

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the June 15, 2016 Regular Meeting**

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on June 15, 2016, 10th Floor Operations Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Joe Andreana
 Dave Winston
 Beth Cooper
 Lyda Ruijter

Staff: Kevin Murray

Guests: Briann Gerbert – Trailers at Boccuzzi Park
 Christian Gerbert – Trailers at Boccuzzi Park
 Thomas Madden – 375th Anniversary Fireworks
 Jackie Lightfield – 375th Anniversary Fireworks
 Kellie Cooke – Memorial Stone for Jessie Lewis Playground
 Kevin Cooke – Memorial Stone for Jessie Lewis Playground
 Kevin Murray – Drotar Park

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Joe Andreana, Chair.

Ms. Brown and Ms. Albano did not attend the meeting.

Review of the May 18, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

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

Discussion

Vision of Parks Through 2035.

➤ Policies

- Mr. Andreana mentioned a Field Use Policy that was published in the National Park Website a number of months back from Virginia. This Field Use Policy was very inclusive and had very valid points that we could incorporate in our Field Use Policy. Ms. Albano and Megan Gearhart are going to go through the Policy and are going to adapt a similar document for Stamford.
- There was a lot discussion last year regarding concussions. Part of the new Policy for Field Use with Youth Teams should include discussion on Commission's requirements for leagues to impose upon their coaches regarding concussions.
- The part where our Policy calls for and lists out the accredited or certified groups that are using the fields as part of the Policy, should be an Appendix to the Policy rather than being published as part of the Policy. The Policy should refer to the Appendix as well as fees.
- Mrs. Cooper spoke to Laurie Albano and Megan Gearhart about the Policy, and discussed Banners and Non-Profits. Mrs. Cooper will follow up with them again and report back to the Commission next month.
- Ms. Ruijter explained that under the Mission Statement they have worked on the part relating to the relationship with the community. There were five different sub-chapters included as well as the general guidelines for any group.
- Mrs. Cooper was not sure if the D.S.S.D. and the Veteran's Groups were part of the document. Mr. Winston explained that the D.S.S.D. is not an entity that works with the downtown parks. Mr. Andreana suggested that the D.S.S.D. gets its own category.
- Mrs. Ruijter stated that they are working on the Index and all of the sub-chapters that are needed.

- Mrs. Ruijter will work on the final DRAFT for approval at next month's meeting.
- Mr. Andreana feels that there should be more transparency in how the Non-Profit events are run, who runs them, who is making money on it and how is the organization that is being funded getting their donations. Mr. Andreana stated that this has to be somehow incorporated in the Policy.

Special Events

No Special Events.

Tournaments

No Tournaments.

Old Business

Christian Gerbert – Trailers at Boccuzzi Park.

- Mr. Christian Gerbert addressed the Commission and explained that eleven years ago he was told that the trailers at Boccuzzi Park were only going to be there for three years. Eleven years later the trailers are still there and there are plans to add one more.
- The new fence went up today and it is beautiful, but the new trailer is larger than originally approved by the Commission. At the May 2016 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission approved an 8' x 20' trailer, the one that was installed is 10 ½' x 47' and it is rotted.
- Mr. Andreana asked Mr. Murray to talk to Director Orgera tomorrow regarding the trailer, it is not the size it was approved by the Commission and something has to be done. Mr. Murray will report back to the Commission and keep Mr. Gerbert informed.
- Mr. Andreana stated that SoundWaters who has had an excellent track record at Cove Island Park, is new to Boccuzzi Park, hopefully taking them for their word, they are going to improve the situation.
- Mr. Gerbert stated that he would like the trailers moved down below, if they do that he offered to have one of the designers on his staff design it and Mr. Gerbert will do the planting free of charge. Once the new building is completed he will pull those plants out and plant the new building.

- Mr. Andreana asked Mr. Murray to suggest placing the port-a-johns on the southwest corner instead of the southeast corner.
- Mr. Andreana stated that Representative Mitchell wants SoundWaters to meet with the residents in four months; the Commission will revisit this issue in a year to see if there has been any improvement.

