

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

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

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Joe Andreana
 Dave Winston
 Lyda Ruijter
 Althea Brown

Staff: Kevin Murray

Guests: Assistant Chief Tom Wuennemann – Blue Light/Hatch Field

 Rick Redniss – Lione Park

 Erin McKenna – Lione Park

 Rep. Rodney Pratt – Lione Park

 Mary Fedeli – Springdale Park

 Jennifer McKeon – Springdale Park

 R.J. Mercede – Springdale Park

 David Ruger – Urban Garden/Cove Island Park

 Kaity Bemis – Urban Garden/Cove Island Park

 Martin Levine – Mayor’s Office

 Barbara Eno Karp – Friends of Cummings Park

Call to Order

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

Ms. Albano did not attend the meeting. Mr. Murray arrived at 8:07 p.m.

Review of the June 15, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

YES: Dave Winston

YES: Lyda Ruijter

YES: Joe Andreana

ABSTAINED: Althea Brown

- Mr. Andreana stated that Commissioner Beth Cooper has resigned from the Commission. The Board of Representatives in their interviewing process is looking at the attendance record of generally all Commissioners and Board members. There may have been some issues due to Mrs. Cooper's job change, requiring her to travel more. Mrs. Cooper felt that if this was an issue, she could not continue on the Board.

Mr. Andreana stated that it is with great sadness that this has happened, Mrs. Cooper will be missed.

- Mr. Andreana stated that Commissioners have been selected and appointed by various Board of Representatives Appointments Committees, Political Parties Committees and different Mayors based on their activities in the parks, the community, with athletic leagues, the Commissioners were selected to serve on this Board for various reasons.

Members of the Commission are not here to represent Cove Island, Cove Neighborhood, Czescik, Cummings, Waterside or various sports leagues; the Commissioners are here to represent the City. Mr. Andreana asked the Commissioners that moving forward; if someone feels that they cannot make a rational judgement or decision for a particular area to abstain from voting. Mr. Andreana stated that he does not want a vote based on a particular feeling when it benefits maybe the area, but it does not benefit the City.

- Mr. Andreana asked the Commissioners to be careful on how they act, and what things they do and say. The Commissioners are appointed representatives of the City of Stamford and the things that they do or say to the City Staff, if it's said improperly, that would leave grounds for a hostile environment situation.

Discussion

Vision of Parks Through 2035.

- Mr. Andreana informed the Commission that he attended the Board of Representatives Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting regarding the issue of the monument stone that Bryan Munger and the Fire Department wanted to erect at the Jesse Lewis Playground. Mr. Andreana explained to the Committee that it has been Commission Policy not to allow monumental, funeral type tomb stones in the parks. The Committee accepted the explanation and the fact that the Commission offered numerous suggestions and tried to work with them on what would and would not be acceptable. After some discussion they came to a decision that it is certainly in the Parks & Recreation Commission's venue to establish the Policies that we have and decided not to take any action on it.
- Mr. Andreana discussed the issue regarding the SoundWaters Trailer at Boccuzzi Park and stated that they are looking to keep the trailer until the end of the season, which is only a few weeks away. The Commission's recommendation is that the trailer be removed within two weeks after the Young Mariners session ends, they will have to find a suitable trailer for next spring.
- Commissioners moved to discuss of Vision of Parks through 2035. As a page or chapter is approved by the Commission it will be moved along for approval (need to find out who gives the final approval).
- Commissioners reviewed "document 4. Partnership with the Community." Mr. Andreana stated that the Commission should mention the Memo of Understanding (MOU) in the document, if the Legal Department decides that it is not a requirement then it can be removed.
- Ms. Brown stated that Friends Groups should notify the Commission if the group is being terminated, a notice should be sent to the Commission 30 days in advance.
- Changes and additions will be made to the document for next month's approval.
- Ms. Ruijter stated that the document needs to contain suggestions to the Charter Revision Committee on how they should define Parks & Recreation Commission roles.
- Parks & Recreation Commission does not set fees, they can only give recommendations.
- It needs to be clear what can go in front of the Board of Representatives Parks & Recreation Committee, if denied by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Marty Levine explained that the Board of Representatives is the legislative body and has

overwhelming power to do things by Ordinance.

