

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the August 20, 2014 Regular Meeting**

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A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on August 20, 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: Silvia Santacruz – Zumba at the Beach
John Mallozzi – Mayor’s Children’s Parade
Pastor Evoria Britt – Use of Carwin Park
Emily Provonsha – Greenway Bike, Ride, Rally
Jerry Silber – Greenway Bike, Ride, Rally
Kesau Yeruva – Meditation Pooja
Peter Wild – Race Against Lyme
Alain De Lobiniere – Riverbank Park
Chuck Scarborough – Riverbank Park
Jeff Goodman – SALL
Nick Vivona – SALL
Ric Anderson – SALL

Steve Sentementes – Softball Tournament

Patrick Sasser – War Monument

Jeff Salvatore – War Monument

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Joe Andreana, Chair.

Ms. Ruijter and Mrs. Cooper did not attend the meeting.

Review of the July 16, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Staff Reports

Kevin Murray – Parks

- **Scalzi Bathrooms Update:** Engineering Department is assuring bathrooms are being built to the contracted documents (plans and specifications) while holding contractor responsible in doing so without deficiencies for the bid price submitted. When work was being done outside of the contract specs, the Engineering office identified them before any additional rework was necessary.

The contractor selected a masonry sub that was unable to perform. As such, the impacts delay in completing the project. The mason was replaced by another sub-contractor. Engineering Department will assure to continue to monitor the job to get what is required by the contract documents while pushing the General Contractor to recover from the set back that was created on his end to the best of our ability and within our authority.

There is no completion date. Mr. Andreana would like best estimated date of completion for projects in the parks.

- **LAZ Beach Report:** Mr. Murray provided a copy of the July Report. Dorothy Heroy was very successful in regards to enforcing out-of-towners using the pool. They will be enforcing next year as well.
- **Cubeta Stadium Volunteer Paint Job:** Repucom volunteer painting of Cubeta Stadium walls is confirmed for September 12th. Chris Gomez will be arriving for set up around 7:15 a.m. and his volunteers will be arriving around 8:00/8:30 a.m. to

begin work. They will be painting stadium lower walls on field and also the dugouts with 30+ volunteers from Repucom. City will provide the paint and the materials for this job, they will provide the manpower.

- **Kane Avenue Little League Field:** Mr. Murray spoke to Joe in regards to the current status at Kane Avenue. Mr. Murray received a call from Mr. Ottaviano and went to see him, Mr. Ottaviano showed him a couple of areas that he stressed prior in regards to the gate being left open, also the batting cage being up. Signs have been ordered for no motorized vehicles.
- **Riverbank Park:** There is definitely an issue there; it will be discussed later in the meeting.
- **Baseball Tournaments:** Babe Ruth Regional, American Legion State Tournament and Sharkey Laureno Tournament complete and successful at Cubeta Stadium.
- **Columbus Park:** All 2014 concert series have been completed and the park will be restored, reseeded and fenced off. Mr. Winston suggested to Mr. Murray to put Jackie Robinson Park on his list as well.

Laurie Albano – Recreation

- Summer Recreation Day Camps are over, about 1,100 kids registered this year. Everything went well, no major issues.
- Terry Conners Ice Rink had summer Skating Camps again this year, and they did more advertising. Therefore the numbers were very successful and higher than previous years.
- Lifeguard coverage schedule was reduced due to availability, funding is not the issue; kids go back to school early.
- Lifeguard made a save on August 9, 2014. Young man was pulled out of the water at Cummings. The young man is doing OK.
- The Fall Brochure is on line, the hard copy of the book has been delayed a little bit.
- Uncertain if we will be able to use Westhill High School pool. It looks like we are going to lose access to the pool for the fall, what that means for us is no fall swim lessons and no open swim for residents. There is an issue with asbestos; Engineering is in charge of closing off the access to pool to keep kids away from the area. This means a \$12,000 to \$14,000 loss of revenue for the Recreation Department.
- Ken Smith at Terry Conners Ice Rink has been busy scheduling all the fall and winter ice. The Engineering Department put out an RFP for an Architect to do a roof

design. The Architect has been selected and just waiting for contract to be signed.

