

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022  
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING  
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL  
6:30 P.M.**

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING**  
**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81439141712>**

**Meeting ID: 814 3914 1712**  
**Passcode: 044881**

**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/81439141712>  
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](mailto: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](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](mailto:lcapp@stamfordct.gov) or submit through a Chat message to the Commission Chair during the meeting.*

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A Regular Meeting & Public Hearing of the Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Paul Newman, Chair  
Melanie Hollas, Vice Chair  
Angela Adetola  
Jessica Katz (Arrived at 6:43 p.m.)  
Michael Tedder

Staff: Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations  
Kevin Murray, Operations Manager, Parks & Facilities  
Lesley Capp, Assistant - Parks & Recreation Commission

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 August 17, 2022 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve the August 17, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- Marja Thompson - A21 - *Walk for Freedom - Columbus Park & Latham Park - Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.* - Set-up starts at 9:00 a.m. - Clean-up ends at 12:00 p.m. - Total Attendance - ±200.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Newman read the application into the record and asked Mr. Murray about the concerns of the Internal Committee. Mr. Murray stated it was passed to the Commission due to being a first time event.

Mr. Newman introduced Ms. Thompson, who made a brief presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

Mr. Newman noted that there were no specific requests for signatures marked to approve the application and asked Director Quiñones if that would be determined at some point, especially approval by the Stamford Police Department.

Director Quiñones explained that the application needs approval from the Traffic Advisory Committee and those signatures required would be determined then.

Ms. Adetola made a motion to accept the application for the Walk for Freedom on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at Columbus Park & Latham Park.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Unanimously Approved

### **RECREATION SERVICES PERMIT APPLICATIONS:**

- David Flower - Chelsea Piers CT - *Chelsea Piers Soccer Club Practices - Cummings Park - Monday through Thursday, beginning in September - ending November 12, 2022 and April, May & June 2023 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.*<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Newman read the application into the record and introduced Mr. Flower, who made a brief presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

After some discussion, the Commission agreed to **TABLE** this application to perform additional due diligence into field use by the sanctioned teams already using the fields and to have further discussion as to whether Mr. Flower should apply for sanctioning by the City of Stamford.

Mr. Newman suspended the Regular Meeting and opened the Public Hearing.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

- **Pickleball Court - Haig & Crestview Avenues.** The Commission will discuss a proposal to install a Pickleball court at the location of Haig & Crestview Avenues. Interested residents are invited to join the meeting to provide input on this project.<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Newman first requested that anyone who has not notified Ms. Capp prior that they would like to speak to send her a chat message with your name and address if you would like to provide any comments.

Director Quiñones made introductory comments providing details on the reasons for holding the Public Hearing and explained that the Commission will not be voting or approving anything at this meeting.

Mr. Murray made a presentation providing details on the project.

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:03:10

<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:08:16

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:17:10

Mr. Newman explained that there was a legal notice in the paper and individual letters were sent to residents on Klondike Avenue, Haig Avenue and Crestview Avenue. Mr. Newman stated there was a speaker list and asked Ms. Capp to introduce those who requested to speak.

The following residents provided comments:

Tim Craig - 79 Klondike Avenue  
George Talboys - 124 Crestview Avenue  
Mary Fedeli, Board of Representatives - 7 Gilford Street  
Pierluigi Vitti - 78 Klondike Avenue  
David Cano - 156 Woodbury Avenue  
Bobby Pavia, Board of Representatives

Mr. Newman called for any further speakers and there were none.

Mr. Newman closed the public portion of the Public Hearing.

Mr. Newman called for any further comments from the Commission.

Ms. Katz made a comment that a playground might be a better use of the space.

Ms. Hollas made comments that she agreed with Ms. Katz, if this project would be part of the Citywide Parks Strategic Plan and the noise generated from play.

Director Quiñones made closing comments thanking those who participated and provided comments and explaining this project was still in the beginning stages and would keep the residents impacted apprised of any plans moving forward.

Mr. Newman called for a motion to close the Public Hearing and reopen the Regular Meeting.