- Mr. Andreana suggested that that next month the Commission should establish a written Policy that monumental tomb stone type monuments are not allowed in City Parks and state what could be done instead.

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to add installation of a Blue Light at Hatch Field to the Agenda.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Assistant Chief Thomas Wuennemann – Installation of Blue Light at Hatch Field.

- Assistant Chief Wuennemann explained the need for the installation of a Blue Light at Hatch Field.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

Special Events

Lynne Colatrella – Stamford Downtown Special Services District – Bark in the Park – Use of Latham Park – Sunday, September 11, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 6:00 p.m. – 150 Adults and 50 Children.

- Tabled to the August 17, 2016 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting. No representative was present.

Tournaments

No Tournaments.

Old Business

Rick Redniss and Erin McKenna – Final Plans for the Lione Park Improvements.

- Mr. Rick Redniss presented the Final Plans for the Lione Park Improvements to the Commission.
- Mr. Redniss informed that since his last presentation to the Commission the City received a Grant for lights, the lights have already been installed.
- Mr. Redniss talked about the terrible drainage problem in the neighborhood, contributing to the park and flooding in the park, as well as other issues such as the

need for more parking.

- They have done some cost engineering, the Boys and Girls Club will be contributing \$1 Million Dollars to the park. They will also do the drainage design for the City to solve the problem at Carolina Road; the City is looking into trying to get it also paved.
- There will be two High School Basketball Courts.
- It was decided that the existing Playground is not worth moving, the plans for the Playground that was going to be donated fell through. Still working on getting the Playground material by others, trying to get the funding.
- Mr. Andreana stated that the Playground is a key point for the neighborhood.

New Business

Representative Mary Fedeli – Springdale Neighborhood Association – Request to Make City Owned Space Next to Amore Restaurant a Park and Name It After Marilyn Trefry.

- Representative Mary Fedeli stated that there is a City owned parcel of land next to Amore Restaurant in Springdale that the Springdale Neighborhood Association would like to turn into a park.
- They have been talking to Director Orgera about it for a while; Director Orgera has given them a drawing of what can be done in the park. The Springdale Neighborhood Association is willing to donate funding towards the project. There is someone that wants to donate a Christmas Tree for the park; the Springdale Neighborhood Association will donate a bench. Nestle Waters may be willing to donate another bench or two.
- Marty Levine stated that the parcel does not have to be zoned park land to make it a park. As long as the City does not have other plans for the parcel, it can become a park.
- Representative Fedeli stated that they would like to name the park after Marilyn Trefry, long time President of the Springdale Neighborhood Association who always envisioned this parcel to be a park. Mr. Andreana suggested refraining from naming the park at this time, this will be something that can be done once the park goes through and they will have to go through the Board of Representatives.
- Mr. Andreana suggested that soil testing should be done.
- Final plan layout should go through Kevin Murray.

- Mr. Winston stated that they should think about increased lighting.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve converting parcel of City land located on Hope Street to a park and leaving the naming of the park to the neighborhood.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

Dave Ruger – Request Permission to Build an Urban Garden/Community Garden at Cove Island Park.

- Mr. Dave Ruger requested permission to build an Urban Garden/Community Garden at Cove Island Park which will include 15-25 8' wide x 2' deep planters, a utility shed, fencing as well as complete other tasks as part of the first phase of the project.
- The goal of the Urban Garden will be to build community amongst Stamford residents at Cove Island Park.
- The Commission feels that Cove Island Park is already a very busy park and do not think it is a good place for an Urban Garden. Mr. Winston suggested using other parks, Ms. Ruijter suggested Cummings Park. Ms. Barbara Eno Karp, member of the Friends of Cummings Park, agreed with Ms. Ruijter and stated that she would be interested in talking to Mr. Ruger regarding the project. Mr. Andreana has a strong feeling about charging \$120 membership cost; in addition, parks are to be used for recreation and sports activities. Mr. Andreana does not envision gardens going into the parks.

