

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the October 19, 2016 Regular Meeting**

DRAFT

DRAFT

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on October 19, 2016, 10th 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: Captain Sue Bretthauer – Police Report on Parks

 Rebecca Schulman – Walk MS 2017

 Walker Holmes – Fitness Zone

 Erin McKenna – Fitness Zone

 Leigh Shemitz – SoundWaters Report and Scofieldtown Park

 Mike Bagley – SoundWaters Report

 Dan Colleluori – Scofieldtown Park

 Rep. Susan Nabel – Scofieldtown Park

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Joe Andreana, Chair.

Review of the September 21, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Winston made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Ruijter

Unanimously Approved

Discussion

Captain Sue Bretthauer – Report on Safety and Enforcement in Parks.

- Captain Sue Bretthauer presented for Assistant Chief Tom Wuennemann.
- Captain Bretthauer stated that there was a homicide at Hatch Field Park as well as a sexual assault at Cove Island Park, these were anomalies, these types of crimes do not usually happen in the parks. The most common problems are quality of life complaints.
- Captain Bretthauer reported that there have been no complaints about Newman Mills Park, problem has been fixed.
- Officer Gould has been phenomenal in making sure he goes up to Mianus River Park to check on the problem with the unleashed dogs. Occasionally he finds dogs that are unleashed. There is a resident that refuses to leash his dog and feels that it is totally ridiculous that the dogs have to be leashed. This resident has been ticketed.
- Blue Light is in place at Mianus River Park, has not been used so far.
- Captain Bretthauer reported that even though the Park Police report to the Stamford Police Department, they do their own scheduling.

Mr. Murray stated that there is going to be a meeting coming up with Human Resources regarding the Park Police and their schedule.

- Captain Bretthauer stated that it's hard to get retired Police Officers to work as Park Police. Mr. Andreana suggested having Park Rangers at the parks. If this is the way the Commission wants to go, Captain Bretthauer suggested that they have to make sure these Park Rangers can write tickets.
- There was some discussion regarding park closing times. Mr. Andreana suggested that this issue should be placed on a future Agenda to be discussed.
- Ms. Ruijter stated that the Commission needs to step up advocacy to hire a Park's Director.

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to move proposed Ordinance change/earlier closing time of Dorothy Heroy Park up to next item on the Agenda.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Kevin Murray – Proposed Ordinance Change/Earlier Closing Time of Dorothy Heroy Park.

- Mr. Murray stated that he was contacted by Tom and Rosemarie Capalbo in regards to Dorothy Heroy Park, which lead to Representative Mahoney to put together a meeting to discuss issues at the park.
- There is a lot of activity in the area, such as speeding up and down the road, people getting into the park after hours and parking on the street on Riding Stable Road. Director Orgera, Bob Zaitooni, Captain Bretthauer, the Capalbo's and Mr. Murray met to discuss these issues. Ms. Albano attended the meeting as well to discuss camp drop off/pickup, pool and ballfield schedules. "No Parking Signs" will be installed on the street and possibly moving a Stop Sign to a better area. Slow markers to catch the driver's eyes for traffic calming were suggested.
- Director Orgera suggested an Ordinance change in regards to the closing time of the park. The change would be from 10:00 p.m. to one hour after sunset.
- Ms. Brown suggested discussing the closing times of all of the parks at another meeting.

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to close Dorothy Heroy Park at 9:00 p.m. from May 1st until September 30th, and 7:00 p.m. from October 1st to April 30th, opening at 6:00 a.m.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

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

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to move Correspondence item up to next item on the Agenda.

Seconded by Mr. Winston

Unanimously Approved

Correspondence

Letter from State Representative William Tong Regarding Request to Allow Off-Leash Dogs One Day a Week in Mianus River Park.

- Mr. Andreana feels that the Commission should not consider this request. All Stamford parks require dogs to be on leash that is why the Dog Park was created, so dogs can run around off leash. Allowing this request will set a precedent and other parks will want to do the same. If approved, it will be unenforceable for the other days of the week, it will get people more encouraged to go the other six days of the week without leashes.

- At least for the last decade unleashed dogs have not been allowed in Stamford parks with the exception of the Dog Park.

Special Events

Rebecca Schulman – The Connecticut Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Walk MS 2017 – Use of Cove Island Park – Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up End at 2:00 p.m. – 250 Adults and 110 Children.

- Would like to use the Tram.
- Mr. Murray stated that there have not been any issues with this event in the past.
- No amplified music is allowed.
- If everything goes well with event this year, it can go on the Consent Agenda next year.

Ms. Ruijter made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Tournaments

No Tournaments.

Old Business

Walker Holmes and Erin McKenna – Donation of Fitness Zone in a Stamford Park.