Trying to get information from Lou Casolo regarding what funding was there last year that has not been bonded yet, and what funding is in the pipeline for this Fiscal Year that hopefully will get bonded too. There is other infrastructure at the Rink that needs to be repaired.

- The Board of Representatives vs. Mayor's team softball game will take place on Thursday, August 28, 2014 at Boccuzzi Park, Commissioners are welcome to come.
- There was a plan to move the satellite Motor Vehicle Office back to the Government Center; it was going to be a shared use with Recreation and Motor Vehicle, now Ms. Albano understands that this may not happen because of funding.
- Director Orgera asked Ms. Albano to mention to the Commission that he will be coming in front of the Commission soon, there is going to be a citywide comprehensive fee review.
- Mayor Martin did a very nice recognition of the lifeguards internally and recognized the young lady that made the save. The Mayor asked Ms. Albano to put a letter together to the Advocate regarding this young man's save. Mayor was concerned about the little coverage provided for the lifeguard that saved the life. Mr. Andreana suggested that all of the Commissioners be listed.
- Ms. Albano handed out a couple of copies of a book she has on Policies and Rules for Parks and Recreation. The Commission would like to have 5 copies; Ms. Albano will put it in a binder for the Commission.
- Ms. Albano spoke to Director Orgera and Burt Rosenberg in the Law Department, Section 175 of the current Park Rules; they were written in such way that we can be flexible with quality of life safety rules. We don't have to go back to Board and Commissions every time we want to add any small rule. The orders of the lifeguard are flexible and Burt Rosenberg verified that thru the Legal Department. As a courtesy Ms. Albano will always communicate to the Commission if there is going to be something added. Mr. Andreana asked Ms. Albano to put it on the Agenda for discussion.
- Ms. Albano will do some research about the Greenwich YMCA's Pathfinder Program at Scalzi Park, she will check with Cashiering and Permitting.

Ms. Brown made a motion to add Grupo Quetzal – Guatemalan Flag Raising to the Consent Agenda.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Consent Agenda

Grupo Quetzal – Use of Columbus Park for Guatemalan Flag Raising – Sunday, September 14, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 1:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 3:30 p.m. – 35 Adults and 15 Children.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Michael Battinelli – UNICO/Sacred Heart Church – Use of Columbus Park for Columbus Day Parade and Ceremony on Sunday, October 12, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 4:00 p.m. – 475 Adults and 25 Children.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Sheryl Gerard – Use of Cove Island Park for Girl Scout Camporee – Friday, October 17, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. to Sunday, October 19, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. – 50 Adults and 100 Children.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Special Events

Silvia Santacruz – Injured Marine Semper FI Fund – Use of Cummings Beach for Zumba Fitness on the Beach – Sunday, August 31, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. – 40 Adults and 10 Children.

- Ms. Santacruz stated that the class will start at 9:00 a.m.
- They will try not to disturb the neighbors with the music, would like to have the class at the right hand side of the beach away from the neighbors. The same instructor did a Zumba event at West Beach in May, they have a sense of what is tolerable and OK.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

John Mallozzi – Mayor’s Multicultural Council – Use of Kosciuszko Park or Cummings Park for Children’s Parade/International Festival – Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 10:00 a.m.

- Mr. Mallozzi stated that they would like to use Cummings Park for the Children’s Parade/International Festival.
- They will have music, such as a Mariachi Band.
- They will have international Food Trucks.
- Mr. Mallozzi requested Sunday, October 19, 2014 for the Rain Date.
- Commercial businesses in the park is not permitted.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Pastor Evoria Britt – Fresh & Anew Kingdom Ministries – Use of Carwin Park for No More Walls Event – Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 11:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 6:00 p.m. – 75 to 100 People.

