

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Minutes of the August 21, 2013 Regular Meeting**

**DRAFT**

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A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on August 21, 2013, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

**In attendance were:**

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

Staff:                       Laurie Albano  
                                  Kevin Murray  
                                  Denis McKiernan

Guests:                    Denis McKiernan – Terry Conners Ice Rink  
  
                                  Lauren Pappalardo – Wedding at West Beach  
  
                                  Diana Bakowski – Wedding Photos at Fort Stamford  
  
                                  Alan Stein – Wedding Photos at Fort Stamford  
  
                                  Brittany Salvatore – Cross Country Meet  
  
                                  Mike Krupnik – Nick Koules Memorial  
  
                                  Lou Filippetti – Nick Koules Memorial  
  
                                  Brian Maloney – Little League 50/70 Program  
  
                                  John Della Jacono – Little League 50/70 Program  
  
                                  Rich LoRusso – Babe Ruth (50/70 Program)  
  
                                  Butch LaMotta – Babe Ruth (50/70 Program)  
  
                                  Joe Delaney – Big 4 Softball Tournament

Qwaliff Jackson – NETA Tournament

Jack Bryant – NETA Tournament

Jim Coughlin – Thomas Casale Softball Tournament

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Review of the July 17, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Laurie Albano – Recreation & Directors Report**

- Still very busy in the parks.
- Camps are over, everything went pretty well.
- Lifeguards are winding down; most of the Lifeguards go back to school early. There is going to be a skeleton crew that will be able to at least keep Cummings, Cove's East Beach and West Beach open through Labor Day.
- Heroy Pool has been closed this week, it will open again this weekend and that will be it for the season.
- The swim area at the beaches will be shortened with flags since we have such a skeleton crew.
- LAZ Parking did a great job managing the beach parks point of sale.
- Phase III in Scalzi has gone out to bid. This Phase is mostly the bathrooms.
- Working on the concession specs, the current concessionaire's contract will be up in March or April of 2014.
- Getting ready for the fall, especially all of the sports leagues.
- Fall Recreation Brochure just came out with all the fall activities.

- Will start working on Capital Budget soon.
- Mr. Winston asked Ms. Albano to consider when working on the Concession Contract for the parks the food trucks such as the ones used at the South End. It will be a better variety of food and if a truck doesn't come one day, you still have two or three other trucks in the park. Ms. Albano stated that if the Commission recommends the Food Trucks she will ask if the City is open to that idea.

### **Denis McKiernan – Placement of Storage Pod Outside Terry Conners Ice Rink.**

- The Rink was very slow during July and August this year.
- USA Hockey is downsizing the size of the rink for the little kids effective immediately.
- Mr. McKiernan informed the Commission that Stamford Youth Hockey went out and bought boards to divide the rink without speaking to him first, the problem is that there is no space in the building to store the boards.
- Mr. McKiernan is requesting permission to place a storage container 8 ft., x 20 ft. by about 6 ft. high to store the boards. Mr. McKiernan suggested placing the storage container where the entrance is to the rink down in the back in the woods. The boards come on two dollies that are 4 ft. W x 5 ft. H x 8 ft. L.
- The storage container will cost around \$3,000. Mr. McKiernan suggested that Stamford Youth Hockey pay for the storage container and they buy it for the rink.
- Mr. Winston is against placing more storage containers in Cove Island Park.
- The Commission does not agree with the location of the container and would like to see if it can be placed in an area that the container can be camouflaged.
- Mr. Macari stated that no one debates the need to have the storage to be able to continue the program; it's just a matter of making it esthetically pleasing.
- Placing the container on the other side of the building will not work; it will be a safety issue.
- The Commission asked Mr. McKiernan to go back to Stamford Youth Hockey and ask them to come up with a plan and provide the Commission with a landscape design.

### **Kevin Murray – Parks**

- There is eight weeks left for the season.

- The main focus has been the tournaments. State Tournament at Cubeta and the Babe Ruth Tournament went very well. The Sharkey Laurenno Tournament wrapped up last week. The field received positive reviews.
- The Parks Department has come up with a plan for our playgrounds, there have been some safety issues going on.
- The playground at Lione Park had some slide issues; the slides were removed and the area was boarded off to keep kids safe.
- Since the City does not have a Certified Playground Inspector on staff anymore, we are investigating getting a private inspector in. The Playground Inspector will be asked to do a report to alert flaws on our playgrounds. The City has 16 playgrounds, it is a full time job and the Parks Department does not have the manpower to assign someone to do the inspections and be certified to do the repairs. The work will be outsourced, we will start with the five worst playgrounds in the next week or so, the next phase five more will be done and they will finish with the last six.