- Fitness Zone donation for Cove Island Park was approved at the March 16, 2016 Commission meeting.
- Ms. Walker Holmes stated that since the March 16th meeting they have received feedback from the Cove Neighborhood Association. While generally supportive of the concept, the Cove Neighborhood Association had reservations about the location of Cove Island Park.
- Mr. Andreana does not feel that further discussion is necessary, if nothing has changed with the program since its approval on March 16th. The only thing that was left open and has been covered was the quality of the equipment, the vote taken by the Commission on March 16th still valid. Next step is donation and Kevin Murray or Laurie Albano will have to present it to the Parks & Recreation Committee of the Board of Representatives.
- Ms. Ruijter stated that even though she loves the concept, she still doesn't agree with the location. Ms. Ruijter voted against it at the March 16th meeting. After some discussion, Mr. Andreana stated that Cove Island Park is a destination park where people go to

exercise, this will fit in perfectly. This is a pilot program and hopefully over the next few years they are going to present it and bring it to others parks.

- Mr. Andreana stated that the decision from the March 16th meeting still stands.

Laurie Albano – Proposed Donation of Official Horseshoe Courts by the Jewish Community Center or Alternate.

- Item tabled indefinitely.

New Business

Leigh Shemitz – SoundWaters – Report on Summer Activities.

- Leigh Shemitz from SoundWaters presented a Report on summer activities at Boccuzzi Park.
- Issues with the neighbors were resolved positively.
- A lot of clean ups were done, another one taking place this week. The site looks much better, but still a temporary site.
- The trailer was too big; it was kept for the summer. Trailer has been removed as of today. A trailer of the right size will be used next year.
- An Internal Task Force is looking at ideas about next steps for building and for fundraising. Capital Campaign anticipated starting the second quarter of next year.
- There is a possibility that the zoning regulations have changed, will be meeting with Rick Talamelli from EPB tomorrow to find out.
- Summer Program at Cove Island has been going really well, this was the biggest summer ever, fall will be equally busy. These are the months that SoundWaters work with Stamford 6th graders. There is a program with the Stamford Middle Schools Science Teachers in Stamford, every 6th grader in Stamford will be studying at Cove, and all six Middle Schools come down. There is also afterschool sailing.
- Ms. Brown stated that people have been going to the bathroom behind the Lighthouse when they get off the boat at Boccuzzi Park, Ms. Shemitz will ask a crew member to tell people and open the bathrooms again.

Leigh Shemitz – Scofieldtown Park Neighbors – Concerns from Neighbors Regarding the Planned Use of Scofieldtown Park for Trash/Garbage Use.

- Leigh Shemitz stated that several of the neighbors in Scofieldtown are getting a petition together, they are concerned and very surprised to find out that the site is going to be

used once a month as a dump.

- Scofieldtown neighbors are upset that they were not asked if they wanted to have the recycling drop off once a month. The other issue is that they are now talking about dropping off garbage as well; the neighbors feel that this will make the site a dump again. The concern is that with time it will become more than once a month. Even if it stays once a month, the neighbors are concerned that people will start dumping again.
- Ms. Shemitz stated that earlier this summer the newspaper announced a dump pickup in North Stamford at Northeast School Parking Lot. Scofieldtown neighbors do not have a problem with using the school's parking lot for the recycling pick up instead.
- Another issue the neighbors would like to discuss is getting the playground back in the park plan.
- Dan Colleluori's understanding from the Engineering Department was that the plan was to build a half a million dollar Recycling Center at the site. Since they did not have the budget to do it, Mr. Colleluori told the Mayor that the Solid Waste Department will run once a month events in the area. Mr. Colleluori has received hundreds of calls since the closing of Scofieldtown Recycling Center wanting to know when the recycling pick up was going to come back. Mr. Colleluori notified the mayor, the North Stamford Representatives and the North Stamford Association. The North Stamford Association sent out the notice in their Newsletter. Mr. Colleluori also posted the notice on the City's website and sent it out in all of his communications. The event will be only once a month.
- Mr. Colleluori was never told to come to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Since the event was to take place in the Public Works part of the park, he did not think it needed the Commission's approval.
- Representative Susan Nabel stated that she received the same phone calls about recycling as Mr. Colleluori did; a lot of it came from the North Stamford Association. Mr. Colleluori worked with the North Stamford Association to organize the event in the spring. There is a feeling among the residents from Districts 19 and 20 that they do not get City services the way rest of the City does. Representative Nabel confirmed that in the initial plan for the park there was a commitment for almost \$500,000 for a Recycling Center. Representative Nabel also stated that she does not think there is much Capital Budget money for Scofieldtown Park, not only there will not be a Recycling Center but the Tennis Courts and the Playground will be a stretch at least for this year maybe unless we do private fundraising.
- Representative Nabel stated that this effort is not a dumping effort, it is a collection event, once a month, very limited hours, in the Operations area of the park; they will be out of there by 4:00 p.m. This event was a response to people asking for help. The garbage idea was Representative Nabel's to give the North Stamford residents a break and save them a trip downtown.

