

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
Minutes of the February 17, 2016 Regular Meeting**

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on February 17, 2016, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Operations Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

**In attendance were:**

Commissioners:            Joe Andreana  
                                      Dave Winston  
                                      Lyda Ruijter  
                                      Althea Brown

Staff:                         Laurie Albano  
                                      Kevin Murray

Guests:                     Ernie Orgera – Spartan Race  
                                      Daniel Goldstein – Spartan Race  
                                      Laurie Jean Hannon – Special Olympics  
                                      Susan Molve – Special Olympics  
                                      Bill Stowell – Scalzi Skate Park  
                                      Marion Glowka – Stamford Garden Club  
                                      Tara Leger – Scalzi Park – Skate Park  
                                      Boston Leger – Scalzi Park – Skate Park

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Joe Andreana, Chair.

Mrs. Cooper did not attend the meeting.

## **Review of the January 20, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

### **Discussion**

#### **GIS – Relevance for the Parks & Recreation Commission.**

- Ms. Ruijter explained the definition of GIS (Geographic Information System) to the Commission.
- Benefits for the Parks & Recreation Commission:
  - GIS facilitates the role of the Commission to provide oversight and insight in governmental process by allowing quick access to comprehensive information.
  - GIS will help reduce the learning curve of new Commissioners.
  - GIS allows for Commissioners to have access to the same information thereby facilitating working as a team.
  - GIS allows for transparency in government. Any project that affects neighborhoods can now be accessible to citizens. Input by residents and stakeholders can now easier be elicited.
  - Transparency in government, leads to improved legitimization of the government's decisions and expenditures.
  - The monthly staff reports pertaining to specific locations and projects can now be available on the digital map. This would be a time saver for staff; allows easier overview for the Commissioners.
- Few possible applications would be:
  1. Public Access
  2. Capital Projects
  3. Permeable vs. impermeable ratio
- Mr. Murray has spoken to Cindy Barber in the GIS Department about coming up with a format in regards to physical addresses for all the parks for emergency purposes. Mr. Murray will touch base with Ms. Barber and report again in the March meeting.
- The Commission will discuss at the March 2016 meeting, what information is currently available in the system and what information the Commission may want

that is not available, and would be easily put into the system. Ms. Barber will be invited to a future Commission meeting.

- Going forward Mr. Andreana would like to have a laptop and a projector available at every meeting.
- Mr. Winston would like the Commission to work on the language that clarifies the Commission's position with respect to Friends Groups, what the Commission expects of them.

### **Special Events**

**Ernie Orgera, Daniel Goldstein and Evan Carlson – Spartan Race – Spartan Kids Race – Cummings Park – Saturday, October 1, 2016 and Sunday, October 2, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts Monday, September 26, 2016 and Clean-Up Ends Monday, October 3, 2016 – 3,000 Adults and 2,000 Children.**

- Director Orgera stated that Dan Goldstein ran the Spartan Race last year at the Mill River Park; it was a very successful event. Due to construction at Mill River Park, Mr. Goldstein is seeking approval to use Cummings Park this year for the Spartan Kids Race. Director Orgera informed the Commission that Mayor Martin loved the event last year and is in favor of the event taking place at Cummings Park this year.
- Mr. Goldstein explained the event to the Commission.
- Commissioners explained to Mr. Goldstein that Commercial signs cannot be posted on City Parks.
- Since this is a commercial event, the Commission would like Mr. Goldstein to work in conjunction with the City, 25% of the revenue would go to the City. Mr. Goldstein stated that this is a big number for him and asked if the fee could be waived. Mr. Andreana explained that typically commercial events are not allowed in City parks and pointed out that this is not a Stamford based organization and it draws from the tristate area.
- Mr. Winston and Ms. Ruijter have a problem with setting precedence.

Mr. Winston made a motion to deny request.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

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

**Laurie Jean Hannon – Special Olympics Connecticut, Inc. – Special Olympics Connecticut Fall Sports Festival – Scalzi Park – Saturday, September 10 and**

**Sunday, September 11, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 6:00 p.m. – 400 Adults.**

- Ms. Albano explained that there will be other activities going on in the park at the same time of the event. Since parking could be an issue, parking off site and using shuttle busses to transport people was discussed. Mr. Andreana and Ms. Albano suggested parking at the Government Center, the High School or the Bell Street Garage.
- They will bring in port-a-johns at their own expense.
- Details of the event need to be coordinated with Mr. Murray.
- If using a tent, a Building Permit will be needed.