- Interested in trying to redevelop the community to let them know they are there for them.
- They will have DJs, food, preaching and dancing, as well as face painting for the young children. Mr. Andreana is concerned with the music and asked that the noise level be kept such that it’s not going to be nuisance to the people in the neighborhood.
- Pastor Britt wants to reach out to the kids to show them that guns are not the way.
- A Rain Date of Saturday, October 11, 2014 was requested.
- Needs to provide Not for Profit EIN Number.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Jerry Silber – People Friendly Stamford (PFS) with Partners – Use of Scalzi Park and Kosciuszko Park for Greenway Bike Ride and Rally – Saturday, October 11, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:30 p.m. – 100 to 150 Adults.

- The purpose of this ride is to promote the Mill River Greenway and the expansion of the greenway from Scalzi Park to the Sound.
- Ride will start at Scalzi Park, participants will be parking their cars there (parking might be an issue).
- They will have a band at Kosciuszko Park as well as games for the kids.
- Food donations will be coming from BLT.
- No amplified music allowed in the park.
- Preference is for not having food trucks at the event since food is already being donated by BLT.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Nayak – Stamford Indian Community – Use of Scalzi Park for Meditation Pooja – Sunday, September 7, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – 40 Adults and 40 Children.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Peter Wild – Lyme Research Alliance – Use of Cove Island Park for 5K Walk/Run – Sunday, April 26, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:00 p.m. – 300 Adults and 100 Children.

- This is the fourth annual Run/Walk.
- They will go around the park and out on City Streets and back to the park.
- If there are no issues this year, it can go on the Consent Agenda next year.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

Chuck Scarborough – Issues at Riverbank Park.

- Mr. Chuck Scarborough explained the issues and concerns about Riverbank Park.
- As an example, the weekend before last there was loud amplified music, about 30 or 40 people swimming in the river and fires burning, this began Saturday morning and it lasted until after dark, then began again on Sunday and lasted until after dark. Police were called, they were very responsive. There was illegal parking over Riverbank Road and tickets were issued, fires were put out. The park is clearly posted, No Swimming, No Open Fires, No Barbecuing, also the road is clearly posted No Parking.
- Mr. Scarborough made the following recommendations:
 - Restrict access by using the sticker system.
 - Captain Bretthauer suggested extending the No Parking further up, will discuss at the next Traffic Advisory Committee meeting.
 - Restricting parking to a maximum of 12 vehicles by defining the parking spaces with barriers.
- Mr. Murray stated that there is an Operations meeting scheduled for Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in regards to the procedures. Invited to the meeting are the Police as well as the Fire Department. They are going to try to come up with a game plan for clean-up and review the whole issue again.
- Signs should be posted stating: No Swimming, No Fires, No Amplified Music, No Loitering, No Glass Containers and No Dogs Off Leash.
- Mr. Andreana stated that there is a commitment from Police Chief Fontneau and Ted Jankowski that this is an issue and it is not taken lightly. The enforcement part is going to be what it can be given the situation with the manpower and staffing.

Mr. Winston made a motion to re-submit the request to the Parks & Recreation Committee of the Board of Representative to make parking at Newman Mills/Riverbank Park Permit Parking only.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Bob Katchko – Stamford American Little League – Kane Avenue Batting Cage.

- Jeff Goodman presenting for Bob Katchko.
- Mr. Goodman stated that Stamford American Little League would like the Batting Cage at Kane Field to remain up for use by the players from April 1st through November 1st. As of right now, they have been told that after the spring season the Batting Cage has to be taken down. Their understanding is that this was something agreed upon by a member of the old Board a year ago. The league has more kids now due to the merger with Northrop and they are in need of a second Batting Cage.

The Batting Cage will be needed for the spring, summer and fall season. The Batting Cage is always used after 8:00 a.m. and before sunset. Stamford American Little League feels that taking the Batting Cage down after the spring season deprives the kids of the continued ability to learn the game of Baseball through repetition, to be able to practice with the Coaches and the Managers.

