

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING  
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL  
6:30 P.M.**

**ZOOM MEETING**  
*Meeting ID: 878 0326 0130*  
*Passcode: 543428*

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A Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

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

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

**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 in attendance who wished to speak.

- Review of the January 17, 2023 Regular Meeting & Public Hearing Draft Minutes.<sup>1</sup>

Ms. Hollas made note of two spelling errors.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve the January 17, 2024 Regular Meeting & Public Hearing Draft Minutes with the changes discussed.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- Sandra Barrett - ***Impact Stamford - Sunday, June 2, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Scalzi Park*** - Set-up Begins at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-up Ends at 8:00 p.m. - 50 Total Participants.<sup>2</sup>

Ms. Barrett made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:01:16

<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:30:00

After some discussion, the Commission decided to **TABLE** this item to the March 20, 2024 meeting so that the applicant can meet with Kevin Murray, Director of Parks & Recreation, at the site to determine the location of the tents and possible bounce house.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **David Winston - Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary:** Request for fifteen (15) parking passes for the 2024 parks season to be provided to CIWS volunteers and special event participants.<sup>3</sup>

After a brief discussion, Ms. Adetola made a motion to approve the request from Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary for fifteen (15) parking passes for the 2024 parks season.

Seconded by Mr. Newman

Unanimously Approved

The Commission had some discussion about adding language to the Policies & Procedures document to automatically grant parking passes to recognized Friends Groups in specific parks.

- **Brenda DeGruttola, President - Stamford Bombers:** Request to be a sanctioned league in the City of Stamford.<sup>4</sup>

Ms. DeGruttola made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

After considerable discussion, the Commission decided to **TABLE** this item to a Special Meeting which would be held before the March 21, 2024 Regular Meeting. Time and day TBD.

- **Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations (*Tabled from the January 17, 2024 Meeting*):** Director Quiñones will provide an update on the Strategic Park Plan.<sup>5</sup>

Director Quiñones made a presentation providing an update on the Strategic Park Plan and answered questions from the Commission.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Proposed Scofieldtown Park Dog Park:** Mike Tedder, Commissioner, to continue the discussion, evaluation and design regarding the size of dog park.<sup>6</sup>

Mr. Tedder provided an update on the dog park and answered questions from the Commission.

- **2024-2025 Capital Budget Update:** Commission letter submitted to the Planning Board.<sup>7</sup>

Ms. Hollas provided an update on the Capital Budget and answered questions from the Commission.

- **Review of Meeting with Invasive Species consultant BSC Group and the City of Stamford.**<sup>8</sup>

Ms. Hollas made a presentation providing details of the meeting and answered questions from the Commission.

- **Field Use Policy:** Review survey and updated charts.<sup>9</sup>

Ms. Hollas, along with Gabi Silver, made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

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<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:19:05

<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:23:17

<sup>5</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:12:36

<sup>6</sup> Video Time Stamp - 02:28:00

<sup>7</sup> Video Time Stamp - 02:32:45

<sup>8</sup> Video Time Stamp - 02:35:23

<sup>9</sup> Video Time Stamp - 02:37:34

## **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:<sup>10</sup>

*[Begin Report]*

- Terry Conner Rink January Revenue Report. (**Attached**)
- Parks & Recreation January Revenue Report. (**Attached**)
- Board of Finance Parks & Recreation Budget presentations scheduled for April 4, 2024. Board of Representatives TBA.
- Parks Department staff currently tag teaming all park properties and winter snow removal per occurrences.
- Working with Administration and applying for an ORLP grant for Cummings Park.
- Working with Public Safety Director and Traffic Department for Park Public Safety Cameras at Park locations.
- Working with Administration to enhance our park enforcement program.
- **Capital projects update.**
  1. **Barrett Park Playground:** Site has been demolished by Parks staff and contractor is now working on drainage. Area is Safed off with fencing. **Target completion date is Memorial Day.**
  2. **Cummings Park East/West Promenades:** New sidewalks, shade canopies, renovation of light poles with LED heads and landscaping. Also including interior renovations to pavilion bathrooms, lifeguard room and storage and utility room upgrades. Construction area is Safed off with fencing. **Target date TBD.**
  3. **Bocce Courts Upgrade:** Final design documents, bidding assistance & construction administration in place. Also, Environmental investigation services are in place. **Target date TBD.**
  4. **Lione Park/West Beach Turf Replacements:** In design and bid process will start soon. Funding is in place for Lione Park and looking to get West Beach budgeted this budget season for July 1, 2024. **Target Date TBD.**
  5. **Kosciusko Park Light Upgrades:** Received proposal from Graybar Industries for the decorative park light upgrades that will address the removal of non-working solar panel lights and address the safety hazard from the incoming boaters in the marina. **Target Date is Memorial Day/TBD.**
  6. **Cove Island Marina Dredging Project:** Dredging project will begin October 15, 2024. One Hundred Ten (110) slips will be available for Stamford residents only on a first come first served basis. Other slip renewals will be pushed to Czescik Marina for the boating season.
  7. **Park Sidewalk and Driveway Upgrades:** Citywide working with Administration and Highway Department to address Citywide parks at the following parks: Cove Island Park Loops, Drotar Park. Heroy Park, Susan Nable @ Chestnut Hill Park and Fort Stamford.
  8. **Courtland Avenue Dog Park Project:** Met with architect and Operations to go over concept plan and design. This will be brought forward to the Commission in the coming months.
- Sanctioned Leagues meeting was held on Thursday, February 8, 2024 for the 2024 season.
- Star Center after school programs and winter programming are in session.
- Summer Camp registration was announced via recreation website on February 10, 2024 and will open on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. First come first served basis for camp registrations.

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<sup>10</sup> Video Time Stamp - 03:00:40

- Finalized 2024 Parks & Recreation camp sites.
- **Citywide Playground Repairs:** 2024 Working off playground annual inspection reports that have been developed and will work to put in requisitions for parts and install by certified playground installer. Receiving part upgrades from manufacturers
- **Recreation updates:** Pickleball at Still meadow School, volleyball at Northeast School, Adult Winter Basketball League at AITE, Aquatics at West Hill High School, all sport programs including Eagles' soccer at Lathan Wider are all in progress.
- Final Recreation Ski Trip #4 is this Friday, February 23, 2024. All four scheduled ski trips have been sold out.
- Terry Conner Rink High School season and youth leagues are in session; very busy. FCIAC and State playoffs to begin soon.
- Finalizing Firework contract with Grucci for the 2024 show.
- Finalizing Beach Concession Contract for 2024. Going forward we will be issuing an RFP Bid to include other park properties and adding possible services to the bid.

[End Report]

### **DISCUSSION:**<sup>11</sup>

The Commission discussed each item listed below.

- Angela Adetola, Commissioner: Update on Transition Committee.
- Peter Gould:
  - Environmental Impacts of Balloons & Confetti: Review proposed language.
  - Discuss and review proposed amendment to aircraft for State compliance.
  - Review updated rules on alcohol per Board of Representatives changes.
- Update on political signs in and around City parks.
- 2023-2025 Fiscal Goals Review.
- Paul Newman, Commissioner: Parks not zoned as parks.
- Paul Newman & Mike Tedder, Commissioners: Update on Policy & Procedure revisions.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Ms. Hollas adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Lesley Capp  
 Assistant to the Parks & Recreation Commission  
 February 29, 2024

*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](http://citvofstamford.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_is=9)

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<sup>11</sup> Video Time Stamp - 03:18:50