

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021
REGULAR MEETING
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
6:30 P.M.**

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81265023564>

Meeting ID: 812 6502 3564
Passcode: 503151

Web & Phone Meeting Instructions:

- *If your computer/smartphone has mic and speaker then:
Type in, paste or click the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81265023564>
If not, then **Call-in** using the **phone number, Meeting ID & Passcode** provided above.*
- *Sign-up for Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting updates by emailing
lcapp@stamfordct.gov.*

Web Meeting Ground Rules:

- *The meeting shall be recorded and the video shall be posted on the City of Stamford website
http://cityofstamford.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=9*
- *The Parks & Recreation Commission shall moderate the audio for attendees.*
- *Attendees shall be on mute and will be unmuted when called to speak by the Commission members.*
- *Attendees will have 20 minutes to make their presentation or address the Commission.*
- *Any Attendee wishing to submit materials or a written statement can send it prior to the meeting to lcapp@stamfordct.gov or submit through a Chat message to the Commission Chair during the meeting.*

A Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Paul Newman, Interim Chair
Angela Adetola
Melanie Hollas
Michael Tedder (Arrived at 6:45 p.m.)

Staff: Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation
Kevin Murray, Operations Manager, Parks & Facilities
Lesley Capp, Assistant - Parks & Recreation Commission

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Newman called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and introduced the Commission Members and staff present.

Mr. Newman introduced the first item on the agenda.

CALL TO ORDER:

- Review of the October 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes.

Ms. Adetola noted her name incorrectly spelled on Pg. 1.

Ms. Hollas made a motion to approve the October 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

(Mr. Tedder was not eligible to vote as he was absent at the October 20, 2021 meeting)

Mr. Newman called for a motion to “Walk-on” two Special Events Applications from Disney+ for permission to film in either Scalzi Park or Cummings Park.¹

Ms. Hollas made a motion to “Walk-on” two Special Events Applications from Disney+ for permission to film in either Scalzi Park or Cummings Park.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Newman introduced Mr. Gonzalez.

SPECIAL EVENTS (“WALKED-ON”):

- Gabriel Gonzalez - *Filming for Disney+ “Buckets” - November 30, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.* at Scalzi Park (Basketball Court) - Set-up starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-up ends at 12:00 a.m. - 150 Attendees. **(1ST CHOICE)**
- Gabriel Gonzalez - *Filming for Disney+ “Buckets” - November 30, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.* at Cummings Park (Basketball Court) - Set-up starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-up ends at 12:00 a.m. - 150 Attendees. **(2ND CHOICE)**

Mr. Gonzalez along with Louis Zuppari, Supervisor, made a presentation providing information on the project, details on the filming schedule and answered questions from the Commission.

After considerable discussion, Ms. Adetola made a motion to approve the Special Events application submitted by Disney+ to film in Cummings Park on November 30, 2021.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Approved 3-0-1

(In Favor - Newman, Adetola, Hollas / Abstain - Tedder)

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Vincent O’Banner, Dedication to Community Youth Flag Football Program:** Mr. O’Banner will make a presentation on the possibility of starting a youth flag football program in Stamford.²

Mr. O’Banner made a presentation providing information on his background and program details and answered questions from the Commission.

After some discussion, it was decided Mr. O’Banner should investigate other options and also speak with Tom Duddie, Coach for The Spartans (existing sanctioned flag football league) to see if an agreement of field sharing could be arranged.

¹ Video Time Stamp - 00:02:30

² Video Time Stamp - 00:38:00

- **Jill Tomasello, Resident Advocate - Stamford Pickleball:** Ms. Tomasello will present ideas for new court lines, funding of the work and new dedicated Pickleball courts.³

Ms. Tomasello, along with Adam Fritsch and Matthew Perkins, made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

After considerable discussion, The Commission advised Ms. Tomasello to approach the Board of Representatives, Board of Finance and the new Administration of Mayor-Elect Caroline Simmons to advocate support for more pickleball courts in the City parks.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation:** Tournament Field Policy & Field Application revisions.⁴

Ms. Albano reviewed the Tournament Field Policy & Field Application and went over updates with the software being used on the City website.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Tedder made a motion to accept the Tournament Field Policy & Field Application as presented by Ms. Albano.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Newman made an additional note for *Old Business* that the Stamford American and Stamford National Little Leagues have merged and Mike Noto will attend the December meeting to discuss.