Ms. Hollas made a motion to close the Public Hearing and reopen the Regular Meeting.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Election of Officers** (*Tabled from the August 17, 2022 Meeting*): The Commission will hold elections for Chair and Vice-Chair.<sup>4</sup>

Mr. Newman opened the floor for nominations.

Ms. Hollas nominated Paul Newman for Chair.

Mr. Newman nominated Melanie Hollas for Vice Chair.

Director Quiñones pointed out that the nominations should be seconded for the record before taking a vote

Mr. Newman stated that was not in the in the Rules & Regulations but would take seconds on the nominations.

Ms. Katz and Ms. Adetola seconded both nominations.

Mr. Newman called for any further nominations, and there were none and closed nominations.

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<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:50:23

Mr. Newman called for a vote by voice.

Mr. Newman voted for himself for Chair and Ms. Hollas for Vice Chair.

Mr. Tedder voted yes for both nominations.

Ms. Katz voted yes for both nominations.

Ms. Adetola voted yes nominations.

Mr. Newman closed the elections with Mr. Newman elected as Chair and Mr. Hollas elected as Vice Chair.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Parks & Recreation Commission Jurisdiction** - Michael Toma, Assistant Corporation Counsel: Mr. Toma has provided an opinion whether the Parks & Recreation Commission has jurisdiction over the parks within the Downtown Special Services District (DSSD). There are five (5) parks [Columbus Park, Kiwanis Park, St. John's Park, Latham Park and Veteran's Memorial Park, which fall within the DSSD boundaries.<sup>5</sup>

Mr. Newman explained that this item arose due to signage that had been posted in Kiwanis Park and whether the Commission needed to approve items for the Downtown parks.

The Commission had a brief discussion and Mr. Toma answered questions.

- **Barrett Park** - Traffic Issues.<sup>6</sup>

Mr. Newman introduced this item at the request of Ms. Katz.

Ms. Katz provided details on the traffic issues and a grant application being submitted by Traffic Engineering to redesign the area around the park. Traffic Engineering is requesting a letter in support of the project from the Commission.

- **Special Webinar - October 6, 2022** - Melanie Hollas, Commissioner: Ms. Hollas will provide an update on the progress of the Special Webinar to discuss Stamford public parks artificial turf fields and pour-in-place (PIP) playground surfaces.<sup>7</sup>

Ms. Hollas provided an update on the progress of setting up the webinar and the speakers who will make presentations.

The Commission then had some discussion on the format of the meeting.

### **TOURNAMENTS:**

- No Tournaments.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

- Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations.<sup>8</sup>

The following items were discussed by Director Quiñones:

- Launch of Recreation programs for fall season.

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<sup>5</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:52:46

<sup>6</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:01:30

<sup>7</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:05:50

<sup>8</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:32:09:

- Update on Parks Strategic Plan.
- Update on the position for Director of Facilities & Sustainability.
- Drainage work at Barrett Park.
- Universal permit form.

Director Quiñones then answered questions from the Commission.

➤ Kevin Murray, Director, Parks & Recreation:

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Mr. Murray:<sup>9</sup>

*[Begin Report]*

- Park Bathroom extension October 15 to November 15, 2022: Cove Island Park (Red Brick Building), West Beach, Cummings Lower Pavilion, Scalzi Park (Maintenance Bldg. and Lione Park - Bathrooms will be open until 9:00 p.m.
- Parks Capital Submissions are due October 17, 2022: Pre-Planning Board review on October 19, 2022 and Planning Board meeting on October 25, 2022.
- Meeting with Recreation staff, Terry Conner Rink and E.G. Brennen Gold Course for transition to Director of Parks & Recreation.
- Carwin Park sign unveiling was on Thursday, September 1, 2022.
- Working on Annual Report to be submitted to the Mayor's office. Will share report next month.
- St. John's Park masonry project in September. Stone is on order to remove base and install granite base.
- Lione Park Playground closed and secured by Parks staff - **daily**. Scalzi slide closed and secured by staff - **daily**. Parts are on order and will be installed by a certified playground installer once they arrive for both locations.
- Organic Field Fall applications scheduled in progress.
- Turf Tank: Line painter demonstration to be scheduled. Will assist with field markings TBA that will save on overtime and employees needed.
- Lione Pitch (Turf) to be scheduled to be repaired. **On schedule for Wednesday, September 28, 2022 to be replaced.**
- Dorothy Heroy Tennis court upgrade. Includes Pickleball purchase order received. Meeting company this Friday, September 23, 2022 to discuss/coordinate plans. **Current City Forestry completed tree removal.**
- Gold Star Family Monument Ceremony and unveiling on September 4, 2022 at Veteran's Park.
- September 11th ceremony at Jackie Robinson Park was held on Sunday September 11, 2022 at 8:45 a.m.
- Dorothy Heroy Baseball field to be converted into 50/70 use and also little league dimensions.
- Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives, Thursday, September 22, 2022.

Item No. - Description - Invitee(s) or Designee(s)

1. **PR31.009 REVIEW:** Discuss the status of the current year Park Repair/Upgrade Projects - September 7, 2022. Submitted by Rep. Jennifer Matheny (District 19); Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations and Kevin Murray, Director of Parks & Recreation.
  2. **PR31.010 REVIEW:** Scalzi Park Bocce Courts - September 7, 2022. Submitted by Reps. Carmine Tomas (District 15) and Sean Boeger (District 15); Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations; Kevin Murray, Director of Parks & Recreation and Michael O'Leary, President & Enzo Iorfino, Vice President, Stamford Bocce League.
- Citywide Parks Strategic Plan RFP: Received one (1) proposal from local vendor and staff has agreed to bring them in for meeting to discuss their proposal.

*[End Report]*

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<sup>9</sup> Video Time Stamp - 02:05:24

➤ Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Action Report - September 13, 2022 Meeting.

Following is the Action Report generated from the September 13, 2022 Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Meeting showing the list of events approved:

[Begin Report]

In Attendance: Matthew Quiñones  
Kevin Murray  
Megan Gearhart  
Kim Gerbert

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:09 by Matthew Quiñones, Chair.

**Consent Agenda**

No Consent Agenda.

**Special Events**

**Sarah Avellino - 4th Birthday Party - Fort Stamford Park - Use of Goodbody Garden and Grassy Area for Guests to Gather - Music Via Guitar - Sunday, September 25, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 12:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 4:30 p.m. - 15 Children and 25 Adults.**

Kim Gerbert made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

**Lynne Colatrella - Stamford Downtown Special Services District (DSSD) - Wine Fest on Bedford - Latham Park (Prospect Street, Walton Place) - Saturday, October 8, 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. - 1000 Adults.**

➤ Fees will not be waived.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

**Marja Thompson - Columbus Park & Latham Park - Walk for Freedom, Stamford, CT - Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:00 p.m. - 2 Children and 200 Adults.**

➤ New Event, forwarded to the Parks & Recreation Commission for approval.

**Ivonne Zucco - Building One Community - Community Event - Cummings Park - Sunday, September 18, 2022 - (Rain Date - Sunday, September 25, 2022) from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 10:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:30 p.m. - 75 Children and 75 Adults.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve request to use area of park at Cumming Park next to parking lot for activities, **NOT including parking.**

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

**Old Business**

No Old Business.

**New Business**

No New Business.

## **Tournaments**

**Luisa Duque - Six Love Tennis - Level 1 Coaching Certification Day - Use of Tennis Courts at Cummings Park - Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Megan Gearhart made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Matthew Quiñones

Seconded by Kevin Murray

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

*[End Report]*

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **➤ Update of Parks & Recreation Commission Strategic Goals for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year as follows:<sup>10</sup>**

- 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.**

Mr. Tedder made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Hollas and the vote was carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Newman adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Capp

October 3, 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](http://cityofstamford.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_is=9)

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<sup>10</sup> Video Time Stamp - 02:24:05