

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the September 18, 2013 Regular Meeting**

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A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on September 18, 2013, 10th Floor Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Joe Andreana
David Winston
Althea Brown

Staff: Laurie Albano
Kevin Murray
Ernie Orgera

Guests: Michelle Rampen – Caring Hands for Huntington Disease
Jackson Alcide – Baptism in the Ocean
Nardine Thomas – Baptism in the Ocean
Lauren Calahan – Anti-Bullying Walk-A-Thon
Sandhya Avula – Anti-Bullying Walk-A-Thon
Dianne Selditch – SoundWaters Shed
Shahzad Khawaja – Cricket Tournament

Call to Order

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

Tim McGuinness and Mike Macari did not attend the meeting.

Review of the August 21, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Staff Reports

Ernie Orgera – Hydration Stations at City Parks.

- Director Orgera stated that the City was approached by Smart Tap LLC who offered to donate 25 hydration stations/water fountains free of charge. Smart Tap will install the hydration stations, maintain them, shut them off in the winter time and repair them when necessary at no cost to the City.
- The hydration stations will be located at parks and on sidewalks. Some of the parks that will have hydration stations are Cove Island Park, Cummings Park, Veterans' Park and Scalzi Park. Some of the hydration stations will be replacements for old water fountains.
- People will be able to drink from the hydration station or fill up a bottle of water.
- Hydration stations will use City water (Aquarion).
- The City has a License Agreement with Smart Tap.
- The City will pay for the water for the hydration stations that are installed on City property. Hydration stations installed at properties such as UCONN; they will be in charge of paying for the water.
- Mr. Winston is concerned that they will use these hydration stations to do advertising in the parks.
- Director Orgera stated that the hydration station that was installed in Columbus Park has a small plaque that says "Sponsored by UBS".
- Mr. Winston would like to have a stipulation added to the License Agreement, in which Smart Tap is not allowed to keep adding advertising to the hydration stations.
- The Commission is comfortable with only having a small plaque stating who the hydration station is sponsored by.

Mr. Winston made a motion to accept the installation of hydration stations by Smart Tap with the condition that any signage is restricted to sponsorship signage. If commercial advertising is used, hydration stations will be removed.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Laurie Albano – Recreation & Directors Report

- Ms. Albano informed the Commission that she received a call from Stamford Youth Hockey letting her know that the picnic date for their tailgate party outside Terry

Conners Rink, originally approved by the Commission, has been changed. There is no replacement date yet. Ms. Albano will let the Commission know when they inform her of the new date.

- Ms. Albano stated that Denis McKiernan is going to pursue not having a Concession Stand at the Rink. Mr. McKiernan wrote a position paper on not having a Concession Stand, explaining his rationale. Mr. McKiernan will be preparing a sketch with the layout of the Rink with the concession stand expanded into the locker rooms and then establish a small vending area. For now he will use a vendor who will come in and do a revenue sharing, but eventually budget for his own machines where the Rink gets to keep all of the revenue. This requires the Mayor's approval which Director Orgera is currently seeking.
- Specs for the Parks Concessions are due on Monday. In the interim, the Rink will be bid as an option, so the vendor can bid on all of the beaches and Rink by giving two separate prices. The City reserves the right to not accept any bids.
- Ms. Albano informed the Commission that there will be a Public Hearing on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Scofieldtown Middle School to discuss the Scofieldtown Park Master Plan. Mr. Andreana stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission should always be invited to these types of meetings and be formally notified, but also be a part of the design/planning process not just view the end product. Ms. Albano stated that she will send a request to the Director and copy Lou Casolo. Ms. Albano also suggested that the Commission should make a formal request to the Director of Operations.
- Funds have been appropriated for the Cummings Park/West Beach Master Plan.
- Mr. Winston suggested that the Commission could meet to discuss the Commission's vision for the individual parks, then draft a letter and send it to the Engineering Department. Commission will discuss with Mr. McGuinness.