New Business

Thomas Madden, Director of Economic Development – 375th Anniversary Fireworks at Cummings Park – Monday, September 5, 2016.

- Thomas Madden, Director of Economic Development presented to the Commission the plan for 375th Anniversary Fireworks.
- Mr. Madden explained that the original request has been changed. Due to the high cost of the Fireworks Show, the City has decided to partner with SoundWaters and have the Fireworks during their Harbor Fest on Saturday, August 27th. The new location of the Fireworks will be in Stamford Harbor. They are looking at using the dirt part of the old Boat Yard; they have preliminary permission from BLT to use this area to blast Fireworks off. Fire Marshall is fine with this proposal.

Mr. Madden is requesting permission to use Kosciuszko Park, down at the tip, as a backup site.

- BLT will lend the Pitney Bowes parking structure (1,500 spaces) to allow people to park. Will also be able to use the Gateway Garage as well.
- Mr. Andreana stated that he is against a parking charge for viewing Fireworks in a City park. Mr. Madden stated that they are having discussions with BLT to determine if there is going to be a charge to use the garage. Mr. Andreana stated that if the Fireworks take place in BLT property, the Commission has no control if they want to charge for parking.
- If Kosciuszko Park is used, Mr. Winston stated that the area that will need to be mowed needs to be small.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve request to use Kosciuszko Park as a backup plan for the 375th Anniversary Fireworks on Saturday, August 27, 2016 contingent upon free parking.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

Bryan Munger – Memorial Stone for Jesse Lewis Playground at West Beach.

- Kevin and Kelly Cooke presenting for Bryan Munger.
- Mr. Cooke requested approval of a memorial stone to be placed at the Jesse Lewis Playground located at West Beach. This past winter the statue that was affixed to the playground was damaged.
- Mr. Andreana stated that over the last 3 or 4 years the Commission is frowning upon putting up tomb stones. The Commission suggested having something inset, flushed to the ground. Replacement of statue/cement toy soldier will be approved by the Commission.
- Mr. Cooke's concern is that if they put back the toy soldier, it will be just a matter of time before it gets destroyed again. Mr. Andreana suggested that Mr. Cooke contacts one of the artists that are doing the Downtown Sculptures and ask him to design a toy soldier out of stainless steel and weld it up. Name and contact information of the artist was provided to Mr. Cooke.
- Mr. Andreana asked Mr. Cooke to send the Commission via Margarita Arenas the information on toy soldier once he speaks to the local artist.

Kevin Murray – Request for Approval to Add a Walking Path at Drotar Park.

- Mr. Murray requested approval to add a walking path at Drotar Park located at Springdale School. The walking path will assist with the safety of the school children that use the back parking lot of the school.
- The School Principal is concerned that the flow of traffic is dangerous in regards to kids that are walking home and would like to add a walking path on park land.
- Mr. Murray stated that the path will loop around the existing swing set, there will be no interference.
- Mr. Andreana and Mr. Winston expressed their concerns about how close the path would be to the trees.
- Since green space would be taken away, Mr. Andreana would like to get green space back. Mr. Murray stated that the City is asking for this upgrade because of the safety hazard for the kids. Mr. Andreana asked that Mr. Murray look into it with the City Engineer, Lou Casolo to see if there is a way to get some green space back.

Mrs. Cooper made a motion to approve installation of walkway at Drotar Park as presented by Mr. Kevin Murray.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

Staff Reports

Laurie Albano – Recreation.

