

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the April 20, 2016 Regular Meeting**

DRAFT

DRAFT

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on April 20, 2016, 10th Floor Operations Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Joe Andreana
 Dave Winston
 Beth Cooper
 Lyda Ruijter
 Althea Brown

Staff: Laurie Albano
 Kevin Murray

Guests: Maciej Mazurhiewicz – Bikes 4 Kids CT

 Leigh Shemitz – Trailer at Boccuzzi Park

 Michael Bagley – Trailer at Boccuzzi Park

 Rep. Virgil de la Cruz – Trailer at Boccuzzi Park

 Daniel Rivas – Central American Soccer League

 Alex Martinez – Central American Soccer League

 John Mallozzi – Central American Soccer League

 Nick Vivona – Stamford American Little League

 Brian O’Neil – Fort Stamford

 Ken Smith – Terry Conners Rink

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Joe Andreana, Chair.

Review of the March 16, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mrs. Cooper

Unanimously Approved

Discussion

Vision of Parks Through 2035.

➤ GIS – Relevance for the Parks & Recreation Commission

- Ms. Ruijter and Mr. Winston have met with several people in City Government and outside City Government, receiving positive responses from everybody, but everything hinges around the idea that there should be a budget.
- Ms. Ruijter would like to discuss again at the May Commission meeting and hopes to have more agreements to report on.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the Commission needs to come up with what they want GIS to do for them and then go from there.

➤ Policies

- Ms. Ruijter presented to the Commission a DRAFT Mission Statement:

Mission Statement for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

1. To provide a well-functioning system of safe, accessible, well-planned and maintained parks, natural areas, beaches and shorelines.
2. To provide affordable recreational and educational opportunities for all segments of the population.
3. To encourage preservation and expansion of the natural resources.
4. To encourage conservation, sustainability and resiliency of the natural resources.
5. To inventory and preserve the historical legacy of the park system.

6. To encourage community interaction and City vibrancy by allowing events where varied groups of residents participate.
7. To ensure equitable access for all residents.
8. To develop plans to increase connectivity between parks, green spaces, and surrounding neighborhoods.
 - o The Commission reviewed the DRAFT Mission Statement and discussed a few suggestions, changes and corrections to the document.
 - o Ms. Ruijter will incorporate the suggestions provided by the Commission. The revised DRAFT Mission Statement will be discussed at the May 2016 Commission Meeting.
 - o Mrs. Cooper suggested that the Mission Statement should be reviewed every time a new Mayor is elected.

Special Events

Maciej Mazurhiewicz – Bikes 4 Kids CT – First Annual Community Biking – Cove Island Park – Saturday, September 10, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. – 100 – 150 People Attending.

- Bikes 4 Kids is a non-profit organization.
- Program wants to promote healthy living and help prevent child obesity and diabetes. They would like to bring underprivileged kids together and offer free bikes and helmets to them.
- They would also like to introduce health, diet and exercise to the kids.
- They will work in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club.
- 10 to 15 Bikes will be given away.
- Training will be provided.
- JP Morgan is interested in providing backpacks and school supplies for the kids.
- Mr. Mazurhiewicz would like the following weekend (Saturday, September 17th) to be the Rain Date.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

Tournaments

No Tournaments.

Old Business

Leigh Shemitz – Placement of Trailer at Boccuzzi Park.

- Leigh Shemitz and Michael Bagley from SoundWaters presented to the Commission documentation/proposed plan regarding the placement of the trailer at Boccuzzi Park.
- In relation to SoundWaters beautifying or making improvements to the area where the trailers are located at Boccuzzi Park, Ms. Shemitz provided visuals of fencing styles and potentially adding some visual blocks, specially on the west side. There will be a solid fence in the back, in the neighbors' side.
- Mr. Murray talked to the Commission about Volunteer Day and their plans to team up with Parks Department to clean up the area. Mr. Andreana stated that the old trailers need to be painted.
- Mr. Andreana wanted a commitment from SoundWaters to clean up the area and fresh paint where indicated. Ms. Shemitz agreed and committed to Mr. Andreana requests.

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to approve the plan as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

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

Daniel Rivas and Attorney Alex Martinez – Misrepresentation of Central American Soccer League of Stamford at the January 20, 2016 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting.

- Attorney Alex Martinez addressed the Commission and explained that there was a misrepresentation/fraud that occurred at the January 20, 2016 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting.

