

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

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on August 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

Guests:                    Sandy Goldstein – D.S.S.D./Latham Park and Bark in the Park  
                                  John Ruotolo – D.S.S.D./Latham Park and Bark in the Park  
                                  Kate Cook – D.S.S.D./Latham Park and Bark in the Park  
                                  Cheryl Vukelic – D.S.S.D./Latham Park and Bark in the Park  
                                  Marcos Estrada – Jackie Robinson Park/Evangelistic Activity  
                                  Marco Estrada – Jackie Robinson Park/Evangelistic Activity  
                                  George Ducanic – William “Mac” McLaughlin Way  
                                  Mark Hughes – St. Jude’s 5K Walk/Run

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Joe Andreana, Chair.

Mr. Murray did not attend the meeting.

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

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

## **Discussion**

### **Vision of Parks Through 2035.**

- Commissioners discussed that representatives from the Stamford Police Department should be invited to the October 2016 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting to give the Annual Report on the parks. The first hour of the meeting will be dedicated to this issue and it will be open for public participation.
- Mr. Andreana asked Margarita Arenas to contact Assistant Chief Wuennemann, book the Senior Center for the Meeting/Public Hearing and to post as required.
- Commissioners reviewed and discussed “Document 4.4 Private Public Partnerships” and “Document 4.g. Incidental Use of Parks for Fundraising Purposes”. Ms. Brown stated that some statements in the document tend to be an opinion that can lead into a lot of issues, more concrete statements need to be used. While reviewing the documents other corrections were discussed. After reviewing both documents, proposed changes will be made by Ms. Ruijter and discussed at the September meeting.
- The Commission also discussed how they would like to see a projected Business Plan for charity events. Basically, the Commission wants to see more transparency from the organizers of these events on where the charges are, where they are going, what the fees are and what the charities are getting.
- In the future, the Commission would like to be part of the process when organizations such as the Mill River Collaborative are established. It was also discussed that maybe the Parks & Recreation Commission should have a seat on the Mill River Collaborative Board.

In light of the historical precedent that has been set by the transfer of Mill River Park from the Parks & Recreation Commission’s jurisdiction to a private enterprise jurisdiction, the Commission’s Policy is that any transfers of park land to any other entity requires the approval of the Parks & Recreation Commission. The Commission feels that the Parks & Recreation Commission shall have a position on the Board.

Mr. Winston made a motion to move the D.S.S.D.’s Proposed Latham Park Improvements to the top of the Agenda after their Bark in the Park item under Special Events.

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.**

- Sandy Goldstein presented for Lynne Colatrella.
- Event is geared to apartment dwellers in the downtown area.
- Dogs will be on a leash throughout the event.
- Sidewalks around Latham Park and also sidewalk along Prospect Street will remain open.
- Prospect Street will be closed.
- Vendors will be along Prospect Street along with Port-a-Johns.
- This will be a free event.
- There will be an agility course, contests and demonstrations from local trainers.

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

### **Lynne Colatrella – Stamford Downtown Special Services District – Proposed Latham Park Improvements Funded by D.S.S.D.**

- John Ruotolo presented for Lynne Colatrella.
- Mr. Ruotolo stated that the D.S.S.D. would like to do a pilot program at Latham Park; they would like to add 24 Bistro Chairs to make the park more inviting to people. The D.S.S.D. Ambassadors will gather and secure them at the end of each evening and put them out in the morning. The D.S.S.D. will also remove and store them in the winter months.
- The D.S.S.D. would also like to install a vinyl chessboard under a Lexan sheet on two of the existing old picnic tables in Latham Park. If they find that the boards are used, they will expand or refine that concept.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded to Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

### **Marco Estrada – Ministerios Cristianos Palabras de Vida – My House and I will Serve the Lord (Evangelistic Activity) – Use of Jackie Robinson Park – Sunday, September 18, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 10:00 a.m. and Clean-up Ends at 11:00 p.m. – 200 Adults and 100 Children.**

- Amplified music not allowed in the park. Small PA System is allowed.
- Event should not go past 10:00 p.m.
- If a tent is going to be used, it will need Building Department approval.

