

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022
REGULAR MEETING
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
6:30 P.M.**

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85948831812>

Meeting ID: 859 4883 1812
Passcode: 960751

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/85948831812>.
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, February 16, 2022 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Paul Newman, Interim Chair
Angela Adetola
Melanie Hollas
Michael Tedder

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 6:35 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 January 19, 2022 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes.

Ms. Hollas made a motion to approve the January 19, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

SPECIAL EVENTS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Newman introduced Ariel Rodriguez, Associate Professor of Recreation Management and Study Coordinator, Springfield College to speak about the Baseball Study.

- **Springfield College Baseball Study - Ariel Rodriguez, Associate Professor of Recreation Management and Study Coordinator:**¹ Discussion of the study results and implementation of recommendations.

Mr. Rodriguez made a presentation going through details of the Study and answered questions from the Commission.

- **West Beach Dog Walkers:**² Mr. Newman followed-up on the issue of dog walkers using the baseball fields conveyed at last month's meeting stating he reached out to the residents who reported the problem and was told the situation had improved and enforcement has been taking place.

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:³

[Begin Report]

RECREATION:

- Internal Event Committee meeting January 11, 2022. Tournament/events approvals.
- Discussion of tournament fee combination/staff availability/parks overtime.

¹ Video Time Stamp - 00:01:40

² Video Time Stamp - 01:23:40

³ Video Time Stamp - 01:24:43

- Sponsorship/Donation Account reconciliation with Controller's Office is in process after a hold put on it by Office of Policy & Management.
- COVID mask enforcement/waivers to organizations/teams/leagues.
- Spring/Summer brochure of programs in development.
- School construction and/or availability for camps summer of 2022. I have spoken with Board of Education Facilities about the use of Westover this summer. Hart and Stillmeadow off limits so Westover use is critical (that site is logistically important). I have asked a couple of times, no answer yet. Have asked Director Quiñones for assistance. Need sites identified for brochure print deadline in a week.
- Winter adult league and program startups this week through the rest of the winter.
- Winter swim lessons ongoing.
- Spring preparation for all field permitting, programs, leagues, aquatics and staffing (on going).
- Running Lifeguard training classes in February and April.
- March camp registration preparation of dates and process.
- Reviewing language and making recommendations to Legal regarding extension of the Star Center lease and expansion of space. Funding for such and increased revenue has been placed in the FY 2022-2023 budget.
- Star Center and Lathon Wider programs running well. Good registration numbers at both locations.
- Revenue is up \$208,575 over last year through the month of December.
- North Stamford Little League and Cal Ripkin sanctioning extension discussions.
- Baseball study almost done. Reviewed first draft and sent comments back to Springfield College.

TERRY CONNER RINK:

- COVID mask enforcement/waivers to organizations/teams.
- Requested Citation Officers to spot check on Thursday nights and Saturdays & Sundays for spectator mask compliance. It has become a problem.
- Finalizing installation of new fire alarm system that is connected to the ammonia system. Should be done end of this week.
- Needed a new sub surface heating pump installed.
- I requested TCR neck guard policy meeting with Legal. Will survey other rinks policy. Will meet with the Parks & Recreation Commission along with Legal for final position in February. A mandate would mean enforcement.
- We will no longer allow mixed age groups during open hockey public sessions. Will designate separate ice locations for smaller kids and older kids/adults.
- Still working on sale of Olympia ice resurfacer with Vehicle Manager. Hope to facilitate that soon, and purchase a used backup machine to our 2017 machine. Eventually build up the rink fund balance to buy a new machine in two years or so.
- I had Ken hire additional staff when the test site was at Cove Island Park. We lost revenue and had many test goers to deal with asking to use bathrooms and general information. It had become untenable for a bit. I asked Kevin to order porta jons and he did. The City, we hope, will cover the lost revenue and CARES Act funds will reimburse us for the additional staffing.

- Discussion/preparation of a rink fee increase will begin soon. Will get to the Mayor and then on to the Board of Representatives in time for September 2022 prime season.
- It is my understanding that the rink's future capital expenses have been submitted to the State for a grant. No word yet on status of request. Would certainly be a great thing for the rink's bottom line especially now as its own special revenue fund.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Recreation staff, including me, met with Erin McKenna on the Master Plan for Barrett Park advising and adding current use nuances of the parks active recreation.
- New City financial software ERP involvement of all three departments. Concerned with interface with our individual management software systems.
- I requested and set up department meetings with Director Quiñones at the Recreation office, Terry Conner Rink and the Edward G. Brennan Golf Course to meet staff and get to know the Operations in all three a bit better.
- I will also be meeting with Director Quiñones to review a status report in advance of my retirement to brief him on such and some thoughts for moving forward.