The five worst playgrounds are: Hart School, Lione Park, Cummings Park, Northrop and Courtland Avenue.

- The Sleepy Hollow Bridge has been removed, staff also did some brush cutting at the park. Mr. Andreana stated that Representative Mary Fedeli indicated that more brush needs to be cut.
- Annual Report has been submitted for FY 2012-2013. Commissioners would like a copy of the Annual Report.
- There will be a Capital Budget meeting in which they will be discussing Cubeta Stadium Lights Upgrade and the West and Cummings Beach Master Plan.
- Beaches will be cleaned for Labor Day weekend. After Labor Day the beaches will be cleaned on the weekends up to the last day of the park season.
- There was training today for the upcoming Hurricane Season.
- Mr. Murray stated that he has been getting phone calls regarding the Cummings and Scalzi Handball Courts. Work is being done at Scalzi, the surface has been done and waiting for it to be lined; cosmetic work will be done to the wall. The court at Cummings will be patched up.
- Mr. Murray received the quotation docks for Cove, they will start next week. The West Beach dock will be worked on in the fall.

**Ernie Orgera – Mayor’s Children’s Parade – Use of Cove Island Park – Saturday, October 19, 2013 – Rain Date- Sunday, October 20, 2013 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 11:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 3:00 p.m.**

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Andreana made a motion to add request from John Mallozzi to the Agenda.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

**John Mallozzi – Stamford Democratic City Committee – Use of Columbus Park for Gathering for Political Rally – Saturday, September 14, 2013 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 2:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends 6:00 p.m. – 90 Adults and 10 Children.**

➤ There will be a charge for the electricity.

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

**Consent Agenda**

**Michael Battinelli – UNICO/Sacred Heart Church – Columbus Day Parade and Ceremony – Use of Columbus Park – Sunday, October 13, 2013 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 3:30 p.m. – Approximately 300 Adults and 50 Children.**

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

**Maria Sandoval – Grupo Quetzal/Central American Countries – Use of Columbus Park for Flag Raising for Central American Countries – Sunday, September 15, 2013 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 11:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:15 p.m. – Approximately 75 People.**

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

**Robinson Sepulveda – Group Folcklorico Aconcagua – Use of Courtland Avenue Park for Chilean Flag Raising – Sunday, September 22, 2013 from 12:00 p.m. to**

**3:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 11:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. – 40 Adults and 25 Children.**

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

**Jim Moriarty – Stamford High School Soccer Teams – Use of West Beach Soccer Fields for Soccer Practice for Stamford High School Boys or Girls Teams – Alternate Weeks – Monday, August 26, 2013 to Wednesday, October 30, 2013 from 2:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.**

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

\*\*\* Due to some issues with the Light and Life Association, they will be taken off the Consent Agenda.

### **Special Events**

**Lauren Pappalardo – Use of West Beach for Wedding Ceremony – Friday, September 6, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – 38 Adults and 12 Children.**

- They will need parking permits.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

**Diana Bakowski – Use of Goodbody Garden at Fort Stamford for Wedding Photographs – Saturday, May 24, 2014 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – 25 Adults.**

- Commission suggested to car pool since parking is limited at Fort Stamford.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

Unanimously Approved

**Brittany Salvatore – Rogers International School – Use of Cove Island Park for Stamford Middle School Cross Country Championships – Thursday, November 7, 2013 – Rain Date Tuesday, November 12, 2013 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 1:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. – 100 Adults and 200 Children.**

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Andreana made a motion to add Rogers International School – Stamford Middle School Cross Country Championships to the Consent Agenda.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

**Lauren Calahan – LEAP Education Programs – Use of Mianus River Park for Anti-Bullying Walk-A-Thon – Saturday, September 21, 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.**

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

**Jason Twedt – Stamford Harbor Point Duathlon – Pacific Swim, Bike Run/YMCA of Stamford – Use of Cummings Park on Sunday, October 6, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 5:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 1:00 p.m.**

- Event has been cancelled. No representative was present.