- Attorney Martinez presented to the Commission documentation showing that Daniel Rivas is the owner of Central American Soccer League of Stamford. Mr. Rivas registered the League on March 2, 2011 with the Town Clerk. There were Articles of Association that were done by Mr. Rivas on September 15, 2008. Mr. Rivas also has a Tax Payer ID Number with the IRS. The Binder of Insurance and the Policy are under the League's name, but Mr. Rivas is the League, it is not a LLC, it is a registered trademark under him.
- Attorney Martinez stated that none of the people who reported to be members/officers of the Central American Soccer League of Stamford at the January 20th Commission meeting had authority to act on behalf of the League. They believe that someone in that group conspired and sought out to put people together and commit this fraud.
- Attorney Martinez's office is currently conducting an investigation; there are two people that will be giving Affidavits. There are another three individuals that they will be trying to get Affidavits from.
- Attorney Martinez explained the legal options Mr. Rivas has.
- Attorney Martinez stated that they will find out through the Affidavits who committed the fraud. Once the investigation is completed the information will be shared with the Commission and Mr. Rivas will have legal options. If the information is compelling, they will either through the Board of Representatives or through a petition, request that appropriate action, such as revoking the Permit, be taken against the individual or individuals who are still operating fields or involved in operating fields in this City, who have committed fraud against the Parks & Recreation Commission. It would be up to Mr. Rivas if he wants to file a Police Report as well.
- Mr. Andreana explained the Commission's position at the January 20th meeting:
 - The Commission does not get involved with internal League issues.
 - The Commission stated that if they wanted to elect new officers, it was their prerogative, but it was not anything the Commission had any authority.
 - The Commission was under the impression that Central American Soccer League was formed and operated like most of the leagues in the City of Stamford, where there were officers and the League was the entity.
 - There were accusations, which the Commission responded that they cannot act on accusations. If there is any criminal or malfeasants that are not Parks & Recreation Commission issues, it's an internal issue or a Police Department issue. It was left up to the League to make the decision.

- It is the Commissions understanding that the League came back with a new Board of Officers and applied for the Permits through the Recreation Department, still keeping the same League. The Commission was not aware that the Central American Soccer League of Stamford was a privately owned League.
- Ms. Albano stated that the alleged new Board of the Central American Soccer League of Stamford did not have a Permit from the Recreation Department to play, Mr. Rivas has the Permit.

Beth Cooper – Permit Adherence – Stamford American Little League Banners.

- Mrs. Cooper discussed the issue regarding banners, not just from Stamford American Little League, but from all the leagues.
- Banners are allowed from April 1st to October 31st.
- Mrs. Cooper stated that going forward she would like to see it in writing when the banners can be installed and when they have to come down. If a Score Board is not covered, according to all the Rules and Regulations, the Commission has the right to permanently cover it. Mr. Andreana stated that the Commission has already discussed this issue and came up with a very firm statement last year as to what Mr. Murray would do. Any signage/banners up after October 31st will be taken down and disposed of. Any permanent signage will be painted over with white paint.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the language regarding banners should be added to the Field Sanctioning Policy.
- Mrs. Cooper will put something together and discuss again with the Commission.
- In addition, Mr. Winston stated that something needs to be done about the display of the American Flag in the ball fields. Mr. Andreana stated that if a Flag is not being flown properly, it should come down.
- Mr. Winston suggested that if a league does not follow the rules regarding the banners, they should lose a month of fall field use.
- Mrs. Cooper stated that an e-mail should go out to all the Leagues reminding them of the banner rules and the permitting rules.
- Mr. Vivona suggested that the Commission allow the signs to go up a weekend before April 1st, the Leagues run into problems when the volunteers are putting up the signs and there are games going on. Mr. Andreana stated that this will be addressed in the Field Sanctioning Policy. Mr. Winston would like to leave it April 1st to October 31st.

- Mrs. Cooper stated that Stamford American Little League had mentioned to her that they would like permission from the Commission to add a banner by the Third Base Dugout in the Vine Road field. Mr. Andreana stated that the size of the banner should be consistent with the banners that are already on the outfield fences.
- Mr. Nick Vivona asked permission to display about 10 old banners from when Stamford American Little League won the Division. The banners would be placed on the fence above the Dugouts. Other leagues like North Stamford have theirs on display now. These banners will go up and come down every year like the other banners. Mr. Andreana does not have an issue with this request, he feels that it shows pride in the League and gives the kids an incentive.

Nick Vivona – Stamford American Little League – Finalize the Process of Kane Avenue Usage (Mr. Ottaviano’s Requests) – Show Adaptation to the Process.

- Mr. Nick Vivona stated that Stamford American Little League complied with putting fencing up above the Backstop per Mr. Ottaviano’s request.
- The League has been adhering to the Batting Cage rules, no Majors Teams on the fields, and no Majors practices or games on the field.
- The L Screen on the Batting Cage has been locked up every night.
- They have been using the requested bats and balls.
- Mr. Murray stated that the City also put additional netting, which Mr. Ottaviano liked.
- Mr. Murray stated that after talking to Mr. Ottaviano, his only complaint was mopeds in the parking lot.
- Mr. Andreana stated that everything the Stamford American Little League has done, has mitigated the problem and asked them to continue doing what they have been doing.