- Ms. Albano did not attend the meeting but sent her written report.
- Summer Day Camps 100% full with waiting lists/Camps begin on June 27th.
- All time high campers registered in camp that requires a one to one aid (25).
- Summer Sports Camps still registering.
- Counselor, Specialists and Special Needs Aid hiring is complete.
- 38 Lifeguards hired to date.
- Beach coverage begins on Saturday, May 28/Heroy Pool, June 18.
- Adult Leagues/Tournaments all going well/32 Team ASA Districts 7/8-10.
- End of Fiscal Year purchasing and transfers as necessary is ongoing.
- Current Fiscal Year revenue is over \$1 million on target to exceed last year.
- Terry Conners Rink Roof Project is moving along well with done date by end of June/ice back up by June 25.
- Terry Conners Rink Door/Frame Project still on going with some doors re-ordered.
- Terry Conners Rink floor insurance settlement funds of \$200K set aside/consultant hired to assess floor for either repair or full replacement. Consultant came on June 8/report to follow in 2 to 3 weeks.
- Fireworks site meeting at Cummings tomorrow with Operations, SPD, MPD & EMS staff.
- Maccabi Games meeting on going/Torch Run was a success/some SHS Issues.
- Most of all youth and adult independent leagues have their required paperwork submitted/waiting on LL tourney info.
- Family Day at Lione Park went well. Recreation participated with info booth/games.
- KIC It Triathlon went well with Recreation Lifeguards on duty for swim portion.

- List of events approved by the Parks & Recreation Internal Committee at the June 2, 2016 meeting:

Consent Agenda

Dianne Houtz – Stamford Girl Scouts Camporee – Cove Island Park – Saturday, September 24, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. – Set-Up Starts Saturday, September 24, 2016 at 5:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

- Must have a Police Officer on-site.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve with mandatory on-site security.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Special Events

James Dean – Wedding at Fort Stamford – Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. – 11 Adults and 1 Child.

- Frank Fedeli to make sure date is available.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Frank Fedeli

Unanimously Approved

Christina Rabasco – Zumba with Christina & Tatiana – Zumba by the Water – Cove Beach – Sunday, August 14, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 4:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 6:45 p.m. – 50 Adults and 10 Children.

- Commercial activity not allowed in City Parks.

Kevin Murray made a motion to deny request.

Seconded by Megan Gearhart

YES: Kevin Murray

YES: Megan Gearhart

YES: Ernie Orgera

ABSTAINED: Frank Fedeli

Gavven Ruddy – Hearth Place – Lunch at the Park to Raise Awareness for Alcohol and Drugs – Kosciuszko Park – Friday, June 17, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 4:00 p.m. – About 75 Adults.

- Must be out by 4:00 p.m.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Tournaments

No Tournaments.

Kevin Murray – Parks.

- Health Department – Zika Virus awareness Training Citywide/Parks.
- Maccabi Games – Meeting with Committee and finalizing games within the parks.
- Drotar Park (Springdale School) walking path approval.
- Veterans Memorial Park – Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting was held on May 26th.
- Attended Stamford Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Technical Advisory Committee Meeting on June 7th.
- Memorial Day Celebration.
- Triathlon was a big success at Cummings Park.
- Alive at 5 Concert Series to start at Columbus Park.
- Mianus River Park – Leashed Dog compliant within Park went to site with Director of Public Safety Health & Welfare, Ted Jankowski for walk.
- Fireworks Meeting at Cummings Site this Thursday with Committee to finalize plans for July 1st show.
- Proposed Fitness Zone at Cove Island – We will be meeting with Trust for Public Land group soon to discuss final plans and approval of equipment for the approved area.
- Dorothy Heroy Park and Pool are ready for June 18th opening.
- Parks Department is very busy with continuing maintenance of Beaches/Parks Routes and covering sporting events/Tournaments.
- Fully Staffed with seasonal employees for the 2016 season.
- Mr. Andreana informed Mr. Murray that people are very happy with the painting that was done at Cove Island Park for the bicycle/walkers, but the paint is wearing off

and asked Mr. Murray if it can be touched up.

- Mrs. Cooper asked Mr. Murray if there were any plans to replace the picnic tables at the Little League, Mr. Murray stated that he requested money on the budget to do so, but it was denied. Mrs. Cooper asked Mr. Murray to send an e-mail to the Board/Rick Anderson, Nick Vivonna and copy her letting them know that the money was cut from the Budget.

Correspondence

No Correspondence.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 20, 2016.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Cooper

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
June 20, 2016