

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

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

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Joe Andreana
 Dave Winston
 Lyda Ruijter
 Althea Brown

Staff: Kevin Murray

Guests: Lisa Coggins - Friends of Cummings Park and West Beach
 Pat Liotta - Friends of Cummings Park and West Beach
 Nancy Messer - Friends of Cummings Park and West Beach
 Margarita Xistris – Friends of Cummings Park and West Beach
 Ann Brown – St. John’s Park Easement
 Brett Lamotta – Boys & Girls Club

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Joe Andreana, Chair.

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

Review of the August 20, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

YES: Mr. Winston
YES: Ms. Brown
YES: Mr. Andreana
ABSTAINED: Ms. Ruijter

Ms. Ruijter abstained because she did not attend the August 20, 2014 meeting.

Review of the September 17, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

YES: Mr. Winston
YES: Ms. Ruijter
YES: Mr. Andreana
ABSTAINED: Ms. Brown

Ms. Brown abstained because she did not attend the September 17, 2014 meeting.

Staff Reports

Kevin Murray for Laurie Albano – Recreation

- Westhill High School Pool is now available thru March 2015. Gyms and pool then closed for the next six months. This will allow winter and spring swim lessons, free swim and a Lifeguard Training class; however it will eliminate summer swim lessons and use of pool and gyms by summer day and revenue producing sports camps. Alternative plans for the summer will be a challenge to find pool space if at all possible. Most sports camps will move to Rippowam Middle School.
- Fall programs in Recreation Services have picked up in registrations and are going well.
- Recreation's newly designed Halloween event is scheduled for October 24th. It will be Halloween Bingo and tickets are going fast.
- Terry Conners Ice Rink busy in their prime season. Ken Smith is now the official Rink Manager.
- Terry Conners Ice Rink roof and door replacement Capital Projects are underway with no definitive cost estimates yet. Project is being managed by the Engineering Department. Roof design is in progress by an outsourced architect.
- Ms. Albano met with Kevin Murray and the Engineering Department on upcoming Capital Budget for Terry Conners Ice Rink and consultation on parks.

- Capital Budget request will be a new van for Recreation to replace their current 99 model, and in out year 16/17 a demo or new used Ice Resurfacing Machine for Terry Conners Ice Rink to replace the current backup machine.
- Mr. Murray is putting in Capital also a new building at Cove to replace the one condemned by storm Sandy for the summer playground program there. They are still considering moving that program to Barrett Park for summer of 2015.
- Ms. Albano sent an e-mail to the new Wright Tech Principal on October 1st to request a meeting to discuss collaborative programming/job opportunities with his students and use of Wright Tech's gym and classrooms for their programming. No word back from him yet.
- Per Mr. Andreana's inquiry regarding concussion awareness campaigns in our sanctioned youth leagues, most do have such in writing that they present to parents and on their website. Connecticut Park & Recreation Association just put out a survey and Ms. Albano will share the results when she receives them.
- Ms. Albano wrote and spoke to Legal regarding the Kosbob Ordinance and how it's applicable and/or does it supersede other protocols to approve Commission Policy. At first glance they are saying that both the Kosbob Ordinance is applicable, but that it does not technically supersede the review by the Parks & Recreation Committee or full Board of Reps. They do plan on submitting a full written opinion and Ms. Albano will forward such when she receives it.
- An internal staff meeting to review the status of the Cummings Park/West Beach Master Plan with the Architect/Stantec will be this Friday morning.
- Ms. Albano will be in attendance at the Parks planning meeting called by Erin McKenna with Ernie Orgera, Marty Levine, the Commission and other City staff on October 21st.

Kevin Murray – Parks

- Parks are officially closed as of October 1, 2014 (extended season). Bathrooms will be shut down and winterized per Plumber schedule.
- There was a post season Beach Parks Meeting in which they discussed issues, ideas and solutions for next season to make it better, most concerns revolved on enforcement, quality of life rules per beach staff.
- Capital submissions are due Thursday, October 16th and Pre-Planning Board meeting date is for Tuesday, October 21, 2014. Mr. Murray will present a report to Commission at the November meeting on all Parks requests for FY 15-16. Also included request for Short Term Capital for vehicles and equipment to Vehicle Maintenance.

- Mr. Murray attended the Veteran’s Memorial Park Pre-Submittal meetings and walk proposal for planning and design.
- Mr. Murray submitted to the Commission a couple of letters he received to be discussed regarding possibly making Scalzi Park a permit park only. Mr. Andreana reminded the Commission that this issue was visited before and the request and the recommendation was to not make it a permit park. Mr. Andreana stated that this request should be brought up as an Agenda item.
- Old Cummings Park parking lot on Soundview Avenue, Mr. Murray provided a copy of a letter from Parks Police Officer Peter Gould. This issue will be discussed later on in the meeting with the Friends of Cummings Park and West Beach.

