

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
Minutes of the November 20, 2013 Regular Meeting**

**DRAFT**

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A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on November 20, 2013, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Operations Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

**In attendance were:**

Commissioners:           Tim McGuinness  
                                  Joe Andreana  
                                  David Winston  
                                  Althea Brown  
                                  Mike Macari

Staff:                       Laurie Albano  
                                  Kevin Murray

Guests:                    Jerry Pia – Little League

**Call to Order**

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

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve the October 16, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

YES: Mr. Winston  
YES: Ms. Brown  
YES: Mr. Andreana  
YES: Mr. Macari  
ABSTAINED: Mr. McGuinness

Mr. McGuinness abstained because he did not attend the October 16, 2013 meeting.

**Staff Reports**

**Laurie Albano – Recreation**

- Winter brochure was distributed.

- Recreation is almost \$5,400 down in revenue from fall activities from this year over last year.
- Ms. Albano would like to market the Recreation Brochure a little different. The brochure is currently distributed by our website, by blast e-mail to Recreation's entire database and through the schools. Recreation has a hard time with the schools because they don't always distribute them to the parents. Ms. Brown suggested adding a link on the Advocate on-line.
- There was less attendance at the second Scofieldtown Park Public Hearing. The Hearing took place at the Government Center.
- There was an additional survey; there was some opposition to active recreation, specially a Basketball Court. There was also some opposition to a garden run by Bartlett.
- The last Public Hearing will take place on December 4, 2013 at Scofieldtown School.
- There are two bidders for the concessions at the beaches and the rink.
- Waiting on some lifeguard Union Rates from Human Resources, Ms. Albano is trying to get those set for recruitment over the winter season.
- Ms. Albano requested to go into Executive Session at some point during the meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

### **Kevin Murray, Parks**

- The Children's Parade took place on October 19<sup>th</sup> at Cove Island Park; it was a very successful event, many families attended. The Mayor's Office is already trying to set a date for next year in the early spring or summer.
- The new Marina Supervisor has been selected, his name is Sean Elumba. Mr. Elumba will start on November 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Everything will be closed the Sunday after Thanksgiving for the Marinas; the winter storage will be at Czescik this year.
- There will be a vacancy on December 1<sup>st</sup>; one of the Custodians in the Facilities Department will be resigning.
- Interviews for the plumber vacancy will start after Thanksgiving.
- Met with Planning Board on November 12<sup>th</sup> in regards to the Capital Projects that are being requested. The Parks & Recreation Committee of the Board of Representatives denied the design money for the architect for West Beach and

Cummings, it is currently on hold.

- The Balloon Parade will take place this weekend.
- Mr. Murray informed the Transition Team that one of his major issues is funding the Building Manager position for the Government Center, which is a Class A Building. The building is currently being run part-time by Mr. Murray and Billy Bemonte, Facilities Forman. Mr. Murray relies heavily on the Security Guard and Engineer to coordinate events in the building. Mr. Murray's view is that this building needs a permanent person to run the day to day operations to make it smooth.

The second issue is the lack of manpower for parks, just with the responsibility of all the maintenance in 58 parks and 3 major beaches during the year.

Another big issue was the playgrounds, routine inspections and getting them repaired, but there is a money issue. Mr. Murray is looking at improving the playground situation under his watch.

- Trees have been planted on Vine Road by Designs by Lee.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **Rabbi Moshe Shemton – Chabad House of Stamford – Menorah Lighting at Latham Park – Friday, November 22, 2013 to Saturday, December 7, 2013.**

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Winston made a motion to add to the Agenda general discussion regarding the transition of the new administration and issues that the Commission needs to bring to their attention.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Andreana made a motion to go into Executive Session at the end of the Agenda for the purpose of discussing personnel issues.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

### **Special Events**

No Special Events.