TOURNAMENTS:

- No Tournaments.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- No Correspondence or as may properly be introduced before the Commission.

STAFF REPORTS:

- Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation: Recreation Update.

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Ms. Albano:⁵

[Begin Report]

RECREATION:

- Winter brochure of programs is done and off to the printer.
- Westhill High School pool Recreation swim lessons going well.
- Fall Adult Leagues and weekend tournaments are finished.
- Halloween Drive-In Movie Night and games at Star Center set for October 30, 2021 was canceled due to weather.
- All other events and programs on our website at www.stamfordrecreation.com.
- The always-popular *Cove Island Park Hayride with Santa* is back and tickets sold out in less than a week.
- Recreation Supervisor replacement selected. Promoting current Recreation Leader, Bert Oubida. Will now require Human Resources to post that vacancy. Hopefully soon.

³ Video Time Stamp - 00:54:20

⁴ Video Time Stamp - 01:33:17

⁵ Video Time Stamp - 01:46:20

- Baseball Study under Springfield College began week on September 8, 2021. I spoke with the Coordinator/Professor and stated they are in process and would like to survey all the sanctioned organization's coaches.
- Lathon Wider programs filled and schedule there tight. Same with Star Center.
- We have started on the extension of the Star Center lease with financial modeling assistance from Laura Burwick, Special Assistant to the Mayor and Burt Rosenberg, Assistant Corporation Counsel. This will be presented to the new Mayor for approval to move it forward. Current lease expires in June 2022. Update: Burt Rosenberg should have a DRAFT lease soon.
- I am presenting at the Connecticut Parks & Recreation Association convention on Aquatics and Lifeguard recruitment and retention.
- It appears that American and National Little Leagues are merging. I asked them to come to the Commission and review. They were still working on the merger with a meeting and said they would come to the Commission once details were finalized.
- I requested that Land Use add funds for a full study of all sports/number of fields/trends/allocation policies in their Capital budget. They did, but not sure it will get funded.

TERRY CONNER RINK:

- Capital Budget form submitted with nothing for this year, but out years include a new roof, new interior low ceiling and cooling tower. Update: Met with Planning Board; no issues. On roof replacement for out years, the design may include capability for a solar array.
- Also currently looking at battery silos for reimbursement by Eversource as a revenue source, but City Energy Specialist is not impressed with idea. Silos are invasive of space and not as much revenue as portrayed.
- New fire alarm system installation still in process (parts supply chain issues) and will tie in to the new Ammonia system.
- High school hockey scheduling in process. Some schools changed dismissal times causing issues with our schedule. Working on it.
- Olympia brand ice re-surfacer final result will be to sell it back to the dealer at \$45K and along with any Capex balance will purchase a new Zamboni for \$103K. This gives us a new machine and a good rotation to retire/trade-in our 2017 in 8 to 10 years and move the new machine to the back-up and so on. Zamboni is a U.S. based dealer with local New Jersey service. Update: Meeting with Office of Policy & Management and Purchasing to figure out process and funding/accounts.
- Rink Operator Position #1 filled and a new vacancy arose recently due to a resignation and Position #2 will be hired soon. Update: Mayor signed off. Waiting on hire list to make selection from Human Resources. Able to use the same list from the first vacancy and we do have a young man selected. This will give the rink two new much-needed full time Operators.
- Update: Met with Wright Tech's Hospitality Coordinator on a possible collaboration with the students to run the rink concession on some basis. Still working out details.

(End Report)

➤ Kevin Murray, Operations Manager - Parks & Facilities: Parks Update.

The following Staff Report was submitted by Mr. Murray:⁶

[Begin Report]

- Vaccine sites are still active within City parks 7 days a week currently. All tent locations have been upgraded with heat/lights and flooring per the season.

