

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022
REGULAR MEETING
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
6:30 P.M.**

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82833741919>

Meeting ID: 828 3374 1919
Passcode: 251119

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/82833741919>
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, June 15, 2022 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Paul Newman, Interim Chair
Angela Adetola
Melanie Hollas
Jessica Katz
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 6:32 p.m. and introduced the Commission Members and staff present.

Mr. Newman introduced the first item on the agenda.

- Review of the May 18, 2022 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes.

Ms. Adetola made a motion to approve the May 18, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Unanimously Approved

(Mr. Tedder was ineligible to vote as he was absent at the May 18, 2022 meeting)

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Yochanan Shaul Jacob - Camp Romimu - ***Grand Trip - Monday, August 8, 2022 from 2:15 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. at Scalzi Park*** - Set-up starts at 2:15 p.m. and Clean-up ends at 3:20 p.m. - 10 Adults and 60 Children.¹

Mr. Jacob made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

Ms. Adetola made a motion to approve the Grand Trip Event for Camp Romimu.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Laurie Newkirk, Project Founder & Organizer; James Gerelli, Co-Project Organizer; Christina Crain, Executive Director, Stamford Senior Center & Rene Soto, Art Director, Stamford Senior Center - Cove Island Park Bridge Painting Project:** Ms. Newkirk and her team are requesting permission to paint the entrance bridge in Cove Island Park with the assistance of members of the Stamford Senior Center.²

Ms. Newkirk, along with the project team, made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve the painting of the Cove Island Park entrance bridge.

Seconded by Ms. Katz

Unanimously Approved

- **Colleen M. Harkey, CFRE, Executive Director, Stamford Veterans Park Partnership:** Ms. Harkey is requesting the installation of a historic retrospective/veteran recognition sign in Veterans Memorial Park using a \$150,000.00 grant received from the Stamford URC.³

Ms. Harkey made a presentation outlining the project and answered questions from the Commission.

- **Jere C. Eaton - Juneteenth Stamford/Josh & Tyler Stephens Memorial Fund - Juneteenth Citywide Celebration - June 19, 2022 - Jackie Robinson Park:** Request for placement of sixteen (16) banners in Jackie Robinson Park as part of the Juneteenth Celebration.⁴

Ms. Eaton made a presentation explaining the banner project and answered questions from the Commission.

Ms. Hollas made a motion to approve the hanging of the sixteen (16) art banners for the Juneteenth Celebration for a time period of one (1) year with the understanding the City has the authority to take down any banner that should become an eyesore in any way, shape or form.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

- **Luisa Duque - 6-Love, Inc. - Six Love Tennis:** Request to become a sanctioned organization for adult programming in the City of Stamford.⁵

Ms. Albano made some comments explaining the tennis programs currently in place for the City and the partnership with the Greater Stamford Tennis Association.

¹ Video Time Stamp - 00:03:53

² Video Time Stamp - 00:10:20

³ Video Time Stamp - 00:24:29

⁴ Video Time Stamp - 00:38:34

⁵ Video Time Stamp - 00:58:49

Marcus Hooks, Tennis Pro at New Canaan Racquet Club, provided details on the social league program Six Love Tennis would like to organize with the City of Stamford. (*Summary Submitted*)

Ms. Hollas made a motion to approve the sanctioning of Six Love Tennis to organize an adult social tennis program in the City of Stamford after a courtesy consultation with The Greater Stamford Tennis League.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Approved 4-1-0

(Newman, Adetola, Hollas, Katz - In Favor / Tedder - Against)

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations:** Discussion of staff changes within the Parks and Recreation Departments and future of the Parks & Recreation Commission.⁶

Director Quiñones led a discussion of the staff changes with the Commission providing details on the reorganization of the Parks and Recreation departments.