## **Old Business**

### **Jerry Pia – Follow Up – Feed Back Little League Regional.**

- Mr. Pia stated that Little League Baseball has had declining enrollment despite the increasing enrollment in the Public Schools. Scott Miller asked Mr. Pia to find out what the enrollment was. Mr. Pia got the enrollment from the Public Schools last May and then the youth enrollment figures for the City. Mr. Pia shared these figures with other Presidents, especially Rocky Cuscuna and Brian Maloney.
- Mr. Pia explained that after many meetings National Lione and Federal combined, now they are called Stamford National. They are all very happy, they worked out a merger system and they had a really good year.
- Mr. Pia stated that it was discussed at a meeting that all Little Leagues should come under one Association. During this meeting the five current presidents were selected and Mr. Pia was asked to be the Chairman. After the first meeting Northrop was going to get into the merger of Stamford American and North Stamford and they were going to give players to Springdale. Mr. Andreana feels that the traveling will make it hard for some of the kids, for example the kids downtown going to play at Dorothy Heroy.
- Mr. Pia explained that what they want to do now is for Northrop to play with North Stamford and interleague with Springdale. American is going to attempt to reform with its new board.
- Mr. Macari explained that some leagues will have to interleague with each in the regular season in order for the leagues to survive and then revert back to their own leagues for All Stars.
- Currently there are four leagues in Stamford, at some point there will only be three. Little League is working towards making up the leagues from a geographic position. Mr. Andreana asked that they keep working on a real realignment, cut in thirds preferable.
- Stamford American voted on a new 15 member Board, not one person is from the old Board and the old President is out.
- Mr. Pia stated that they will have a meeting next Wednesday, and will forward whatever information they get from Little League to the Commission.
- Mr. Macari explained that a four league scenario should be expected this year, with Northrop going with North Stamford, American trying to do it for a year on their own, with Springdale on its own and then the Stamford National being the largest league in town. A little bit fragmented, but four leagues that are going to try to have some interleague play with each other. What the Commission wants is to have something

cleaner so that they can allocate the fields properly and see if the Commission can grab a field here or there to purpose for Lacrosse or other sports.

- Mr. Pia stated that once they get organized, they will no longer be called Stamford Little League Association; they will be called Stamford Youth Baseball Association and they will be the governing board for Stamford for Little League.
- Mr. Macari stated that with the new board being put in place at American Little League and the moves being made by the newly formed commission/board by Mr. Pia, the people, the communities and their duly elected boards are now in charge. Mr. Macari thinks that Mr. Pia and the Presidents are onto something by working in consolidation and encouraged Mr. Pia to continue what they are doing.
- Mr. Pia is working with Jon Hock on the By-Laws, once they are finished, Mr. Pia will present them to the Commission for their approval. Mr. Winston stated that everybody in the league should present their By-Laws to Ms. Albano immediately or this coming season. Mr. Pia stated that he will have the By-Laws by the Baseball meeting. Mr. Winston also requested an org chart which shows the Little Leagues, the Presidents, fields they use and the geographic area. Mr. Winston would like to see more volunteers helping with the upkeep of the fields. Any volunteer work needs to be very clearly defined, a memo of understanding of what might be done per field.
- Mr. Pia stated that their board will have the authority to do problem solving. Ms. Albano stated that if an Association is created it will need to be recognized by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

### **New Business**

- No New Business.

### **Tournaments**

- No Tournaments

### **Correspondence**

- No Correspondence.

### **Discussion Regarding Transition of the New Administration.**

- Mr. McGuinness would like to meet with the new Mayor Elect and talk to him about Parks and Recreation and any type of challenges and issues that we have. Mr. McGuinness is waiting to hear back on a date for the meeting, which will probably take place in December.

- Mr. Andreana would like Mr. McGuinness to discuss with the new Mayor Elect that the Commission should get more involved in the planning stages and be part of the guiding force of park renovations.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the Recreation Program Revolving Account should also be mentioned.

**THE COMMISSION DID NOT GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 18, 2013.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Andreana

Seconded by Mr. Macari

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Margarita Arenas  
November 25, 2013