### **Old Business**

**Mike Krupnik – Nick Koules Memorial.**

- Mr. Krupnik presented to the Commission his plan for the Nick Koules Memorial at Scalzi II. A flagstone patio will be installed as well as a standard bench. There will be a plaque at the end of the patio. The Commission agreed that the size of the plaque can be 8 ½" x 11".
- Mr. Krupnik will discuss with Mr. Murray how much room is needed behind the backstop to the bench.
- Mr. Andreana also suggested planting a tree, Mr. Krupnik will discuss with Mr. Murray.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

**Mike Cotela – Boys & Girls Club – Kaboom Playground.**

- Item removed from the Agenda.

## **Brian Maloney – Discussion of 50/70 Intermediate Division Baseball.**

- Mr. Maloney stated that it has come to the attention of Little League that there are some kids in various leagues asking if there will ever be a 50/70 Program. This is something that Little League currently offers, but it's something they never pursued in Stamford because there are no available fields.

Little League wants to try to get kids playing in the fall who normally would not play Fall Baseball at all because they feel they may not be ready for a 60/90 field coming from a 40/60 Little League Diamond. Mr. Pierce feels that this is a good time to help the kids transition to the 60/90 field before they hit the Babe Ruth/Legion Leagues in the spring.

- Mr. Malone understands that there is not a Stamford field constructed for 50/70, so they are more than likely going to be looking at Scalzi or Turn of River behind the school with a portable mound.
- Mr. Rich LoRusso stated that Babe Ruth can run the 50/70 Program under their program. Mr. LoRusso stated that he would be more than happy to have the Little League coaches help run the program, but it will be ran under the Babe Ruth/Legion program because they are already there. If Little League steps in the field with Babe Ruth/Legion their kids will be insured under the Babe Ruth League and Little League will not have to take out another Division Charter.
- Mr. Andreana stated that he has spoken to kids that play Little League and parents that have kids currently in Little League and by enlarge they are against the 50/70 Program.
- Mr. McGuinness stated that he believes that ownership of the program should belong to Babe Ruth. If it belongs to Little League, it becomes an expansion of the league.
- Mr. Andreana feels that the 50/70 Program will dilute the efforts of Babe Ruth. It will take away from the existing 13 year old program.
- After much discussion the Commission tabled the item and asked that Little League and Babe Ruth come back to the Commission with a plan for the spring and for the fall.

**Mr. Andreana stepped out of the room at 8:49 p.m.**

## **New Business.**

No New Business.

## **Tournaments**

### **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.**

Mr. Macari made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

YES: Mr. Macari  
YES: Mr. Winston  
YES: Mr. McGuinness  
YES: Ms. Brown  
Did not vote: Mr. Andreana

Mr. Winston made a motion to add Joe Delaney – Deloitte Softball Tournament to the Consent Agenda.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

YES: Mr. Macari  
YES: Mr. Winston  
YES: Mr. McGuinness  
YES: Ms. Brown  
Did not vote: Mr. Andreana

**Mr. Andreana came back in the room at 8:54 p.m.**

### **Qwaliff Jackson – New England Tennis Association (NETA) – Use of Tennis Courts at Scalzi Park for NETA – Celebrating 88 Years of Tennis – Saturday, September 21, 2013 and Sunday, September 22, 2013 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. – 75 Adults.**

- This is an adult tournament, the age ranges from 35 to 65.
- The participants come from Washington, DC, Virginia, Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut.
- Mr. Jackson stated that they also have a program where they try to involve minority kids and all kids who are interested in the sport of tennis; through this they give free tournaments to kids.
- Mr. Andreana suggested running a free Tennis Clinic for Middle School Children. Mr. Jackson stated that he is open to partner with all of the organizations that are doing tennis clinics for the kids.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve contingent upon working out a program to help the kids in Stamford.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

**Joseph Zinicola – Thomas Casale Family Fund – Use of Cummings 1, 2 and Kosciuszko Field for Charity Softball Tournament – Saturday, September 28, 2013 and Sunday, September 29, 2013 from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

➤ There will be a \$100 Tournament Fee per field, per day.

Mr. Andreana made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Macari

Unanimously Approved

**Correspondence**

No Correspondence.

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Macari

Seconded by Mr. Andreana

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Margarita Arenas  
August 27, 2013