[End Report]

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

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Mr. Murray:⁴

[Begin Report]

- Continuation of detail support with Vaccine sites with Stamford Health Department and State medical agencies for startup with Trailer units within City parks. **Current sites being used:** Courtland Avenue Park, Cummings Park and Scalzi Park.
- Organic Field Turf Program to begin this April with one of four (4) applications for our 33 acres of athletic fields. Administration will be supporting the increase of land supplies. Land supplies will be a published bid to ensure pricing with vendors to obtain the most competitive pricing for all products. Estimating program for materials alone will be close to \$125,000, which includes Organic fertilizer and seed.
- NY Rangers: Donation/Partnership upgrade for Scalzi Park Outdoor Hockey Rink is being coordinated with the new administration and will be working to obtain Board approval. Plans are to include the installation of sport lighting and safety lighting (\$100,000). Hockey board upgrades and amenities to be approved. The City has a Capital submission of \$150,000. Economic Development to match the funding for this project, which still needs to be approved.
- Fort Stamford Project: Parks staff completed a four (4) day project to remove all invasive plants and overgrowth from the park property.
- Winter projects to be coordinated:
 - Lione Park Cricket Pitch to be upgraded.
 - Pickle Ball Courts linings within Citywide parks - TBA.
 - Sport Lighting re-lamps at all City park sport fields.
- Coordination for Heroy Park Tennis Upgrade awaiting bid waiver approval to schedule for early Spring upgrade for the tennis court.

⁴ Video Time Stamp - 01:37:10

- Meeting with Administration/Public Safety and Stamford Police Department regarding Park Ambassador Program 2022. Park Police officer vacant position.
- Clyde Levine, Park Police Officer, has retired as of December 31, 2021. Application on City website.
- Working with Engineering Department and Land Use Bureau for the upgrade of Courtland Avenue playground, which will be close to \$575,000. (Play structures and pour in-place surface/fencing.)
- Concept plan meeting with City staff regarding Barrett Park: This will be brought to the Parks & Recreation Commission soon.

[End Report]

➤ Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Action Report - February 8, 2022 Meeting.

Following is the Action Report generated from the February 8, 2022 Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Meeting showing the list of events approved:

[Begin Report]

In Attendance: Matthew Quiñones
Kevin Murray
Laurie Albano
Megan Gearhart
Gloria Montoya

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Matthew Quiñones, Chair.

Consent Agenda

Gina Posligna - Wedding Ceremony - Cove Island Park - On the Beach by Restaurant/Restroom - Saturday, July 16, 2022 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 1:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. - 5 Children and 30 Adults.

Kevin Murray made a motion to hold the application.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Special Events

Lynne Colatrella - Stamford Downtown Special Services District (D.S.S.D.) - 2022 Events:

Lynne Colatrella - Stamford D.S.S.D. - Art in Public Places - Downtown Parks & Sidewalks - June-September 2022.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Lynne Colatrella - Stamford D.S.S.D. - Placemaking in Stamford Downtown - Latham Park/ Veterans Park - May-August 2022 - Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 8:00 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Lynne Colatrella - Stamford D.S.S.D. - Bark in the Park - Latham Park - Sunday, May 22, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 8:00 p.m. - 50 Children and 100 Adults.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Lynne Colatrella - Stamford D.S.S.D. - Brews on Bedford - Latham Park - Saturday, June 4, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 8:00 p.m. - 1,000 Adults.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Lynne Colatrella - Stamford D.S.S.D. - Arts & Crafts on Bedford - Latham Park - Saturday, June 11, 2022 and Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 5:00 a.m. on Saturday and Clean-Up ends at 9:00 p.m. on Sunday - 500 Children and 1,500 Adults.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Lynne Colatrella - Stamford D.S.S.D. - Make Music Day - Various Downtown Parks - Tuesday, June 21, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. - 50 Children and 200 Adults.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Lynne Colatrella - Stamford D.S.S.D. - City Challenge - Obstacle Road Race - Various Downtown Parks (Latham Park, Columbus Park & Mill River Park) - Sunday, October 16, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 4:00 p.m. - 1,000 Adults.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Lynne Colatrella - Stamford D.S.S.D. - Heights & Lights - Latham Park - Sunday, December 4, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 3:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 10:00 p.m. - 1,000 Children and 3,000 Adults.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Carla Catanzaro - BLT/Harbor Point - Annual 5K Shamrock Stroll - Harbor Point/Walk Through Kosciuszko Park - Saturday, March 12, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 11:30 a.m. - 100 Children and 300 Adults.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

Bobby Pentino - CT One Nation Slow Pitch - Softball Tournament - Men's E Slow Pitch Softball Event - Cummings 1, 2 & 5 - Saturday, June 11, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Bobby Pentino - CT One Nation Slow Pitch - Softball Tournament - Women's Softball Event - Cummings 1, 2 & 5 - Saturday, July 23, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - Season Kickoff Tournament - Cummings 1 & 2 and Kosciuszko Field - Sunday, June 26, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve request. Connecticut USSSA will be allowed to play as soon as Recreation Adult Leagues are complete.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

New Business

Alice Knapp - The Ferguson Library - StoryWalk Project for Stamford Parks (Scalzi Park, Jackie Robinson Park and Latham Park).

