

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
Minutes of the January 15, 2014 Regular Meeting**

**DRAFT**

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A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on January 15, 2014, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Operations Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

**In attendance were:**

Commissioners:           Tim McGuinness  
                                  Joe Andreana  
                                  David Winston

Staff:                       Laurie Albano  
                                  Kevin Murray

Guests:                   Christine Powers – MarUS for Change 5K  
  
                                  Susan Delaney – 1 Billion Rising  
  
                                  Natalia Salazar – Wedding at Cummings Park  
  
                                  Michael Feighan – St. Patrick’s Day Parade  
  
                                  Erin McKenna – Scofieldtown Park  
  
                                  Robert Zmarzlak – North Stamford Little League - Patio  
  
                                  Terry Lockery – North Stamford Little League - Patio

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Tim McGuinness, Chair.

Mr. Macari and Ms. Brown did not attend the meeting.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve the December 18, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

## **Staff Reports**

### **Laurie Albano – Recreation**

- Budget was in last Friday.
- Recreation budget totaled out at \$2,195,357 with anticipated revenues of \$974,485.
- The Rink's proposed budget is \$762,599 with anticipated revenues of \$809,500.
- The Mayor will now look at the budget and present his. The Mayor's budget usually comes out in early March.
- Spring/Summer Brochure will be submitted to the printer by early January.
- Ms. Albano stated that she is having an issue with the use of Westover School for Summer Camp. This is one of our largest camps, 175 kids and it houses our Special Needs Camp. The Principal feels that it is too much for one school to have a Summer Camp, Summer School and also have the Boys & Girls Club who uses the school to have their lunches. The Principal is refusing to sign the Permit. Superintendent Winnie Hamilton and Al Barbarotta are trying to help us get in there. There is no other place geographically or demographically that works for that site.
- Camp Registration will take place in March.
- Currently working on hiring and maintaining Camp and Lifeguard staff.
- Will be hosting winter meetings for all of the spring field permit holders. February is Baseball Little League, March is all of the Soccer groups and April is Bocce.
- Everything is going well at the Terry Conners Ice Rink. Ms. Albano has been meeting frequently with Ken Smith, the Acting Manager; Mr. Smith is doing a great job.
- Over the last two weeks we had the Internal Auditor do a review at the Rink. The review has turned out pretty well; Ms. Albano will be meeting with the Auditor early next week to review some things.
- Ms. Albano reported that the Rink is a little behind on the billing. The invoicing is tied to the software and no one knew how to run the software but Denis McKiernan. Staff has been training and working on learning the software. They caught up; a lot of the bills were done manually.
- The Rink Schedule has been recovered from the software vendor.

- The Legal Department approved the language for the new beach signs.
- Ms. Albano reported that we will be losing the recreational house at Cove Island Park permanently. In terms of the camp, two trailers will definitely be needed for the seven weeks of camp. Ms. Albano stated that they are also thinking of possibly moving the camp back to Barrett Park. They will probably bus the kids from Cove to Barrett for the day. The house will have to be looked at further in regards to increasing the scope of repair; in the meantime it will be fenced off.
- Still waiting on the Cubeta Lease.

### **Kevin Murray – Parks**

- Currently adjusting to the weather as it changes weekly. Staff assisting other departments with snow removal and also our snow priorities in regards to all City owned buildings, Police Department and the Government Center.
- Operating Budget has been submitted. The total request for parks facilities was \$5.7 Million, which is a tad higher than what was adopted for this current year, but it is significantly lower than last year's request.
- Frank Costa was awarded the three year contract for the Beaches and Ice Rink. Mr. Murray stated that they mandated a few areas of concern that they had in regards to the hours of operation, keeping Terry Conners Rink's vending machines stocked and repaired if damage occurs.
- Playground at Nemoitin Park located at Hart School will be repaired. There is about \$16,000 worth of damage in that playground. The plan is to have a certified playground installer at the site by the end of January; they would like to have the playground fully repaired before the spring.
- There are a couple of pending Capital Projects, which they are waiting on bonding. Some of the major areas are the Kosciuszko Park walk, seawall at Cove Island Point and major fence issues at Fort Stamford.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Kevin Ziperstein – Use of Cummings 1, 2, 4 and 5 for Traitor's Annual Softball Tournament – Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

**Tim Curry – Greater Stamford Tennis Association – Stamford Open – Use of Scalzi Tennis Courts 1 to 10 from Friday, May 9, 2014 to Sunday, May 11, 2014 –**

**Friday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

**Tim Curry – Greater Stamford Tennis Association – Connecticut Public Parks Tennis Championships to Benefit the Thomas Blake, Sr. Memorial Fund – Use of Scalzi Tennis Courts from Friday, July 18, 2014 to Sunday, July 20, 2014 – Friday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

