They will be cutting down trees that have already fallen. They will be a team of about 12 people.
- There will be no cost to the City.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

Laurie Albano – Recreation & Directors Report

- Cummings Park and West Beach water is closed to swimmers. The Health Department informed Ms. Albano that they were notified by the State. The Health Department is taking samples every day at multiple times and hopefully the beaches will be open by the weekend.

- Ms. Albano informed the Commission that Mayor Pavia does not want to move forward with the increase to the youth fees at the Terry Conners Ice Rink.
- Camps and beaches are busy. The heat wave has been a challenge; on the 4th of July the entrance to Cove Island Park had to be closed at 2:00 p.m. The next day Ms. Albano spoke to Assistant Chief Matheny and he sent extra help for the weekend.
- Ms. Albano stated that our day fees for non-residents need to be revisited, Stamford is the cheapest in Fairfield County along the shoreline charging only \$20 a day. Ms. Albano is in the process of doing a survey of all of the other shoreline communities in Fairfield County to see what their day rates for non-residents are. Ms. Albano will report back to the Commission. Mr. McGuinness would like to get this done in September or October.
- Ms. Albano received a call from someone regarding American Little League. They had some concerns about the existing fences, the new dugouts and the security of the dugouts at the Vine Road field. Ms. Albano stated that the dugouts are fine, there is fencing completely that covers the dugout and there is a swing gate. The person was concerned about the third and fourth baseline. The only thing that Ms. Albano saw was that the fence is at a certain height about halfway down the line and then it drops to a little bit of a lower height, but it has been like this for years.
- Ms. Albano also received a call from Mrs. Green, a parent who is also concerned about the U Driveway at the Vine Road Field. There was a child that was nearly hit at the U Driveway. Mrs. Green is also talking to Director Orgera to see what can be done, if the league wants some kinds of monitors there, maybe a sawhorse or two that prevents people from coming in and out during the game.
- Ms. Albano informed that there have been some problems at Cove at the point/the rock outcropping, there have been many problems with people jumping, diving, climbing and fishing. Signage has been installed, it has been closed off, but people ignore the signs and the chain. Someone got hurt and cut her foot pretty badly last week. Full time enforcement is needed in the parks.
- Fireworks went well, there were no issues.
- New amenities at Scalzi Park are attracting more people to the park. No Parking Signs were supposed to go on the perimeter of the park, but Ms. Albano fears that if this is done the parks will spill into the neighborhoods. The regulatory parking signs will not be installed for now. Scalzi Park gained 22 parking spaces with the park renovation.
- Scofield Park, Rosa Hartman Park, Cummings and West Beach are all on the docket for the Master Plan's renovation. Ms. Albano is stressing low to no maintenance

design.

- Tree work has started at Rosa Hartman Park. They also have put some road millings there, the driveway will be redone. There is a small budget of \$200,000 to do some clean-up work.
- Stantec Designer has been selected for the Cummings West Beach Project.

Mr. Winston made a motion to add request from Vincent O'Banner to use Boccuzzi Park to the end of the Special Events Agenda.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

Consent Agenda

Pedro Lazo – Ecuadorian Organization of Stamford – Use of Columbus Park for Flag Raising Ceremony – Saturday, August 10, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 5:00 p.m. – 30 Adults and 10 Children.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Special Events

John Henkel – German Shepherd Dog Club of America – Working Dog Association, Inc. – Use of Cummings 4 & 5 for North American Sieger Show (NASS) – Friday, October 4, 2013 to Sunday, October 6, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts on Thursday, October 3, 2013 and Clean-Up will End on Monday, October 7, 2013 – 220 Adults and 80 Children.

- Item canceled, event will not take place in Stamford.

Christine Powers – Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF) – Use of Cove Island Park for MarcUS for Change 5K Run – Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:30 p.m. – 300 Adults and 50 Children.

- The race will begin at the pavilion. Runners will do a loop around Cove Island Park and proceed out of the park onto Weed Avenue, Matthew Street, Dora Street and left onto Cove Road and back into the park for another loop.
- They will need Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) approval.
- All food will be prepared in advance; no preparation will take place on site.

- Signage will be kept minimal and will be remove after event is over.
- No amplified music will be used. They will have an acoustic guitar player.
- Sound for direction will be kept minimal amplified.
- All of the proceeds will go to SPEF which is a non-profit organization.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

Chris Berlingo – Stamford Youth Hockey Association (SYHA) – Use of Terry Conner’s Rink Parking Lot for Stamford Youth Hockey Kick-Off Party/Picnic – Sunday, September 15, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 6:00 p.m. – 100 Adults and 150 Children.

- Mr. McGuinness expressed his concern about the safety issue of the kids running around in the parking lot. Mr. Berlingo told the Commission that for every kid there is a parent and that the kids will be contained in one area. Ms. Albano suggested that the perimeter be secured so that no cars can go in and out.
- A Permit from the Health Department will be needed.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Anthony Cardillo – Use of Cummings Park for Wedding Ceremony – Sunday, August 11, 2013 from 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 11:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 1:00 p.m. – 145 Adults and 11 Children.

- Mr. Cardillo would like to have his wedding ceremony at the right hand side of the entrance of Cummings Park on Shippan Avenue before the Hurricane Barrier by the trees.
- Guest will be parking at the Knights of Columbus where the reception will take place and walk over to the park.

Mr. Andreana made a motion approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Ignacio Avila – Ministerios Bethania CT – Uniendo Nuestras Voces – Use of Cummings Park for Concert – Saturday, September 14, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. to

9:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 1:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 10:00 p.m. – 150 Adults and 50 Children.