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

**Scalzi Originals Skate Park – Skateboard Class Opening on Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

- Mr. Bill Stowell (Coach Bill) would like to have a Registration Event at the Skate Park. During the event would like to have the following.
  1. Amplified music.
  2. Face Painting
  3. Food Truck.
  4. Barbers to give out haircuts.
  5. Mural Sketch to be submitted to the Commission, if approved, have the mural displayed for free at the Skate Park.
- Music will be just during registration day for 30 to 45 minutes. Music volume will be kept low. Mr. Murray stated that there is no electricity at the Skate Park; Mr. Stowell will look into getting acoustic music instead.
- Money will be received in check form payable to the City of Stamford.
- Ms. Albano stated the Coach Bill will be working with the Recreation Department as a contracted vendor to teach lessons. Lessons would occupy the Skate Park for four hours a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Other kids can still use the Skate Park while lessons are going on.
- A Police Officer will be in place.

- One of the projects is to also have the skateboarding to be an outlet for kids with special needs.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

### **Friends Groups Presentation**

#### **Marion Glowka – Fort Stamford/Goodbody Garden – Presentation to the Commission.**

- Ms. Marion Glowka member of Stamford Garden Club gave a presentation to the Commission regarding Fort Stamford/Goodbody Garden. **(See Attached)**.
- Ms. Glowka asked the Commission to continue with the blanket Permit approval of events at Fort Stamford/Goodbody Garden for the Stamford Garden Club as previously approved; Mr. Andreana stated that it continues.
- Ms. Glowka mentioned that people use the Garden for weddings and wanted to know if it's possible to ask for a donation to help the Stamford Garden Club with the upkeep of the Garden. It was suggested that Ms. Glowka contact Frank Fedeli in Cashiering and Permitting and Director Orgera.
- On behalf of the Commission, Mr. Andreana thanked Ms. Glowka for the effort that the Stamford Garden Club puts into the park; it is truly a gem in the City of Stamford.

### **Tournaments**

No Tournaments.

### **Old Business**

No Old Business.

### **New Business**

#### **Boston Leger and Tara Leger – Scalzi Scooter Incident.**

- Boston Leger recently attended the Scalzi Skate Park with some friends to ride their scooters, but Park Police kicked the scooter riders out of the park. Mr. Leger does not feel it's fair that the scooter riders are excluded; everybody should be allowed to use the Skate Park, not just skateboarders.

- Mr. Andreana explained that the Park Police enforced the Rule of “No Scooters or Bikes Allowed in the Skate Park” because the Rule is posted.
- Coach Bill explained the reasons why scooters are not allowed in the Skate Park. Usually the scooter riders that attend the Skate Park tend to stay at the bottom of the bowl, not allowing other kids go in. Coach Bill stressed that it is very important to be respectful of everybody who is at the Skate Park. Coach Bill feels that if that kind of respect can be given, nobody would have an issue with scooters in the Skate Park. The other issue that needs to be considered, is the question of would the grinding of the metal of the scooter chip away at the edge of the skate bowl?
- Mr. Andreana stated that if 95<sup>o</sup> of the scooters that are manufactured are acceptable, and if approved by Risk Management, the next step will be for the Commission to modify the Rule of scooters being allowed in the Skate Park. Coach Bill will look into the construction of the scooters.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Kevin Murray – Parks.**

- Rippowam Park has been cleared of any building material referenced in the Park and Recreation Commission Meeting of use of the park. It was brought to Mr. Murray’s attention that Jim Lunney, Zoning Enforcement Officer, suggested that Engineering take the lead in ordering RMS off park property and that upon request, the Building Department might consider withholding inspections until the violation is corrected. As it was reported Superintendent was away and there was a communication breakdown. Park work will begin next week with curbing and island will be upgraded along during this process.

Mr. Andreana stated that there should be some penalties imposed on RMS for the destruction of the park. Mr. Murray will follow up with Norman Cole and will let him know that the Commission is looking for a fine.

Before this project started Rippowam Park was maintained by ELM per our agreement, going forward RMS will be doing the maintenance of the park, either on a continual basis with ELM or by their own contractor.

- Park Police meeting/discussion of direction took place on February 17, 2016. Corporate Council, Director of Public Safety, Director of Operations, Director of Human Resources and the Chief of Police attended the meeting. It was agreed and announced that Park Police Officers that are sworn in by the Police Commission would report to the Chief of Police in which the Chief would designate a designee to schedule and monitor the (3) Park Police Officers. Park presence and schedules during the busy season would remain the same, as Operations control the budget and would have authority to work with designee for park control as needed.