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:⁷

[Begin Report]

RECREATION:

- Issue at Westover Camp with Board of Education due to summer school. Recreation cannot use the gym or cafeteria until a sharing or scheduling arrangement is worked out. Not ideal for either, but better communication must come from the Board of Education. Recreation has 135 kids in camp and cannot work without a gym or cafeteria and our permit was submitted 4 months ago.
- Still losing some hires and still hiring camp counselors and paraeducators. Lean, but should be ok.
- Same as above for Lifeguards. Lifeguards begin full time 7 days a week Saturday, June 25, 2022.
- Heroy pool opening Saturday, June 25, 2022.
- Camp newsletters going out this week. Seven-week camps start next week.
- All other summer programs and leagues running or about to start.
- Softball weekend tournaments ongoing. New light timers will be very helpful.
- Preparing a program survey for individual neighborhoods in the City. Working with Jessica Katz, Parks & Recreation Commissioner, and our Marketing Coordinator, Ashley Cooke. Will begin with the Barrett Park neighborhood at the request of Jessie.
- Fireworks contract just in from Grucci yesterday. Will review today and return to Chris Dellaselva, Assistant Corporation Counsel, for further process. All other ancillary services are lined up. Final meeting next week at Cummings.
- Recreation revenue north of \$1.5 million.

TERRY CONNER RINK:

- Revised Rink Policy manual - 99% done. Putting final language in today and I will send to the Parks & Recreation Commission to re-review at their July 20, 2022 meeting.

⁶ Video Time Stamp - 01:35:33

⁷ Video Time Stamp - 02:28:00

- Still waiting to hear from Sandy Dennies, Director of Administration and Lee Berta, Assistant Director, Office of Policy & Management, on where/how the check from the sale of the Olympia machine is to be applied so it can be used for the purchase of a used back up machine.
- Hot water heaters at Rink are on last legs and replacement cost will be around \$20, 000.00. Working on quotes, etc. with City vendors.
- Stamford Youth Hockey Association (SYHA) wants more ice time next prime season (September-March). However, with a self-sustaining fund operation SYHA has the lowest hourly rates per hour on the books. A near future decision will need to be made to either raise their rates (increased rate menu will be forthcoming soon for all user rates anyway), or for the SYHA, as we do for high school hockey, agree to the City subsidizing them to some extent.
- One bidder for food concession. \$2,000.00 per year proposed. Meeting with them soon.
- Preparing for Rink skating summer camps. Good registration.
- Rink electric costs way up. Working with Nancy Pipicelli, Energy/Utility Technician. City/Engineering/ Office of Policy & Management did not include the Rink in the Eversource cost negotiations. Therefore, the Rink is not getting the lower City electricity price. An issue with the Rink fund balance now. Estimating \$40,000.00 more.
- Speaking of the Rink power it was this past Saturday power lost for a few hours, thereby, losing more significant revenue as we were hosting a hockey tournament, which had to move to Chelsea Piers. An Eversource issue. Actual monetary loss to be determined.
- Will be submitting new increased Rink fees to the Mayor soon.
- Rink revenue good, but lost some due to test sites, Stamford Police Department crime issues and high school hockey. City to reimburse most.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Finished some and working on end of year Purchasing, close outs and encumbrances for Recreation and Rink.

[End Report]

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

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Mr. Murray:⁸

[Begin Report]

- 2022 Seasonal Employees: Fully staffed with thirty-five (35) seasonal employees.
- Beach/Park Attendants Program is going well with Laz Parking. (Attached Parking Report)
- Courtland Playground demolition complete. Contractor to begin playground installation this month.
- Organic Field Maintenance has been getting great results. Trip to Madison, CT to be rescheduled.
- Eagle Scout Mathew Fleming: Eagle Scout Project completed. (Attached report for St. John's Park Project)
- Vaccine trailers in parks to be pulled by June 30, 2022. Program to end June 19, 2022.
- Musco Control Link for Cummings fields 1/2 and Scalzi Park fields 1/2 are installed and programmed for night play going forward.
- 2022 City Fireworks plans are in place for Friday, July 1, 2022.
- Bocce League agreement made for one (1) year. Going to revisit terms this fall for going forward. (Agreement attached)
- Dorothy Heroy Pool/Facility ready to go for Recreation camp.
- Park Police search continues to replace Clyde Levine.

[End Report]

⁸ Video Time Stamp - 02:54:12

➤ Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Action Report - June 7, 2022 Meeting.

Following is the Action Report generated from the June 7, 2022 Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Meeting showing the list of events approved:

[Begin Report]

In Attendance: Matthew Quiñones
Kevin Murray
Laurie Albano
Kim Gerbert

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Matt Quiñones.

Consent Agenda

Edna Aleman - Wedding Ceremony - Fort Stamford - Sunday, June 26, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 10:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends 2:00 p.m. - 40 Adults and 10 Children.