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

### **Tournaments**

No Tournaments.

### **Old Business**

No Old Business.

### **New Business**

#### **Naming of Street off of Shippan Avenue in Front of Two Softball Fields “William “Mac” McLaughlin Way”.**

- Mr. George Ducanic explained to the Commission that the members of the American Legion Post 3 would like to name the driveway area in front of the two Softball Fields off of Shippan Avenue William “Mac” McLaughlin Way.
- Ms. Albano will check if this request needs approval from the Board of Representatives Parks & Recreation Committee.
- Some suggestions were discussed such as putting up a street sign where the parking lot begins or to have the sign placed above the park sign. Other suggestions were to name the Maintenance Building instead of the driveway area or to have a Hall of Fame behind the Back Stop.
- Mr. Winston was concerned with setting a precedent.
- After much discussion, it was decided to table the request to the September Parks & Recreation Commission meeting for further discussion.

Mr. Winston made a motion to table request to the September Commission meeting for further discussion.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Winston made a motion to add St. Jude’s 5K Walk/Run to the Agenda.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

**Mark Hughes – St. Jude’s Foundation – St. Jude’s 5K Walk/Run – Kosciuszko Park – Saturday, September 24, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:00 p.m. – 175 Adults and 25 Children.**

- This event was previously denied by the Parks & Recreation Internal Committee.
- Commission requested a letter of recommendation from St. Jude’s giving authorization to Mr. Hughes.
- Mr. Hughes stated that this event was done last year. This year the entire event will take place in the park.
- The Commission was concerned that the park’s parking lot will not be able to hold all of the cars and also the fact that they will be using the park for half a day. This event is not the same as what was approved in the past.

Mr. Winston made a motion to deny the appeal.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

**Staff Reports**

**Laurie Albano – Recreation.**

- Some of the sanctioned leagues that play at West Beach are starting to grow and requested that they be allowed to start playing at 8:00 a.m.
- Ms. Albano stated that the Stamford JCC as a gift to the City for hosting the 2016 games is proposing to donate two official Horseshoe Courts valued at \$40,000.
- Recreation Services proposes to offer leagues and tournaments in addition to allowing for open play.
- The courts are planned to be placed at Cummings Park. Ms. Ruijter does not agree with the proposed location in the park and Mr. Winston would like the courts to be placed at a different park.
- After some discussion, it was decided to discuss other options at the September Commission meeting.
- Rec Summer Day Camps successfully ended on August 12.
- Swim lessons all filled and completed. Free lessons offered this week via a Grant.
- Specialty contracted weekly camps/lesson programs all went well.

- Beach coverage will be reduced due to Lifeguards returning to school/Heroy Pool is closed with its last day on Sunday, August 14.
- Adult Leagues begin playoffs/tournaments all still going well. Next big Softball Tournament is August 27/28. New Tournaments revenue target is \$8,000.
- Fall Softball already has 48 teams registered.
- Summer Corporate Intern Kickball League went well.
- Cove Tram will run thru Labor Day.
- Fall Rec Brochure is out and link is on our website. Registration begins September 7<sup>th</sup> on line and walk in on September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Terry Conners Rink revenue down only \$24,000 given it was closed for two months for roof project.
- Terry Conners Rink Roof Project is 99% done. Summer Camps all filled and Maccabi Games Hockey Tournament went well.
- Terry Conners Rink Fall/Winter ice rentals schedule is full.
- Terry Conners Rink Door/Frame Project 99% done with some concerns still on hardware. Working on new alarm connection pads.
- Terry Conners Rink floor insurance settlement funds of \$200,000 set aside/consultant hired to assess floor for either repair or full replacement. Consultant Report not submitted yet.
- Terry Conners Rink has \$251,000 in Capital with \$50,000 currently bonded. A projects list is being compiled mostly for mechanicals and new humidification system software.
- Maccabi Games overall – went very well (in addition to Terry Conners Rink, Park use was Scalzi Tennis Courts/Cubeta Stadium and West Beach Soccer Fields).
- List of events approved by the Parks & Recreation Internal Committee at the August 9, 2016 meeting:

### **Consent Agenda**

**Maria Sandoval – Grupo Quetzal – Use of Columbus Park for Flag Raising for Guatemala and Central American Countries – Sunday, September 18, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 10:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:15 p.m. – 30 Adults and 20 Children.**

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

**Brenda Cerezo – CCES Ecuadorian Committee – Use of Columbus Park for Flag Raising – Sunday, August 14, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 11:00 a.m. and Clean Up Ends at 2:30 p.m. – 35 People Attending.**

➤ Must pay for services requested.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Frank Fedeli

Unanimously Approved

### **Special Events**

**Daniel Karger – PTSD Warriors – Use of Cove Island Park – PTSD Warriors Cove Island Picnic – Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. – 50 People Attending.**

➤ No amplified music allowed.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

**Lyda Ruijter – Amadeus Piano – Use of Czescik Park (Next to Marina) – Music in the Park – Sunday, October 16, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 11:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 6:00 p.m. – 60 Adults and 40 Children.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Frank Fedeli

Unanimously Approved

**Darcey Trudeau – Julia A. Stark PFO – Welcome Back Dinner – Use of Northrop Field Playground and Grass Area – Friday, September 16, 2016 – Rain Date Friday, September 23, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 5:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 8:15 p.m. – 250 People Attending.**

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

**Virgil de la Cruz – Waterside Coalition, Inc. – Diversity Festival – John Boccuzzi Park – Saturday, September 24, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 7:00 p.m. – 150 Adults and 150 Children.**

- Must have Health Department Approval.
- Fees and parking for the day will be waived.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

**Marco Estrada – Ministerios Cristianos Palabras de Vida – My House and I will Serve the Lord (Evangelistic Activity) – Use of Jackie Robinson Park – Sunday, September 18, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 10:00 a.m. and Clean-up Ends at 11:00 p.m. – 200 Adults and 100 Children.**

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

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

**Mark Hughes – St. Jude’s Foundation – St. Jude’s 5K Walk – Kosciuszko Trail Park – Saturday, September 24, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:00 p.m. – 175 Adults and 25 Children.**

Laurie Albano made a motion to deny request.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

**Adam Terr – Boy Scouts of America – Connecticut Yankee Council – Use of Scalzi Park Picnic Area – Scouting in Stamford/Recruitment – Saturday, September 17, 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. – 25 Adults and 75 Children.**

- Fee waived.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Frank Fedeli

Unanimously Approved

**Elizabeth Carlson – AT&T’s “It Can Wait” Simulator – Placement of Simulator at Cove Island Parking Lot – Monday, August 29, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 10:30 a.m. – Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m.**

- Fee waived.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Frank Fedeli

Unanimously Approved

**Gerard Gasparino – ARI of Connecticut, Inc. – Use of Jackie Robinson Park for Picnic for ARI Consumers/Staff – Wednesday, August 24, 2016 – Rain Date Wednesday, August 31, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Set-up Starts at 9:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:30 p.m. – 70 Adults.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve contingent that the Boys & Girls Club are not using the park for their Summer Camp.

Seconded by Frank Fedeli

Unanimously Approved

### **Tournaments**

**Will Mercado – Memorial Softball Tournament – Cummings – Saturday, September 24, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

### **Kevin Murray – Parks.**

➤ Mr. Murray did not attend the meeting. No Report was submitted.

### **Correspondence**

No Correspondence.

**The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 21, 2016.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Winston

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Margarita Arenas  
August 23, 2016