### **Special Events**

**Christine Powers – Use of Cove Island Park for 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual MarcUS for Change 5K on Sunday, October 5, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends 1:00 p.m. – 350 Adults and 100 Children.**

- Set-up time must start no earlier than 7:30 a.m.
- The profits from the run will go towards supporting the Stamford Mentoring Program. Because of last year's success of the 5K, this year they are serving over 250 students in all the Middle and High Schools in Stamford.
- The walk will start at the pavilion, do a counter clockwise loop of Cove Island, exit Cove Island into the streets, come back to Cove Island and do another loop.
- Amplified music is not permitted.
- Selling food and merchandise is not permitted as well as charging for admission, donations are permitted.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve the request with the adjustments of lowering the amplification of sound, set-up time start at 7:30 a.m. and the merchandise is a charitable donation.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

**Susan Delaney – Domestic Violence Crisis Center – Use of Latham Park for One Billion Rising For Justice Event – Friday, February 14, 2014 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 11:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 1:30 p.m. – 175 Adults.**

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

**Natalia Salazar-Espinosa – Use of Green at the Entrance of Cummings Park for Wedding Ceremony – Saturday, August 16, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. – 100 Adults and 3 Children.**

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

**Michael Feighan – Stamford St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee – Use of Columbus Park for Staging and Latham Park for Finish – Saturday, March 8, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 11:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 1:30 p.m. – 1,500 to 2,000 Adults and 1,500 to 2,000 Children.**

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

### **Old Business**

#### **Erin McKenna – Scofieldtown Park and Yard Concept Plan.**

- Ms. McKenna presented the Scofieldtown Park and Yard Concept Plan to the Commission. This Plan enables the Engineering Department to do a Capping Plan.
- The third Public Design Meeting took place in December. Two big surveys of the public were done to see what they wanted to see in the park and they also did extensive research of what the City needed. The most requested amenity was multi use fields, ultimately it was recommended to the public that the fields be enhanced and improved in the school across the street, where it would cost a lot less to install them and there is more parking available.
- Currently they are working on the cost estimates for the final Concept Plan.
- Ms. McKenna stated that this is going to have to be a multi-phase project because of the cost. There is going to be 17 acres of park that they will need to put back together. The entire park will be capped, the vegetation will be removed. Lou Casolo, City Engineer, put in a Capital Budget request of \$2 Million.
- If at all possible, the Engineering Department would like to do the Capping Project and the installation at the same time, but it will depend on funding.

- Once they have the cost estimates, for Phase I, they would like to put back the operations part, which will no longer include composting. They would do landscaping that will make the site pleasant to look at.
- There will be at least 2 acres dedicated to Transfer Station for leaves. There will not be an area for compost.
- Recycling Center stays.
- Mr. John Zito suggested that an area be designated for compost behind the salt dome.
- Mr. Tom Lombardo stated that the North Stamford Association does not favor the idea of a Dog Park. The homes in the area have acre plots and they do not think there is a need for a Dog Park.
- Mr. Lombardo also stated that the North Stamford Association is very concerned with the lighting proposal; they do not want people in the park after hours.
- Mr. Lombardo stated that the Recycling Center has been reduced to Saturday's only and suggested that if it was the City's intention to close it, it would capture more park space by doing so.
- Mr. Andreana attended the last Public Meeting and stated that he has concerns with the proposal of an open area with grass that will be mowed once a year.
- Mr. Andreana would like the following to be corrected from the present plan:
  - The Dog Park is redundant. In lieu of a Dog Park, Mr. Andreana would like to have a Splash Pad.
  - Field should be a usable field, not a field with knee high grass.
  - The picnic area should be expanded.

### **New Business**

#### **Robert Zmarzlak – North Stamford Little League – Installation of Brick Patio Adjacent to the Existing Concession Stand.**

- Mr. Bob Zmarzlak stated that North Stamford Little League would like to request permission to install a Brick Patio adjacent to the existing Concession Stand (about 800 sq. ft.). North Stamford Little League will cover the cost of the patio.

- Mr. Winston is very concerned that we will lose green space if the brick patio is installed.
- Mr. Winston suggested that they look at the park and find 1,600 sq. ft. of paved surface that can be unpaved and turned into green space, then come back to the Commission.
- Mr. Murray and Phil D'Amico will meet Mr. Zmarzlak and walk the area with him.

Mr. Winston made a motion to deny the request.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

### **Tournaments**

No Tournaments.

### **Correspondence**

No Correspondence.

Mr. Andreana thanked Mr. McGuinness for his eight years on the Parks and Recreation Commission, the last four years as Chairman of the Commission.

Mr. McGuinness thanked the Commissioners and staff.

**The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 19, 2014.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Andreana

Seconded by Mr. Winston

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Margarita Arenas  
January 17, 2014