➤ Chairs cannot be placed on garden.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously approved

Asucinha Charles - Wedding Ceremony - Fort Stamford - Saturday, August 27, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 10:00 p.m. - 28 Adults and 2 Children.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously approved

Special Events

John Varamo - City of Stamford Arts & Culture Commission - Summer Stage in Scalzi Park - Sunday, June 19, 2022; Sunday, June 26, 2022; Sunday, July 10, 2022; Sunday, July 17, 2022 & Sunday, August 7, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 2:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends 7:00 p.m. - ~50 Adults and ~20 Children.

➤ Amended dates are:

- June 26, 2022
- July 10, 2022
- August 7, 2022

➤ Director Quiñones requested the Arts & Culture Commission observe this as a pilot program. In the future, if the Commission is looking at expansion, they should have an effort to fund raise around a private sponsor.

➤ Stage rental fee and electricity will be waived since this is a City event.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Lauren Sumner - Stanwich Church - Park Clean Up Morning - Kosciuszko Park - Saturday, July 16, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Set-Up Starts at 9:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:00 p.m. - 15 Adults and 15 Children.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously approved

Pastor Sandra Rivera - Iglesia Apostólica Renovación Emmanuel - Evangelistic Church Event - Jackie Robinson Park - Saturday, August 27, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 3:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 7:30 p.m. - 40 Adults and 10 Children.

➤ No amplified music allowed in the park.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve request without amplified music.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Josephine Fulcher Anderson - Ferguson Library (South End Branch) - Summer Reading Club Finale - Lathon Wider Outdoor Basketball Court - Saturday, August 13, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 10:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:30 p.m. - 50 Adults and 100 Children.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Yochanan Shaul Jacob - Camp Romimu - Grand Trip - Scalzi Park - Monday, August 8, 2022 from 2:15 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 2:15 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 3:20 p.m. - 10 Adults and 60 Children.

➤ First time event, forwarded to the Parks & Recreation Commission for their approval.

Angela Edwards - Mayor's Multi Cultural Committee - William E. Edwards Academic College Tours, Inc. (WEE-ACT) - Stamford Celebrates HBC.S - Jackie Robinson Park - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mayor will Present Proclamation Along with State Representatives - 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. a Movie will be Shown - Friday, August 12, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 5:00 p.m. - 75 Adults and 50 Children.

Laurie made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

Discussion - David Pallino's Request for Electric Fees to be Waived for Special Olympics Event.

➤ Mr. Pallino stated to Mayor Simmons that the electric fees were waived for last year's Special Olympics Event and they are waived every year. Mr. Pallino asked for the fees to be waived this year as well; fees were waived by Director Quiñones.

After looking at last year's Action Report, it showed the Special Olympics Event was charged for the use of electricity. Director Quiñones will contact Mr. Pallino to see where the disconnect is but wanted this on the record to have a record of what took place.

Tournaments

Wilner Joseph - Hoops 4 All - Gun Violence Awareness Basketball Tournament for the Youth in the Community - Lione Park - Saturday, June 25, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Jim Lash - Stamford North LL - Annual Little League District All Star Tournament - Springdale Little League Field - Friday, June 24, 2022 through Sunday, July 31, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Shari Johnson - Primento Walk Jamaica - Soccer 6x6 Match with Five Teams - Lione Park - Monday, September 5, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Marvin Tyler - USTA Sanctioned Level 7 One Day Round Robin Tennis Tournament - Cummings Park - Saturday, July 16, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Marvin Tyler - USTA Sanctioned Level 7 Round Robin One Day Tournament - Cummings Park - Saturday, August 6, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kevin Murray

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

[End Report]

DISCUSSION:⁹

➤ Update of Parks & Recreation Commission Strategic Goals for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year as follows:

The Commission had a brief discussion on each item below.

- Mr. Newman and Ms. Hollas: Friends Groups.
- Ms. Hollas: Invasive Species initiative.
- Mr. Newman: Baseball and field usage.
- Mr. Tedder and Ms. Katz: Foundation and the City website.
- Mr. Tedder: Dog Park at Scofieldtown Park.
- Ms. Adetola and Mr. Murray: Setup of pickleball courts and working with pickleball and tennis players.

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

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Newman adjourned the meeting at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lesley Capp
June 23, 2022

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

⁹Video Time Stamp - 03:17:00