- Parks Department will start to bring back seasonal employees starting Mid-March for the spring season and phase out employees per the budget. In total we are looking to hire 30 seasonal employees once again to assist our efforts.
- Cummings Phase I Design meeting with Stantec Consulting Services took place on February 12, 2016. The meeting involved doing the final design for Phase I for the Cummings beach front, renovation of field #3 and the renovation of the Conte Building (restroom near the Tennis Courts). Impacting job scope will be the capital funding available from FY16-17 request. Currently we have \$660K in place.
- Met with City team and the State regarding the Courtland Avenue Widening Project on February 9, 2016, the project is scheduled to commence in the spring of 2017. At this meeting details of the stone wall have been discussed and planned accordingly.
- Interviews will be coordinated in efforts to select a Maintenance worker for the Parks Department. Current list is still active.

## **Laurie Albano – Recreation**

### **Recreation Services:**

- Spring/Summer new brochure is on line and the hard copy will be distributed to the schools.
- Dates are set for all camp and program registrations beginning in early March.
- Currently interviewing for a new seasonal Aquatic Director.
- Prep work for all spring and summer programs, camps and leagues is ongoing.
- Recruiting new and identifying returning summer camp staff and lifeguards.
- Fireworks will be held on Friday, July 1, 2016. Starting the RFP process and meeting prep.
- Maccabi Games meetings are ongoing.
- FY 16/17 Budget request has been submitted to the Mayor along with requested Performance Metrics.
- Winter programs going well/revenues good.
- A meeting was held for all spring/summer field permit holders for all baseball organizations.

- Another meeting will be held in March for all adult soccer organizations and Stamford Youth Soccer.

### **Terry Conners Rink**

- New door/frame project has been moving slow, but almost done.
- Insurance settlement has been finalized at \$200K for problem floor.
- Floor will be assessed in April when ice is taken down for roof replacement.
- Concession vendor performance is still an issue.
- Winter season going well/revenues good.
- FY 16/17 Budget request has been submitted to the Mayor along with requested Performance Metrics.
- List of events approved by the Parks & Recreation Internal Committee at the February 9, 2016 meeting:

### **Consent Agenda**

**Gerard Gasparino – ARI of Connecticut, Inc. – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Independence – Cove Island Park – Sunday, May 1, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:00 p.m. – 75 Adults and 25 Children.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

**Penny Mazzucco – Patriotic & Special Events Commission – 2016 Memorial Day Parade – Saturday, May 29, 2016 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. – 75 Adults and 25 Children.**

Kim Gerbert made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

### **Special Events**

**Anthony Conte – Marcus for Change – US Day – 5K Walk and Run – Scalzi Park – Sunday, September 18, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 5:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:00 p.m. – 500 Adults and 500 Children.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

**Danielle Palmer – Stillmeadow PFO – Stillmeadow Color-Thon – Cove Island Park – Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 4:00 p.m.**

➤ More information on electricity requirements is needed.

Kim Gerbert made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

**Laurie Jean Hannon – Special Olympics Connecticut, Inc. – Special Olympics Connecticut Fall Sports Festival – Scalzi Park – Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 6:00 p.m. – 400 Adults.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to deny request and send to the Parks & Recreation Commission for their review.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

**Lynne Colatrella – D.S.S.D. 2016 Events.**

**Art in Public Places – June – August, 2016.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

**Jazz-Up July – Wednesday Evenings, July 6, 13, 20, 27, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. – Columbus Park.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

**Arts & Crafts on Bedford – Saturday & Sunday, September 17 & 18, 2016.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

**UBS Parade Spectacular – Sunday, November 20, 2016 – 12 Noon Step-Off, Summer & Hoyt Streets.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

**Heights & Lights – Rappelling Santa and Holiday Tree Lighting – Sunday, December 4, 2016 – 5:00 p.m., Landmark Square and Latham Park.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

**Tournaments**

**Tracy Nichols, Director of Athletics – Trinity Catholic High School – Use of Cubeta Stadium for Varsity Baseball Games – Saturday, April 2, 2016 to Wednesday, May 18, 2016 (Schedule Attached) – 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

**Scalzi Originals Skate Park – Skateboard Class Opening on Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Laurie Albano made a motion to deny request and send to the Parks & Recreation Commission for their review.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

**Linda Cremin – Stamford Youth Tennis Academy – Tennis Exhibition – Cummings Park – Sunday, May 1, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

- Must leave two courts available for residents.

Kim Gerbert made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

**Correspondence**

No Correspondence.

**The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 16, 2016.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Winston

Seconded by Ms. Brown

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Margarita Arenas  
February 23, 2016