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Tournaments

Chris Passamano - Stamford High School - Use of Barret Field for Sub Varsity Baseball Practices Monday/Friday as Well as Games - Monday, March 21, 2022 to Wednesday, June 1, 2022 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Game Dates are: 4/4, 4/9, 4/18, 4/20, 4/25, 4/29, 5/2, 5/11, 5/16/22.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Chris Passamano - Stamford High School - Use Cummings for Sub-Varsity Softball Games (Second Choice - Troy) - Sunday, April 2, 2022 to Saturday, June 4, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - Game Dates are: 4/14, 4/22, 4/27, 5/4, 5/6, 5/10, 5/13, 5/18/22 - (Note: If they are granted Troy for the nights requested, they would most likely move the Sub-Varsity Games to the Varsity Field on campus - 4/27, 5/10 and 5/18).

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Chris Passamano - Stamford High School - Cubeta Stadium - Boys High School Baseball Game vs. Danbury - Wednesday, April 20, 2022 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Gloria Montoya made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Chris Passamano - Stamford High School - Troy Field - Girls High School Softball Game vs. Westhill High School - Tuesday, May 10, 2022 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Gloria Montoya made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Chris Passamano - Stamford High School - Cubeta Stadium - Boys High School Baseball Game vs. Norwalk - Wednesday, May 11, 2022 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Gloria Montoya made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Chris Passamano - Stamford High School - Troy Field - Girls High School Softball Game vs. Greenwich - Wednesday, May 18, 2022 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - Fundraising Tournament for Mary & Laura to Raise Funds for their Storm Women's Tournament Team - Cummings 1, 2 & 3 - Saturday, April 9, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - Co-ed Tournament - Cummings 1, 2 & 4 - Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - First Women's Event of the Year - Scalzi 1, 2 and the Pit - Saturday, April 30, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - Easton Female Firecracker - Cummings 1 & 2 and Scalzi 1 - Saturday, June 4, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - Memorial Tournament for Chris Dennis Who Died Tragically in a Work Accident in 2010 - Cummings 1 & 2 and Kosciuszko - Saturday, June 11, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve as long as the tournament is moved to a different day; Saturday, June 11, 2022 is not available.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - Men's E NIT - Cummings 1 & 2 and Kosciuszko - Saturday, June 18, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - Mixed Firecracker with Co-ed Teams from All Over the Northeast - Cummings 1 & 2 and Kosciuszko - Saturday, June 25, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - 21st Annual Easton Firecracker Classic - Cummings 1 & 2 and Kosciuszko - Saturday, July 23, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - Men's C NIT - Cummings 1 & 2 and Kosciuszko - Saturday, September 17, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - Men's E Northeast Championships - Cummings 1 & 2 and Kosciuszko - Saturday, October 1, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - Men's D Northeast Championship - Cummings 1 & 2 and Kosciuszko - Saturday, October 8, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - Men's D NE Championship - Cummings 1 & 2 and Kosciuszko - Sunday, October 9, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - Mixed NE Championships - Cummings 1 & 2 and Kosciuszko - Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - Men's Senior NE Championships - Cummings 1 & 2 and Kosciuszko - Saturday, October 22, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Jon Brandt - Connecticut USSSA - Softball Tournament - Men's Fall Firecracker - Cummings 1 & 2 and Kosciuszko - Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

Unanimously Approved

Joe Madaffari - Fairfield County Interscholastic Conference - FCIAC Baseball Tournament - Cubeta Stadium - Semifinals - Monday, May 23, 2022 (2 Games) and Finals Thursday, May 26, 2022 (1 Game) from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (Rain Dates Tuesday, May 24, 2022 and Friday, May 27, 2022).

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Ashley Belluzzi - Fight For Two Foundation - Softball Tournament - Scalzi - Saturday, June 11, 2022 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kevin Murray

Seconded by Gloria Montoya

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

[End Report]

DISCUSSION:

➤ Application and Waiver Agreement for volunteer groups to work in the City parks.⁵

Mr. Newman stated he had spoken to Dana Lee with the Legal Department and had received a template of an agreement that the Commission could use for the volunteer groups. Mr. Newman further explained that he would like to first check to see what groups, if any, had an agreement in place.

Ms. Hollas has also been working on this project and found that none of the volunteer groups had any formal agreement in place with the City.

The Commission further discussed a potential agreement, what it should include and the maintenance of the file containing a listing of all the volunteer groups, neighborhood associations and individuals who work in the parks.

⁵ Video Time Stamp - 01:52:38

Mr. Newman mentioned the articles in the Stamford Advocate about the possibility of building a new school in Cove Island Park, Cummings Park or Czescik Park and as per a conversation with Director Quiñones, these locations will no longer be considered.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Newman adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lesley Capp
February 22, 2022

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