- Mr. Goodman submitted to the Commission a petition signed by almost every resident of Kane Avenue, except for maybe two or three residents, who are in favor that the Batting Cage remains open from April 1st to November 1st.
- Mr. Andreana explained that the reason for the Batting Cage to be taken down after the spring season is due to a noise and quality of life issue. After the season, High School, probably Babe Ruth players were coming in and using the cage. In lieu of having the cage removed completely, which was one of the options that was discussed, because the new cages went up on Vine Road, they were allowed to use the Kane Field cage until the end of the season and then take it down, so the Batting Cage will not be used throughout the summer by non-league use. The Vine Road cages will be used for the fall ball.
- Mr. Murray suggested that the L Screen be put away in the storage unit to prevent the older kids from using the cage. Mr. Goodman stated that they will be willing to put the L Screen away or to lock the cage. Mr. Murray stated that the pitching screen needs to be locked up. Mr. Andreana stated that if the L Gate is removed, that might be an acceptable solution because you would not get the non-Little League batting in the cage. Continue with the Saturday and Sunday batting restrictions, continue to use the wooden bat and softer ball.
- Mr. Winston stated that he would like Stamford American Little League Board to meet with Mr. Ottaviano and make sure he understands and is willing to live with this trial period of an extended cage. Mr. Winston would like Mr. Ottaviano's approval. Mr. Goodman stated for the record that he is 100% respectful of every human being in this city, this country in this world.
- Mr. Andreana stated that Mr. Murray's suggestion can be tried over the next two months. The June 16th restriction still holds and if it can be proven that this is not an issue, then lifting the restriction can be discussed for next year. We can use this as a trial period. Mr. Murray will be happy to set up a meeting with Mr. Ottaviano and Stamford American Little League Board to explain to Mr. Ottaviano about the trial period.
- Mr. Murray suggested that the League should invest in extending the netting to prevent the balls from going into Mr. Ottaviano's yard.

Mr. Winston made a motion to allow the Batting Cage at Kane Avenue to remain from April 1st to November 1st on a trial basis this season pending Mr. Ottaviano's approval at

a meeting to be set up by Kevin Murray. The L Screen must be locked.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

New Business

Pat Sasser – Brian Bill Memorial Committee – Proposal for Stamford’s Newest War Monument in Veteran’s Memorial Park to Honor Brian Bill.

- On August 6, 2011 Navy Seal from Stamford, Brian Bill was killed in Afghanistan, shortly thereafter this committee was formed. The committee’s goal is to create Stamford’s newest war monument that honors all of those that have served in this decade war against terror and to honor Brian Bill.
- Mr. Sasser stated that the committee has selected a spot in Veteran’s Memorial Park for the new monument.
- Mr. Andreana explained to Mr. Sasser the D.S.S.D.’s initiative to renovate Veteran’s Memorial Park. The Parks & Recreation Commission does not currently know what the re-design is going to be, by not knowing is hard to tell Mr. Sasser is the spot they selected in Veteran’s Memorial Park would be a good one or not. Mr. Sasser stated that he is part of the Vet’s Park Ad-Hoc Committee and is fully aware of the intent of the park and also recognizes that it could take a very long time for anything to actually happen in that park because there are so many parties that are involved, that is why they are here tonight to begin the process. Mr. Sasser assured the Commission that whatever monument is built will fit the space no matter what the new park design is, the monument will not be so big that it cannot be relocated elsewhere in the park.
- Currently they have about 12 Connecticut based artist interested in providing a sketch.
- Mr. Andreana stated that once the Commission gives the consensus of the Commission, that if the monument is going to go into a park, it will go into Veteran’s Memorial Park. Once they have the design it will need final approval from the Commission.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission is in agreement with the concept of the monument to honor Brian Bill and all of those who have served in the war against terror.

Tournament

Will Mercado – Use of Cummings 1 & 2 for Softball Tournament on Saturday, October 11, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

➤ Steve Sentementes presenting for Will Mercado.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Winston made a motion to move the Item of Tournaments ahead of Old Business on the Agenda.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Correspondence

No Correspondence.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 17, 2014.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Winston

Seconded by Ms. Brown

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
August 27, 2014