New Business

Brian O’Neil – Use of Building at Fort Stamford for Staging of Exhibit in Honor of Stamford’s 375th Anniversary and the Contributions of the Men who Built and Served at Fort Stamford.

- Since there is still no Security System in place at Fort Stamford, Mr. O’Neil will not have the Exhibit.

Brian O’Neil – Proposal to Create New Educational Signage for the Fort Stamford

Grounds.

- Mr. Brian O’Neil proposed to the Commission and is seeking permission to create new educational signage at Fort Stamford.
- Mr. O’Neil stated that having the signage will be something for the children of Stamford to celebrate and a good step. It would allow visitors to put Fort Stamford on their list of places to see/visit in Stamford.
- Mr. O’Neil proposed about 12 signs that will meet National Park Service Requirements and standards. It will inform the visitors exactly what took place there and the importance of the Fort.
- The signs will be approximately 24” x 36”, probably horizontal on a stanchion.
- The National Park Service Standards is pretty robust in terms of what their requirements would be. Mr. O’Neil will be coordinating this project with Ron Marcus from the Historical Society, the Archeology Department at the State level and State Historian. Mr. O’Neil has a background in museum exhibits and history.
- Mr. O’Neil requests to be given the power as an agent of the City to file Grant Applications for the money to put the signs together.
- Mr. Andreana asked Mr. O’Neil to come back to the Commission for final approval of the signs.

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mrs. Cooper

Unanimously Approved

Laurie Albano and Ken Smith – CT Whale Professional Women’s Hockey Teams – Proposed Use of Terry Conners Ice Rink.

- Ms. Albano informed the Commission that the CT Whale Professional Women’s Hockey Team’s proposal has been pulled by them, they have moved to another facility.
- Mr. Ken Smith gave the Commission the Quarterly Report of Terry Conners Rink:
 - The Rink has been closed down as of Sunday. The floor will be examined by professionals and they will give us a course of action, whether the existing surface can be repaired or if it needs a complete redo. There will be a course of action in the next month or so.

- Shutdown procedure needs to be altered, sanitary drains that are located inside the rink needs to be used. The Shutdown process will take longer now.
- The roof is half off, frame is being put up for the new roof. Project is two weeks ahead of schedule.
- Starting to do some repairs inside tomorrow to make the Rink look good inside and out.
- Rink used to close every single spring and re-open on July 5th that changed because of the floor. Planning on keeping the ice open year round once the floor is replaced or fixed.

Kevin Murray – Approval of 4’ x 8’ Sign Indicating Veterans Memorial Park Project – Sign to be Installed by Memorial Day in Veterans Memorial Park.

- Mr. Murray stated that he was asked at the last meeting of the Committee for Veterans Memorial Park to present the Veterans Memorial Park Revitalization Sign to the Commission for approval.
- The 4’ x 8’ sign will be placed in the middle of Veterans Memorial Park.

Mrs. Cooper made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Staff Reports

Laurie Albano – Recreation.

- Spring/Summer registration for all camps and adult leagues has been strong/good numbers.
- Spring Programs underway and done mid-May.
- Weekend ASA/USSA Softball Tournaments have begun. Had an issue with a team who broke into the light box. They will be banned from future tournaments and will pay all damages.
- Field permitting process for sanctioned users ongoing and on target.
- Fireworks bids are in. 3 Vendors with a range of \$43,000 to \$88,000. The Selection Committee meets on Monday, April 25th, and Ms. Albano will facilitate the team operation meetings to begin tomorrow morning.

- Maccabi Games meetings on going and on task. Ms. Albano is facilitating much of their operational needs in parks and schools assisted by a great team of various City and BOE staff.
- Demand for Jr Counselor Program is strong and we may need to not only revamp the program's selection process, but possibly create a summer program for this age group.
- Lifeguard and Camp Counselor recruitment, interviews on going and on target. Filling vacancies.
- Two new Aquatics Directors have been hired; both have started and doing well.
- Tram Drivers will be hired and most are returnees.
- Tennis ball recycling program may begin at Scalzi in cooperation with Solid Waste, Recreation/GSTA and Parks Department.
- Terry Conners Rink door project almost done, roof construction has started and ice melting. Ken and Ms. Albano have been working with Engineering to have the floor evaluated by an Ice Rink floor specialist.
- List of events approved by the Parks & Recreation Internal Committee at the April 12, 2016 meeting:

