

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022
REGULAR MEETING
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
6:30 P.M.**

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86732140930>

Meeting ID: 867 3214 0930
Passcode: 838082

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/86732140930>
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, October 19, 2022 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Paul Newman, Chair
Melanie Hollas, Vice Chair
Angela Adetola
Jessica Katz (Arrived at 6:40 p.m.)
Michael Tedder

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

Absent: Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Newman called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and introduced the Commission Members and staff present.

Mr. Newman introduced the first item on the agenda.

➤ Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes:

September 21, 2022 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes

Ms. Adetola made a motion to approve the September 21, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Newman made mention of the procedure for the Election of Officers. Mr. Newman stated that Director Quiñones had suggested the Commission second the nominations. Mr. Newman said he checked with Robert's Rules of Order and due to the size of the Commission and how the Bylaws are written, it was not necessary to second the nominations. Mr. Newman stated he just wanted to clarify that point going forward for any future elections.

October 6, 2022 Special Meeting Draft Minutes

Ms. Hollas made a motion to approve the October 6, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

SPECIAL EVENTS:

➤ No Special Events

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **League Sanctioning Policy Review.¹**

Mr. Newman asked the Commission to look over the Field Policy Manual for the November meeting to see if there should be any edits. Mr. Newman also asked the Commission to particularly look at the last page of the manual - Exhibit B - which shows the current sanctioned organizations. With regard to the sanctioned leagues, all the Little League teams will be consolidating under one umbrella. Mr. Newman stated Michael Noto, from the American Little League, will be attending the November 16, 2022 meeting to provide details on the consolidation.

The Commission had further considerable discussion about the Field Policy Manual and it was ***Tabled*** until the November 16, 2022 meeting.

➤ **2023 Meeting Schedule.²**

Ms. Katz suggested starting the meetings at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Newman stated since Ms. Capp manages the meetings that he would defer to her. Ms. Capp stated that keeping the meeting time at 6:30 p.m. would be preferable but would be fine with 7:00 p.m. if the majority of the Commission agrees to the time change.

Mr. Newman ***Tabled*** the approval of the 2023 Meeting Schedule until the November 16, 2022 meeting so the Commission could have some time to consider making the change.

¹ Video Time Stamp - 00:03:23

² Video Time Stamp - 00:19:09

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Newman mentioned an email sent by Erin McKenna, Associate Planner, Land Use Bureau, regarding the SoundWaters project at Boccuzzi Park.³

Mr. Newman provided a brief update on the project.

➤ **Parks & Recreation Commission Public Hearing - September 21, 2022 - Pickleball Court - Haig & Crestview Avenues:** Follow up discussion.⁴

The Commission agreed that the take-away from the Public Hearing was that the residents in the neighborhood of the Haig Avenue location did not want the site converted into a pickleball court.

The Commission had further discussion on possible alternative uses for the Haig Avenue location, other potential sites for courts and next steps for addressing pickleball in the City parks.

➤ **Parks & Recreation Commission Special Meeting - October 6, 2022 - Sustainable Playing Fields & Playgrounds:** Follow up discussion.⁵

Ms. Hollas led a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of natural grass vs. artificial turf and the information presented at the October 6, 2022 meeting. Mr. Tedder also submitted the following items, which were also discussed:

1. Usage Turf vs. Grass.
 - Need a practical view or position on field usage (hours of play) and availability (rain or inclement weather) for grass replacing turf
2. Maintenance of Sustainable vs. Turf.
 - Logic tells me it has to be more to maintain. What is the City's experience?
 - What are manpower and budget implications if we go natural with increased operating costs?
3. Policy and enforcement of potential field restrictions.
 - Community/neighborhoods, authorized leagues and users need to be involved if we write new policy.
 - Who enforces? We have unauthorized use now in most parks and not just for athletic fields.
4. Potential liability issues or regulation changes.
 - Huge and possibly unquantifiable liability right now.
 - Local, State or even Federal/EPA regulations or laws written restricting existing fields or banning turf fields.
 - How do we anticipate, participate or stay ahead of the issues?
 - What happens to existing fields if a liability issue arises or ban becomes law?

TOURNAMENTS:

➤ No Tournaments.