Kevin Murray – Parks

- Parks Staff installed the I Dock section at Cove; it will be usable next year. The Parks Department received the new Sullivan floatation devices that were ordered per insurance and paid for from Hurricane Sandy damage.
- Playground inspections are on their way. Five of the worst playgrounds in the City were picked, including Hart School/Nemoitin Park, Cummings, Courtland Avenue, and Lione Park. Once the inspections come back, if repairs need to be done, we will need the Director's approval to do the installations. Since there is not a Certified Playground Installer on staff, it could be very pricy.
- Field Tech groomed the synthetic fields for West Beach/Lione Soccer Fields. They gave the fields a deep cleaning and spread out the condition pellets equally

throughout the turf. This will now be done once a year.

- Parks Staff have removed 25 fingers docks at Cummings Marina and will start to remove damaged main frames. The A Dock section is useable and would like to open the marina partially next year; there are about 18 slips there. The Marina House is remediated, but it is not repaired yet. Mr. Murray will start a Purchase Order to get that building repaired and hopefully open for April 1st along with the Rec House at Cove.
- Mr. Murray met with Musco Representative and Engineering at Cubeta Stadium regarding the lighting. Since the City never received the conveyance of the field from the State, the Capital Project is on hold.
- There is also no lease currently in place with the State for Cubeta. It expired in July.
- Mr. Murray stated that the firm that he works for AFB will not be continuing work with the City for Parks and Facilities Management. This will be Mr. Murray's last month with the City of Stamford. The City will be hiring a City employee to fill this position. Mr. Murray thanked everyone in the room. Commissioners thanked Mr. Murray for all of his work.
- Ms. Albano informed the Commission that she will not be Acting Director of Parks and Recreation much longer; she will be going back to her old job. Ms. Albano will continue to attend the Commission meetings.
- Ms. Albano stated that Susan Kiskin from Engineering sent an extensive punch list to the contractor regarding the Cove Playground and all of the work that still needs to be done.

Mr. Winston made a motion to add Migdalia de Jesus' request to use Main Street Park to the end of the Special Events Agenda.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Consent Agenda

No Consent Agenda Items.

Special Events

Michelle Rampen – Caring Hands for Huntington Disease – Use of Cove Island Park for Walk-A-Thon – Sunday, October 20, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:00 p.m. – 75 Adults and 25 Children.

- Still working on Non-Profit status, they have been approved but they do not have a number yet.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Jackson Alcide – Sanctification Tabernacle Church – Use of Cove Island Park for Baptism in the Ocean – Saturday, September 28, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m. – Five People will be Attending.

- Check with Cashiering and Permitting regarding Parking Passes.
- If the event becomes a yearly event the Commission will consider putting it on the Consent Agenda. If the event is every three years or so, they will have to present to the Commission.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Lauren Calahan – LEAP Education Programs – Use of Mianus River Park for Anti-Bullying Walk-A-Thon – Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 1:00 p.m. – 30 Adults and 30 Children.

- Commission expressed their concern about having the Walk-A-Thon at the Mianus River Park. The Commission does not feel Mianus River Park is the most appropriate location for this type of event and suggested using Cove Island Park instead.
- Admission cannot be charged, they can accept a donation.
- **Set-up will have to start at 7:30 a.m. instead of 7:00 a.m.**
- LEAP is working on their Non-Profit status.
- Ms. Calahan will need Health Department approval if they are planning on giving out food. To avoid this, families can bring their own food.
- Ms. Albano stated that Ms. Calahan needs to check with Cashiering and Permitting to make sure the date is available at Cove Island Park, and suggested that Scalzi Park be her back-up venue.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve request for Cove Island Park as long as the date

of October 5, 2013 is available.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Migdalia de Jesus – Use of Main Street Park for Lunch to Honor a Former City of Stamford Outreach Worker from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. – 30 Adults.

- Ms. de Jesus needs to provide exact day of event.
- Must have Health Department approval.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve request contingent upon date.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

***Event was cancelled by Migdalia de Jesus on September 19, 2013.**

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

Dianne Selditch – Update on Post Sandy Repairs to SoundWaters Shed.