Consent Agenda

Jon Stellwagen – Kids in Crisis – Sixth Annual Navigators Stamford KIC IT KIDS Triathlon – Use of Cummings Park – Saturday, June 11, 2016 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. – Set-Up Starts Friday, June 10, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends on Saturday, June 11, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. – 200 Adults and 200 Children.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Jon Stellwagen – Kids in Crisis – Ninth Annual Navigators Stamford KIC IT Triathlon & 5K/10K – Sunday, June 12, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts on Friday, June 10, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends on Sunday, June 12, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. – 800 Adults and 200 Children.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Al Hebert – Stamford Sail & Power Squadron – Flare Up 2016 – Use of West Beach – Monday, June 6, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 5:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 10:00 p.m. – 85 Adults and 15 Children.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Frank Fedeli

Unanimously Approved

Villa Divino Amore Nursery School – Graduation and Family Picnic at Cove Island Park – Saturday, June 18, 2016. Request to Waive the \$25.00 Fee for the One-Day Parking Pass (Cove Island) for 25 Families.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Our Lady of Grace School – Graduation and Family Picnic at Cove Island Park – Sunday, June 19, 2016. Request to Waive the \$25.00 Fee for the One-Day Parking Pass (Cove Island) for 25 Families.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Special Events

Lynne Colatrella – D.S.S.D. – Brews on Bedford – Use of Latham Park and Lower Prospect Street for Craft Beer Tasting Festival – Saturday, June 11, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – 750 Adults.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Maciej Mazurhiewicz – Bikes 4 Kids CT – First Annual Community Biking – Cove Island Park – Saturday, September 10, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. – 100 – 150 People Attending.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to deny request, must go to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Seconded by Megan Gearhart

Unanimously Approved

Pamela Conte – STARelief – Doggy Day Palooza – Stamford Courtland Avenue Dog Park – Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 4:00 p.m.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve request without the Car Wash.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Rachel Rothman – Stamford Jewish Community Center – JCC Maccabi Games – Use of Lione Park for Field Activities with JCC Maccabi and Boys and Girls Club – Tuesday, August 9, 2016 and Wednesday, August 10, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Megan Gearhart

Unanimously Approved

Christopher Nanos – The Church of the Archangels – Outdoor Worship at Cove Island Pavilion – Sunday, June 26, 2016 from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. – 150 Adults and 50 Children.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Dave Winston – Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary – Request for 15 Volunteer Parking Passes for the 2016 Parks Season.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Megan Gearhart

Unanimously Approved

Walter Droz and Melissa Shapiro – Salvation Army/Stamford – Use of Scalzi Park for Touch a Truck Diaper Drive – Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 4:00 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to deny request.

Seconded by Frank Fedeli

Unanimously Approved

Chaya Teulovits – Camp LaRoach – Tethered Hot Air Balloon Ride – Cove Island Park – Wednesday, July 20, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – 10 Adults and 100 Teenage Girls.

Kim Gerbert made a motion to deny request.

Seconded by Megan Gearhart

Unanimously Approved

Chaya Teulovits – Camp LaRoach – Tethered Hot Air Balloon Ride – Scalzi Park – Wednesday, July 20, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – 10 Adults and 100 Teenage Girls.

Kim Gerbert made a motion to deny request.

Seconded by Megan Gearhart

Unanimously Approved

Tournaments

Craig Lippmann – Tristan Lippmann Foundation – Charity Softball Tournament – Use of Cummings Park (Second Choice Scalzi Park) – Saturday, June 11, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Megan Gearhart

Unanimously Approved

Kevin Murray – Parks.

- Maintenance Administration/Parks/Facilities/Beach Enforcement Budgets were purposed on March 28th BOF and April 5th BOR.
- ADA Survey team from the Institute for Humane Centered Design revisited the week of 4/11 at the following sites, Dorothy Heroy, Barrett Park, Czescik Park and Southfield.
- Park Seasonal Employees Update: There are currently 19 seasonals in place, attention is to continue maintenance on Athletic Fields and also focus on park openings, flower beds, bathroom opening and grass routes.
- Rolling Dough Express will be open for business at the (3) beach locations starting weekends May 1st.
- Cove Island Point Project is complete and open to the public, proper signage will be installed to keep people off the rocks etc.
- Beach Parking Contractor LAZ is extending its coverage which will give more flexibility of point of sales at our beach locations and presence.
- Veterans Memorial AD-Hoc Committee Meeting was on April 11th – Discussion was kick off Atlantic Square Engineering – Landscape and Architectural Plans and also short/long term fundraising.
- Ripporwam Park: City Legal Department is involved and RMS is aware that plans for the park upgrade will need to be approved by the Parks Commission.

➤ Park Athletic Fields are open as of April 2nd.

Correspondence

No Correspondence.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 18, 2016.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Cooper

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
April 26, 2016