- Mr. Andreana stated that the Commission would have never approved collection of garbage. Mr. Andreana would like to cease and desist collecting any raw garbage.
- Ms. Shemitz is committed to work as a team to make the site truly a park.
- Mr. Colleluori stated that there is a Recycling Event scheduled for November 5, 2016, there will not be any Recycling Events in December, January or February due to the weather.
- Mr. Colleluori does not have a problem having the event at one of the schools; the only downside is that the school may not allow having the event once a month.
- Mr. Murray stated that the Operations part of the park will be controlled by gates.
- Mr. Colleluori will change advertising stating that only bulky waste will be accepted and putrescible garbage will not be accepted. The scheduled November 5th Recycling Event will take place at Scofieldtown Yard. Mr. Colleluori will research with the schools and discuss with Director Orgera the capability of having the Recycling Events at one of the schools. If Mr. Colleluori has a problem getting one of the schools, he will let the Commission know.
- Ms. Brown stated that the Commission needs an update before the spring, so they can ensure that this site continues to be a park.

Staff Reports

Laurie Albano – Recreation.

Ms. Ruijter left at 9:56 p.m.

- All Fall Recreation Programs/Leagues are underway/all well.
- Children's Halloween Special Event on October 29th is filling up.
- Winter Programs/Leagues planning now, brochure will be out early December.
- TCR Prime Season underway/all well.
- TCR new food vendor performing well so far.
- TCR Capital FY 17/18 proposal submitted, addresses the dehumidification consultant's report.
- TCR Revenue Report was provided.

- Recreation Revenue Report was provided.
- Working with SPD/PPO's on unpermitted leagues and commercial activity at Lione Park and West Beach.
- Meeting with new Superintendent of Schools on October 27 to discuss Recreation's use of City schools/custodian overtime, etc.
- Meeting with Purchasing on October 25 to discuss an RFP for Kayak, SUP concession at Quigley Beach.
- List of events approved by the Parks & Recreation Internal Committee at the October 12, 2016 Regular Meeting:

Consent Agenda

Carla Catanzaro – Harbor Point/BLT – 6th Annual 5K Turkey Trot – Use of Kosciuszko Park – Thursday, November 24, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. – 200 Adults and 50 Children.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Frank Fedeli

Unanimously Approved

Barbara Preli – Rogers International School – RIS Turtle Trot – Use of Cove Island Park – Monday, June 12, 2017 (Rain Date – Tuesday, June 13, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:00 p.m. – 100 Adults and 825 Children.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Special Events

Rebecca Schulman – The Connecticut Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Walk MS 2017 – Use of Cove Island Park – Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up End at 2:00 p.m. – 250 Adults and 110 Children.

Frank Fedeli made a motion to forward request to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Daniel Rivas – C.A.S.L. – End of Season Event – Lione Park – Sunday, October 23, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - 200 People Attending.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

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

Tournaments

Bob Pepi – Stamford Youth Soccer League – Use of West 1 and West 2 for U11 Boys Travel District Semi Final Games – Saturday, November 12, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

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

Chris Sabia – Stamford Legion Baseball – Use of Cubeta for 2017 Connecticut American Legion State Tournament from Friday, July 21, 2017 to Monday, July 31, 2017.

Item tabled to the January 2017 Meeting.

Kevin Murray – Parks.

- LAZ Parking – 2016 Beach Season Totals were provided.
- Engineering Department Park Update was provided.
- Capital Submissions – Planning Board on November 1st – 14 projects projected and will give the Commission a copy for next month.
- 2016 Park Season completed September 30th/bathrooms closed 10/15 for use/Port-a-Johns in place at selective park areas.
- Park Seasonal Employees dismissed on October 15th.
- Trailer removed from John Boccuzzi Park at Southfield.

- RFP for the Concession Stands/TCR/ had mandatory walk through and bids are due back November 10th for the 2017 season.
- Chestnut Hill Park Main Drain break/working with the Engineering Department to correct.
- Dorothy Heroy Park – Ordinance change for closing time.
- Attended Region 1 Webinar – Disaster Debris Training Program on September 28th.
- Scofieldtown Park – Engineering has turned over site to oversee the maintenance program (Winterberry Contract) per the bid/warranty/schedule.

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Winston

Seconded by Ms. Brown

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
October 24, 2016