

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023
(WITH CORRECTIONS FROM THE AUGUST 16, 2023 MEETING)
REGULAR MEETING
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
6:30 P.M.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84491607463>

Meeting ID: 844 9160 7463
Passcode: 241184

A Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Melanie Hollas, Vice Chair
 Angela Adetola
 Michael Tedder (Left meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

Staff: Kevin Murray, Director of Parks & Recreation
 Lesley Capp, Assistant - Parks & Recreation Commission

Absent: Paul Newman, Chair
 Jessica Katz, Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Hollas called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and introduced the Commission Members and staff present.

Ms. Hollas introduced the first item on the agenda.

- **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:** Each individual requesting to speak shall send a Chat Message to the Chair stating their name and address for the record. Public participation comments shall be limited to 3 minutes.

There was no one present who wished to speak.

- Review of the June 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve the June 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

SPECIAL EVENTS:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Michael Orgera - Girls Softball League** (*Tabled from the June 21, 2023 Meeting*): Proposal to install new restrooms at Troy Field in Cove Island Park.¹

¹ Video Time Stamp - 00:01:55

Ms. Hollas read an email, in part, from Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations, into the record which addressed concerns the Commission had raised at the June 21, 2023 meeting as follows:

City Access

- *A concern was raised whether there was a need for legal protections for city access.*
 - *Troy Softball signs off on the City of Stamford Field Policy Manual every year as part of its annual request for field usage. Per Sec. B.7. of the Additional Field Rules in that Manual, "Once an item of infrastructure is approved (by the P&RC) and installed it becomes the property of the City."*

Maintenance

- *A concern was raised do we need legal protections to establish maintenance responsibilities.*
 - *The recommendation is making maintenance a condition of the annual Field Use Permit Application that is required of all Sanctioned Users. This can be stated on the record at the P&RC meeting as a condition of approval.*

After the discussion of the proposal for restrooms at Troy Field had begun, Ms. Hollas realized she needed to call for a motion to bring "Old Business" forward, which she did.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to bring "Old Business" forward.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

Ms. Hollas asked for comments or discussion.

Mr. Tedder and Ms. Adetola both stated they had seen Director Quiñones' email and had no comments.

Ms. Hollas stated concerns about when the property reverts back to the City and maintenance of the restrooms.

Mr. Orgera joined the meeting and Ms. Hollas asked if he had any further comments and he replied, no.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Hollas called for a motion to approve the installation of new restrooms at Troy Field at Cove Island Park by Michael Orgera, Girls Softball League.

Ms. Adetola made a motion to approve the installation of new restrooms at Troy Field at Cove Island Park by Michael Orgera, Girls Softball League.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Approved 2-1-0
(In Favor - Adetola & Tedder / Opposed - Hollas)

Ms. Hollas called for a motion to move on to "New Business - Turf Analysis."

Ms. Adetola made a motion to move on to "New Business - Turf Analysis."

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Turf Analysis - Mike Tedder, Commissioner:** Discuss ideas for performing a Turf Analysis on artificial vs. natural grass.²

Mr. Tedder made opening comments and then introduced Gabby Silver.

² Video Time Stamp - 00:10:20

Ms. Silver made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission. After considerable discussion, the Commission decided the next step would be to have a discussion with Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations, about possibly including the Turf Analysis in the Parks Strategic Plan.

Ms. Hollas stated she would keep Ms. Silver advised of the progress.

➤ Review of the Parks & Recreation Commission Bylaws and Rules of Procedure.³

The Commission reviewed and made changes to Article V - Election of Officers of the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure.

Ms. Hollas called for a motion to adopt the changes discussed.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to adopt the changes discussed to the Bylaws and Rules of Procedures.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

NOTE: As discussed at the August 16, 2023 meeting, the above vote was considered to be null and void as the vote was not conducted in accordance with Article XI of the established Bylaws.

OLD BUSINESS (Con't):

➤ **Policy, Rules, Guidelines & Vision for Stamford Parks:** Review of edits required as presented by Melanie Hollas, Vice Chair and discussed at the June 21, 2023 meeting.⁴

Ms. Hollas lead a review of the suggested “housekeeping” changes. Ms. Hollas stated deeper review and discussion would take place at the August 16, 2023 meeting with the full Commission.

TOURNAMENTS:

➤ No Tournaments.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

STAFF REPORTS:

➤ Kevin Murray, Director of Parks & Recreation: Parks & Recreation Update.

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Mr. Murray:⁵

[Begin Report]

- 2023 Fireworks: June 30, 2023 date was postponed based on air quality and visual perception to Friday July 7, 2023. Show was a big success thanks to the Operations team and Grucci Fireworks/DJ Jeffrey and M Communications.
- Field Policy Manual updated to the revised language indicating baseball and softball natural fields rainouts & inclement weather. Updated Field Policy Manual attached.
- Cummings Park Pickleball usage had 115 registrations from April to July offered by Impact Pickleball.
- Attached proposal for converting Cummings Park 2-bay tennis courts into six (6) dedicated standalone pickleball courts.

³ Video Time Stamp - 00:18:45

⁴ Video Time Stamp - 00:37:22

⁵ Video Time Stamp - 00:57:22

- Scalzi Park hockey and pickleball courts completed. (Attached picture) Staff to develop schedule via permit for Impact Pickleball and schedule to reflect open court use for hockey.
- The Susan Nable sign at Chestnut Hill Park will be arriving/installed this week. Stay Tuned for unveiling ceremony.
- Courtland Avenue Dog Park upgrade site meeting with Operations and Engineering to discuss drainage and visual perception upgrades to grounds. ARP funding to be used.
- Beach/park attendant reporting attached indicating quality-of-life notifications and violations occurring since Memorial Day startup to July 4, 2023. Cove Island/Scalzi/West Beach and Cummings.
- Park attendants' Northern Tours began Saturday, July 15, 2023 where two (2) attendants met with Park Police Officer Gould for a tour and program. Will continue Fridays through Sundays from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Schedule can be modified per the funding available and program will continue after Labor Day into the fall months.
- Recreation summer camps are within 7-week sessions and all doing good.
- Youth and Adult League seasons are still being played. District playoffs and State games are in motion currently.
- Dorthey Heroy pool is open and being used per the posted hours of use and by camps daily during the week.
- Working on signage for Resolution that was passed on June 5, 2023 by the Board of Representatives naming Hart School Playground at Nemotin Park as the Phillip J. Giordano Playground.
- Parks & Recreation Committee passed amending the approval of Terry Conner Rink Fees for Ice rental on June 22, 2023.
- On Saturday, July 22, 2023 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., the Mayor and Administration will be doing a Rosa Hartman Park organized cleanup with Greenwich.

[End Report]

Ms. Hollas suggested the Discussion items be **TABLED** until the August 16, 2023 meeting since Mr. Newman, Ms. Katz and Mr. Tedder were not in attendance. Ms. Adetola agreed.

DISCUSSION:

- **Parks & Recreation Commission Strategic Goals for 2023/2024.**
- **Update of Parks & Recreation Commission Strategic Goals for 2022/2023 as follows:**
 - Mr. Newman and Ms. Hollas: Friends Groups.
 - Ms. Hollas: Invasive Species initiative & RFP Update.
 - Mr. Tedder and Ms. Katz: Foundation and the City website.
 - Mr. Tedder: Scofieldtown Park Dog Park.
- **Application and Waiver Agreement for volunteer groups to work in the City parks.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Adetola 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, Ms. Hollas adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Capp
 Assistant to the Parks & Recreation Commission
 July 25, 2023