- There will be about 5 to 6 Pastors that will be attending the concert from the Association of Pastors from Southwestern Connecticut.
- The band consists of two guitars, a drum set, possibly 3 to 4 singers. They will be using a microphone.
- Mr. Winston stated that this event also took place in 2011 and there were many issues with the event. In 2011 the event was not permitted to be amplified at all and Officer Gould told Mr. Winston that it was way too loud and that it cannot happen again. Mr. Winston was told that this event was a major disruption to the neighborhood.
- Mr. Winston stated that no amplification will be permitted.
- Participants cannot park at Grade A Shop Rite's parking lot.
- If a tent is erected, they will need approval from the Building Department.
- Mr. Winston asked that they contact Sgt. Weed in the Police Department regarding the security.
- Ms. Albano stated that they need to contact Cashiering and Permitting regarding Parking Passes.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Elaine Marrero – John Zito for Mayor 2013 – Use of Boccuzzi Park for Movie Night/Meet Mayoral Candidate John Zito – Friday, September 6, 2013 – Rain Date Friday, September 13, 2013 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:45 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 6:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 11:30 p.m.

- Ms. Marrero stated that they would like to use the baseball field at Boccuzzi Park for a movie night.
- The projector will not be that loud. They are planning on putting the movie projector in the backstop and project it out so it's not going towards the houses, but more towards the field into the water and have families sit on the baseball field.
- They are looking for pizza donations, but if not, there will be hot dogs. Mr. Macari explained that they cannot charge for the hot dogs, Mr. Winston explained that they

can ask for a donation.

- A Police Office will be hired.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Murray arrived at 8:08 p.m.

Vincent O’Banner – Use of John Boccuzzi Park for Social – Saturday, August 3, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 12:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 8:30 p.m. – 75 Adults and 60 Children.

- No amplified music is allowed.
- No propane grills are allowed.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

Mike Krupnik – Nick Koules Memorial.

- Mr. Krupnik informed the Commission that they are planning on doing something simple for Nick Koules’ Memorial. They would like to install a bench with a small plaque. They are planning on putting either slate or stone below the bench and they are looking at pewter or something that is inexpensive for the plaque.
- Commission agreed with the proposal.
- Mr. Murray informed Mr. Krupnik of the Memorial Bench Program through the City of Stamford and will send him the information.
- Mr. Krupnik will come back next month to present the design to the Commission.

New Business

Captain Sue Bretthauer – Discussion of Sleepy Hollow Park Issues and Foot Bridge Removal.

- Captain Bretthauer stated that there have been some complaints from the Springdale neighbors about the bridge that goes over a swampy area at Sleepy

Hollow Park.

- The bridge is 21 ft. long and 5 ft. wide, it has no railing or steps.
- Captain Bretthauer requested that the Bridge be taken down to stop kids from going over to the other side.
- Captain Bretthauer called Jeff Pardo in the Engineering Department, but there is no information on the history of the bridge.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the bridge is an accident waiting to happen and that because of the condition of the bridge it is a liability for the City.
- A letter was sent to the Commission from one of the neighbors, Mrs. Kris Smith, stating all of the things that they are finding in the park that are very disturbing to the neighborhood.
- Mr. Andreana stated that if the bridge is to stay, it will have to be torn down and rebuilt and have railings put in. Another thing that can be done is to clear the area and make it open so that there are no hiding spaces. If the area is cleared, with the condition of the bridge, No Crossing Bridge Signs should be installed immediately.
- Representative Mary Fedeli stated that she contacted the neighbors and no one disagreed in taking the bridge down.
- Ms. Albano agreed that the bridge is completely out of code and very unsafe.
- Residents approached Ms. Albano and Mr. Murray and expressed their concern with the parties going on in the park, there have been robberies in the homes, the kids not only hang out in the park, but they hang out along the street, etc.
- Mr. Andreana suggested immediately installing signs on both sides that the bridge is closed and then taking down the bridge as soon as possible.
- Mr. McGuinness suggested reaching out to the neighbors and the Association and letting them know before the bridge is taken down.
- Representative Fedeli suggested contacting the Legal Department before removing the bridge. Representative Fedeli will find out if the Board of Representatives Parks and Recreation Committee needs to be involved.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to remove the bridge.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

- Captain Bretthauer received an e-mail from an Officer that works for her asking if a light could be installed in the parking lot of Newman Mills Park. The Commission stated that this park closes at dusk and they need to talk to the neighbors to see if this is something they want.
- Captain Bretthauer also reported to the Commission that she was informed by an Officer that they have to put out fire pits at Newman Mills Park and ask that the Parks Department remove them. There is also a problem with the signage and asked that No Open Fires and No Swimming signs be installed.
- Captain Bretthauer also asked for a sign at the rotary stating what time Dorothy Heroy closes.

Kevin Murray – Parks

- The Fireworks were a big success at Cummings Park. Staff did a great job prepping areas and cleaning up afterwards.
- The Handball Courts renovation at Scalzi Park has started. Mr. Murray will check with the Engineering Department if they are going to renovate the wall as well. If this is not part of the project, the wall will be painted in-house.
- Mr. Murray is getting a quote for the repair of the handball courts wall at Cummings Park.

Tournaments

Francesca Sikorski – Soccer Tournament.

- No representative was present.

Joe Delaney – Deloitte – Use of Cummings 1 and 2 for Big 4 Softball Tournament – Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Item was tabled to the August 2013 Commission Meeting. No representative was present.

Correspondence

- No Correspondence.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 21, 2013.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Andreana

Seconded by Mr. Winston

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Margarita Arenas

July 22, 2013