Mr. Andreana suggested that Mr. Ruger work with the Administration to see if there is an open City parcel of land that is not a park, which would lend itself to a Community Garden, in a community where people do not have access to backyards. Mr. Murray will think of alternate sites and meet with Mr. Ruger and Erin McKenna.

- Mr. Winston asked Mr. Ruger to come back to the Commission with alternate sites.

Mr. Winston made a motion to deny request for an Urban Garden at Cove Island Park.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

Staff Reports

Laurie Albano – Recreation.

- All Summer Day Camps and Specialty Camps are going well.
- Summer Sports Camps some still registering.

- Beach coverage going well/Heroy Pool opened with no issue.
- Adult Leagues/Tournaments all going well/32 Team ASA Districts 7/8-10 went well with local businesses and hotels receiving increased sales. Corn Hole Tourney with Half Full Brewery.
- New Fiscal Year has begun. Recreation budget cuts and Tram Driver seasonal fund omission on part of OPM will need to be watched.
- Fiscal Year 15/16 Recreation revenue is over \$1.2 Million which exceed last year.
- Terry Conners Rink revenue down only \$24,000 given it was closed for two months for the Roof Project.
- Terry Conners Rink Roof Project is almost done. Ice came back up by June 25.
- Terry Conners Rink Camps well attended and ice rentals scheduled as well.
- 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 report not submitted yet.
- Fireworks Show overall went well. Some misfires occurred.
- Maccabi Games – working on facilitating all City operations. Two meetings remain and going well overall.
- Fall Rec Brochure due to printers end of July.

Kevin Murray – Parks.

- **4th of July Fireworks:** Parks Department did a wonderful job throughout the show to ensure site with coverage.
- **D.S.S.D. Summer Series:** Coverage for all events on Wednesday and Thursday nights.
- **Maccabi Games:** Quickly approaching as we are meeting with operation heads to ensure smooth summer games – August 1st thru August 11th (Scalzi Park, Cubeta Stadium, Terry Conners Ice Rink, West beach).

- **Playground Rehabilitation:** Will be addressing a few playground sets per inspection reports and itemizing repairs/upgrades.
- **Zika Task Force Training:** Health Department held 2nd training session.
- **SoundWaters Opening Ceremony:** Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at John Boccuzzi at Southfield.
- **Halloween Boat Yard:** Boat mechanic vendor using park land for commercial activity. This vendor was removed and Park Police staff has been on notice to spot check area.
- ASA District Softball Tourney (Cummings) and 13U State Championship (Scalzi - Cubeta).
- **Kosciuszko Park:** Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Monday July 18, 2016 – Pathway is complete and open for use.
- Stamford Yacht Club requesting if the Parks Department is in need for Paddle Tennis Courts.
- **LAZ Beach Parking Vendor:** Had a very successful 4th of July weekend collecting 45K at all sites.
- Mr. Andreana asked Mr. Murray to contact the Engineering Department and have them submit a Monthly Report/Status Update on work in our parks to the Commission.
- List of events approved by the Parks & Recreation Internal Committee at the July 12, 2016 meeting:

Consent Agenda

Matt MacDonald/Hal Shaw – Waterside School – Waterside School 5K – Running Through Kosciuszko Park – Saturday, October 15, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:00 p.m. – 500 Adults and 250 Children.

- Director Orgera will talk to Captain Sue Bretthauer to make sure the park does not get closed during this event; park must remain open to the public.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Lorraine Olson – UNICO/Sacred Heart RC Church – Stamford Columbus Day Parade – Columbus Park – Sunday, October 9, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 10:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 3:00 p.m. – Total Attendance 1,000.