In addition to the update on the post Sandy repairs to SoundWaters shed, Mr. Winston made a motion to allow SoundWaters to provide an update on Educational Programming, potential sources of new funding and maintenance and repairs beyond the shed.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

- Ms. Selditch would like to give the Commission an update on what SoundWaters has been doing:
 - **Education Programming in Stamford:** Today SoundWaters had 156 6th Graders from Cloonan Middle School; they were at the center for about 5 hours. The students were canoeing, team building, doing water quality testing, collecting samples, learning about animal adaptations. Ms. Selditch stated that every 6th Grader in Stamford will be able to participate in this program. SoundWaters reaches every school child in Stamford every grade from Pre-School to High School. SoundWaters is connected to the school curriculum and everything they do is based on what the schools need.
 - **Extensive Maintenance and Repair at Coastal Center:** SoundWaters takes seriously the responsibility of taking care of the former Holly House Mansion and

they do a lot to maintain it. SoundWaters has done a lot of work since Storm Sandy to repair the building. They have been working very closely with the City, working with some of the FEMA regulations and potential FEMA reimbursements. Right now all of the repairs have been with their own insurance or their own funding.

Since Storm, Sandy 12 new windows have been installed. The basement was flooded during the storm and everything needed to be taken out, they will no longer use the basement for storage. Because the basement was flooded they did work on the walls, raised the basement doors so that it is a little bit higher. The representative from FEMA was there this week looking at the Sea Wall and was pretty pleased that the basement doors were raised.

The shed was damaged during the storm and the Director of Operations asked SoundWaters to put up a construction fence around it, which they did and are paying for it. SoundWaters has engaged an architect, engineers and soil surveyors who have been examining the shed and doing designs which will be presented to the City by early October. Ms. Selditch would like to be on the October Agenda to give an update to the Commission.

There have been unexpected repairs, such as the front porch, the under part of the porch was rotted. All of the posts were taken down as well as the decking and replaced; they were able to save the railing. The contractor did a very nice job and the porch looks exactly the same as it did before.

SoundWaters will be replacing the sign post in the front of the building because it has started to rot at the bottom.

Every year they bring a floor finisher to re-finish the yellow wide planks that have been there since the 1840's.

A tree fell in the spring hitting the side lab porch. The porch was repaired at SoundWaters' own expense.

- **Potential New Source of Funding:** SoundWaters learned about a new source of Federal Funding for historic buildings, this funding may allow them to raise the building so that they don't have flooding anymore. Ms. Selditch will like to discuss this funding at the October Commission meeting; hopefully she will have more information by then.

Mr. Winston made a motion to add SoundWaters Make a Difference Day to the Agenda.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

- Ms. Selditch explained that back in the spring the Commission had approved SoundWaters Make a Difference Day at Cove Island Park for September 21, 2013,

Ms. Selditch would like to ask the Commission to approve Saturday, October 5, 2013 instead.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve the change in date on the SoundWaters Make a Difference Day from September 21, 2013 to October 5, 2013.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Tournaments

Shahzad Khawaja – Shaheen Cricket Club – Use of Lione Park for Annual Cricket Tournament – Saturday, November 9, 2013 to Sunday, November 10, 2013 and Saturday, November 16, 2013 to Sunday, November 17, 2013 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- Mr. Winston stated that if tournament starts at 8:00 a.m. instead of 7:00 a.m. it can go on the Consent Agenda. Tournament could go from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Mr. Khawaja asked if the pitch could be changed in the middle of the field. Mr. Murray stated that the pitch was fixed in the beginning of the season. Mr. Khawaja suggested putting a mat to make it a little bit harder. Mr. Murray is not sure if this can be done, it's an Engineering question.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve request with a starting time of 8:00 a.m.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Correspondence

No Correspondence.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 16, 2013.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Brown

Seconded by Mr. Winston

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
September 23, 2013