⁶ Video Time Stamp - 01:59:13

- Six (6) seasonal employees are to stay on board for COVID 19 vaccine sites (Set ups and breakdowns). End date TBD.
- Lean Six Sigma Training Study ongoing with a green access initiative that will be looking into elimination of Non-Organic Pesticides, establishing Land Use initiatives & Operations budget increases to expand Pollinator Plantings and establish greenway connections.
- Organic Plan: Final aerating and seeding is complete for our two (2) organic fields.
- Organic equipment needed for our athletic fields
 1. Toro ProCore Aerator - \$38,113.14; with deep tines - \$1,296.36 and accessories - \$500.00.
 2. Toro Outcross 9060 with canopy and loader arms - \$69,094.74; with accessories - \$2,875.36.
 3. Kubota 4WD Compact tractor base kit with bucket and Turf Tires - \$31,438.00.
 4. Perma Green Triumph Sprayer/Spreader 12 Gallon tank, 150 lb. hopper - \$9,259.27.
 5. Lescos Skid 200 gallon sprayer - \$3,981.22; with accessories - \$1,675.00.
- Total estimated Organic supplies needed for our sport field acreage (34 acres) \$128,000 which includes seed and fertilizer for 24 fields
- Organic program will need at minimum two (2) additional fulltime employees hired within our department to assist with our efforts, which will be a total of four (4) employees. Currently have two (2) employees.
- Transition with new Administration in progress.
- Kosciusko Park and Cove Island Park stone dust paths graded and releveled from storm erosion with contractors.
- Citywide bathrooms closed Monday, November 15, 2021 for the season.
- Park sport lights to reflect end of season, which will be reduced as we approach winter season.
- Working with City engineers and Eversource on energy efficiency Citywide, which includes park street lights and any other mechanical related areas.
- American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding has been approved by all City Boards for park projects listed below (100% ARP Funded):
 1. **Kosciusko Park Parking Lot:** \$100,000.00 request to relevel/re-gravel parking lot and access road which will upgrade sheet drainage.
 2. **West Beach Parking Lot:** \$200,000.00 request for design and installation of scour protection wall along beachfront that divides the shore and parking lot to be upgraded which will protect erosion and heaving due to storm surges and extreme tidal flooding.
 3. **Courtland Avenue Park - Dog Park:** \$150,000.00 for underground drainage and installation of a retention basin to Dog Park area which will assist with erosion and washout, small retention wall to be installed.
 4. **426 Shippan Avenue Parks Department:** \$100,000.00 for regrading and repaving Parks Department Shop parking areas to assist with flood prone areas which will get connected to all storm drains properly.
- Parks Capital Budget FY 2022-2023 request attached.

➤ Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Action Report - November 9, 2021.

Following is the Action Report generated from the November 9, 2021 Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Meeting showing the list of events approved:

[Begin Report]

In Attendance: Mark McGrath
 Kevin Murray
 Laurie Albano
 Kim Gerbert

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Mark McGrath.

Consent Agenda

Rabbi Moshe Shemton - Chabad of Stamford - Chanuka Menorah Lighting - Latham Park - Sunday, November 28, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 4:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 6:00 p.m. - 50 Children and 50 Adults - (Menorah will Stay at Latham Park from Thursday, November 25, 2021 to Thursday, December 9, 2021).

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Special Events

John DaRosa - Jackie Robinson Park of Fame, Inc. - Christmas Tree Lighting for Community - Jackie Robinson Park - Tuesday, November 23, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 4:45 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 6:30 p.m. - 35 Children and 25 Adults.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Thomas Morales - Charter Communications, Inc. - Spectrum Community Assist - Lathon Wider Gym - Saturday, November 13, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 1:30 p.m. - 50 Adults.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Guy Fortt - Synergy1Holdings LLC - Cruising for Stamford A Pure Classic Car Show - Columbus Park Area - Sunday, August 21, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - (Rain Date Sunday, August 28, 2022) - Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. - 1,500 People will be Attending.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

No New Business.

Tournaments

No Tournaments.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kevin Murray

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

(End Report)

DISCUSSION:

➤ Melanie Hollas, Commissioner:⁷

- **Commission's Role with Friends Groups and Raising Money.** Discuss allocation, uses and agreement between the City and Friends Groups and possibly writing a policy document.
- **Corporate Donations.** Discussion on the implications of corporate donations to help City parks and advertisements and/or logos.

⁷ Video Time Stamp - 02:10:30

Ms. Hollas and Erin McKenna, Associate Planner, Land Use Bureau, lead a discussion on the various Friends Groups, raising money and donations for projects in the City parks and Commission policy on allocating any funds collected.

➤ Acceptance of 2022 Meeting Schedule.⁸

After a brief discussion, Ms. Hollas made a motion to accept the 2022 Meeting Schedule.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Newman adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lesley Capp
December 1, 2021

These proceedings were recorded on video and are available for review on the City of Stamford website at:
http://cityofstamford.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_is=9

⁸ Video Time Stamp - 02:48:32