Kim Gerbert made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Frank Fedeli

Unanimously Approved

Special Events

Terri Drew/Antonia Thompson – Youth Services Bureau – Restorative Practices Project – Use of Jackie Robinson Park – Four Community Events: Community Circle Drumming, Movie Night, Family Fitness and Back to School Festival – Saturday, July 16, 2016, Saturday, July 23, 2016, Saturday, August 20, 2016 and Saturday, August 27, 2016 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 5:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 8:00 p.m. – 40 Adults and 60 Children.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve the request, must have Manual Traffic Control.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Lynne Colatrella – Stamford Downtown Special Services District – Bark in the Park – Use of Latham Park – Sunday, September 11, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 6:00 p.m. – 150 Adults and 50 Children.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to send request to the Parks & Recreation Commission for approval.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Michele Mason/Jeffery Watt – Resident Council of Lawn Hill Terrace and Family Centers – Multicultural Community Event for Lawn Hill Terrace – Use of McKeithen Park – Saturday, August 20, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 10:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 6:00 p.m. – 25 Adults and 25 Children.

➤ Amplified music is not allowed in the park.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Kenkelly Alphonse – Personal Training – Bench Pressing/Strength Training – Veterans’ Park – Tentative Date Saturday, July 16, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 11:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:15 p.m. – 4 Adults.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to deny request.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Keith Simmons – The Fellas – Community End of Summer Cookout – Use of Kosciuszko Park – Saturday, September 10, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 6:00 p.m. – 175 Adults and 25 Children.

Mr. Fedeli made a motion to approve request, only charcoal grills will be allowed.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Ashley Walker – Roadwerx Inc. – Company Picnic for 50 People with Food Truck and Refreshments – Cummings Park Pavilion – Tuesday, August 9, 2016 or Wednesday, August 10, 2016 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 10:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 10:00 p.m. – 50 Adults.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve request for Tuesday, August 9, 2016.

Seconded by Frank Fedeli

Unanimously Approved

Aimee Elsner – Connecticut Power Yoga LLC – Power Yoga in the Park – Scalzi Park – Tuesday, July 19, 2016 and Tuesday, July 26, 2016 from 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 .m. and Clean-Up Ends at 8:45 p.m.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to deny request.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Tournaments

Claudia Llamas – Saint Benedict Our Lady of Montserrat – Use of Southfield Park - A Day of Sports Parish Youth Groups – Sunday, August 28, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Frank Fedeli

Unanimously Approved

Gjon Dushku & Claudia Conte – Roy Gruner – Charity Tournament – Cummings or Kosciuszko Park – Saturday, September 3, 2016 Starting at 9:00 a.m.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

YES: Frank Fedeli
YES: Kevin Murray
YES: Laurie Albano
YES: Kim Gerbert
ABSTAINED: Ernie Orgera

James Moriarty – Stamford High School – Use of West Beach #1 or West Beach #2 for Boys and Girls Soccer Practice – Thursday, August 25, 2016 to Monday, October 31, 2016 from 2:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

YES: Ernie Orgera
YES: Kevin Murray
YES: Laurie Albano
YES: Kim Gerbert
ABSTAINED: Frank Fedeli

Linda Cremin – Stamford Youth Tennis Academy, Inc. – Community Family Fun Day and Education – Use of Six Tennis Courts at Cummings Park – Wednesday, August 24, 2016 from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Frank Fedeli

Unanimously Approved

New Business

Thais Gherardi – Scouts Community Service Project – Paint Over Graffiti at Scalzi Skate Park.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve, must meet with Ron D’Amico.

Seconded by Frank Fedeli

Unanimously Approved

Correspondence

No Correspondence.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 17, 2016.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Ruijter

Seconded by Mr. Winston

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Margarita Arenas

July 26, 2016