Consent Agenda

Brittany Salvatore – Rogers International School – Use of Cove Island Park for Stamford Public Schools Middle School Cross Country Championship – Tuesday, October 28, 2014 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 1:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. – 50 Adults and 250 Children.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Penny Mazzucco – Use of Veteran’s Memorial Park for Veteran’s Day Parade – Sunday, November 9, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Special Events

No Special Events.

Tournaments

No Tournaments.

Old Business

Lisa Coggins – Friends of Cummings Park and West Beach – Follow Up Discussion Regarding Parking Area Off of Soundview Avenue.

- Mr. Andreana explained to the Friends of Cummings Park and West Beach that the Commission sent a request to the City's Legal Department for their opinion regarding the closing time of Cummings Park. At this point the Legal Department says that everything that the Parks & Recreation Commission did was consistent, but they will furnish a full written legal report. Even though the Kosbob Ordinance is in effect, what the Commission did by pursuing through the Board of Representatives Parks & Recreation Committee is in line with all of that. The Parks & Recreation Committee will be discussing the issue at their next meeting on October 30, 2014.
- Ms. Lisa Coggins stated that they had two meetings regarding the parking area off of Soundview Avenue. One meeting was with the Stamford Police, who were supportive of closing the park at 10:00 p.m. The second meeting was with the new Stormwater Management Regulatory Compliance Officer, Tyler Theder, regarding the parking area. Mr. Theder supported that they reduce the impermeable space there, because the guardrail goes right up against the pond area. Ms. Coggins showed some photographs of ways to close off the area that will be more attractive than Jersey Barriers.

Mr. Murray stated that since it is such a chronic area of dumping, creating a rock barrier, guardrail or curb would entice people to dump over that, which will make their job harder to get the stuff out. Mr. Murray believes that the overall plan for this area should definitely eliminate the parking space. Mr. Murray will talk to the Park Police Officers in regards to ideas as well. Mr. Murray would like this area to be included in the Cummings and West Beach Master Plan. Park Police Officer Peter Gould, had a good suggestion in regards to the Ordinance Ms. Coggins referred to in regards to Quiet Zones, which could be posted. Officer Gould also referenced that he has not received too many calls in regards to the area and encourages neighbors to call every time. In discussion with Director Orgera, he stated that there will be liability if we put boulders on the road.

Mr. Murray also stated that Ordinance 175-1 states that if there are Quiet Zone signs, the Police can enforce.

- Mr. Andreana suggested the area to be blocked off with plantings and then put the guardrail up.
- Mr. Murray stated that Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare is in charge of the Camera Project. Mr. Jankowski asked Mr. Murray to e-mail him a list of park concerns in regards to sites where they are having chronic issues and Cummings is top priority.
- Ms. Coggins stated that she will talk to Mr. Murray about creating a plan and going in there with some volunteers and cleaning the area. Ms. Coggins wants to make sure that the dumping issue will be addressed before they go in and pull all of the stuff out of the pond. Ms. Ruijter suggested that since the Master Plan meeting will take place next week, to wait and see how Stantec will solve the problem.

- Ms. Coggins asked to be placed on the November Agenda.
- Once the Parks & Recreation Committee approves the 10:00 p.m. park closure, Mr. Murray can then order the signs.
- Mr. Murray will discuss with staff a way to make this area a specific address to help Police identify it and get there.

New Business

Mani Poola /Traffic Engineer – St. John’s Park Easement – Proposed Signal Pole Location.

- Ann Brown for Mani Poola. Ms. Brown showed the Commission a photo of the existing area. Currently the Traffic Signal at Elm Street and Tresser Boulevard is being upgraded. In order to accommodate the ADA requirements on the sidewalks, the signal pole has to be located behind the sidewalk area which impacts park area of about 36 square feet.
- Mr. Winston would like to see that the finish is flushed with grade.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve the easement in St. John’s Park.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

Brett Lamotta – Boys & Girls Club – Request for Permit for Flag Football League at Lione Park.

- Mr. Lamotta requested a permit for a field by Lione Park, just beyond the Boys and Girls Club; he is requesting to use half the grass area between the bathrooms and tennis courts for a Flag Football Program for the Boys & Girls Club. Currently they are having conflicts with the soccer program that uses the turf field.
- The league is only permitted for the turf area.
- The Flag Football Program will run from October to November, Monday thru Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve the Boys & Girls Club request to use a limited area within Lione Park for Flag Football on Monday thru Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Correspondence

Letter to Mayor Martin from the Cove Island Park Community.

- Letter from the Cove Island Park Community was discussed.
- Mr. Murray stated that the Park Police Officers are monitoring this issue.

Mr. Andreana requested that discussion regarding park's policies and procedures be placed on the November 2014 Agenda.

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Ruijter

Seconded by Ms. Brown

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
October 20, 2014