³ Video Time Stamp - 00:21:10

⁴ Video Time Stamp - 00:24:21

⁵ Video Time Stamp - 00:37:20

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

STAFF REPORTS:

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

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

[Begin Report]

- FY 2023-2024 Capital Submissions. (Attached)
- Terry Conner Rink Capital submission and annual report. (Attached)
- E.G. Brennan Golf Course Capital submission and annual report. (Attached)
- RFP #880 Citywide Park Strategic Plan: Short listed interview with presentation Friday, October 21, 2022.
- Recreation Winter Brochure will be out mid-November and registration for winter program starts December 6, 2022
- Very Strong Fall Registration numbers with classes that had waitlists.
- Friday night winter Ski Trips already half full that Start in January.
- Tickets for the 22nd Hay Ride with Santa at Cove Island Park in December go on sale November 1, 2022.
- Stamford Recreation adult leagues will be looking to wrap up Fall season (weather depending) around November 3, 2022.
- Monthly totals for revenue attached for adult programs, leagues, aquatics, youth programs/playground/day camps, Star Center Programs.
- Attended Board of Representatives-Operations Committee meeting on October 17, 2022 for requesting resources for tree maintenance, replacement and inventory of City trees. **Approved resolution by Board of Representatives-Operations Committee.**
- Veteran's Day Parade and Ceremony logistics with Patriotic Committee to discuss this year's plans on Thursday, October 20, 2022.
- Turf Tank demonstration is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at Scalzi Park Soccer Field between Softball 1 and 2.
- Transition new Facility Director, James Montgomery. Start date was Monday, October 17, 2022.
- Annual report for Adult Leagues and Aquatics. (Attached)
- Annual Report for Youth programming, Summer Day Camps, Preschool programs, after school program and special vendor programs.
- Finalizing operating agreement for Terry Conner's concession stand with Legal Department.
- Attended Cove Island Park Marina partial dredge with consultants. Awaiting proposals to Engineering Department.
- Attached is Parks & Facilities Annual report, which was submitted to Administration.
- Bocci Agreement & Court Condition meeting with League held on September 28, 2022 to discuss long-term plan and pending a new agreement. Awaiting Administration to communicate approved plan.
- Fee increases to be brought forward next month to the Parks & Recreation Commission for Recreation, E.G. Brennan Golf Course and Terry Conner Rink to be considered by the City Boards.
- Cricket Pitch upgrade at Lione Park is complete.

⁶ Video Time Stamp - 01:19:00

- Dorothy Heroy game court upgrade is still in progress which includes surface repairs and Pickleball lines to be incorporated with new fencing and layout.
- Park Season employees last day was Sunday, October 16, 2022. Very successful season with staff. Four (4) seasonal employees to be held for bathroom duties at five (5) locations: Lione Park, Scalzi Park, Cove Island Park, Cummings Park and West Beach. Men's and women's bathrooms to be open until November 15, 2022.
- Courtland Avenue Playground project is complete. Attached pictures of site and open for use.

[End Report]

➤ Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Action Report - October 11, 2022 Meeting.

Following is the Action Report generated from the October 11, 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 2:05 p.m. by Matthew Quiñones, Chair.
 Kim Gerbert arrived towards the end of the meeting.

Consent Agenda

No Consent Agenda.

Special Events

Sally Gehring - Glenbrook Fire Department - Christmas Tree Lighting - Traffic Island Hope Street in Glenbrook - Saturday, December 3, 2022 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 5:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends 7:30 p.m. - 75 Children and 125 Adults.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Megan Gearhart

Unanimously Approved

John DaRosa - Jackie Robinson Park of Fame, Inc. - Annual Christmas Tree Lighting - Jackie Robinson Park of Fame - Saturday, November 22, 2022 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 4:30 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 7:00 p.m. - 50 Children and 20 Adults.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Megan Gearhart

Unanimously Approved

Carla Catanzaro - BLT/Harbor Point - 5K Turkey Trot in Harbor Point - Harbor Point Square/Walk Through Kosciuszko Park - Thursday, November 24, 2022 from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. - Set-Up Starts at 6:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 10:00 a.m. - 50+ Children and 300 -400 Adults.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Megan Gearhart

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

No New Business.

Tournaments

Adam Fritsch - Pickleball by Adam LLC. - Pickleball Tournament - Use of Scalzi Park - Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Megan Gearhart made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kevin Murray

Seconded by Megan Gearhart

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

[End Report]

DISCUSSION:

➤ Update of Parks & Recreation Commission Strategic Goals for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year as follows:⁷

Each Commissioner provided a brief update on each of their respective areas.

- 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.

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

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Newman adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lesley Capp
October 25, 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

⁷ Video Time Stamp - 02:06:03