

From: Jim Lash <lash.jim@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 11:07 AM

To: Newman, Paul <PNewman@StamfordCT.gov>; Tedder, Michael <MTedder@StamfordCT.gov>; Hollas, Melanie <MHollas@StamfordCT.gov>; Adetola, Angela <AAdetola@StamfordCT.gov>

Cc: Mr. Jim Serafino <jserafino@stamfordbaberuth.com>; unityrac@aol.com; frankiespoto@gmail.com; Murray, Kevin <KMurray@StamfordCT.gov>; Quiñones, Matt <MQuinones@StamfordCT.gov>; Capp, Lesley <LCapp@StamfordCT.gov>

Subject: Recent Stamford Bombers Sanctioning

TO: Stamford Parks & Rec Commission

FROM: Stamford LL (Jim Lash, President)

DATE: 4/1/2024

RE: Recent Stamford Bombers Sanctioning

Parks & Rec Commission,

After further review of the last recorded monthly commission meeting on 2/24/24 and subsequent commission special meeting on 3/6/2024 by several Stamford Little League board members, a request has been made to me for a follow up communication be sent on behalf of the league.

During the regularly scheduled February meeting, a request was made several times by Commissioner Newman for a follow up special meeting to be set in order to get accurate feedback and concerns from already sanctioned league presidents regarding sanctioning another outside baseball league. In addition, there were several mentions of open dialogue to be had between the presidents and the commission so the group could have the details needed to make an educated decision. At some point, the special meeting agenda was changed to a public hearing giving each speaker a 3-minute window to say their piece. This was not a dialogue of any sort and it was clear the commission had already made their decision before the meeting took place.

Furthermore, there was evidence provided by Commissioner Newman that should have been looked in to before voting on a special motion. In particular, Mr. Griffin Handley on his own accord and not representing any sanctioned league provided public evidence that what the Stamford Bombers had committed to on your February meeting was not entirely true. Again, this claim was ignored, and a motion was presented and passed.

While Stamford LL has zero issue with any league requesting to be sanctioned by the Commission - we do however have an issue when we are held to a certain city standard that should be followed by ALL organizations regardless of sport. To our knowledge, the Stamford Bombers do not have a house league (as we are required to have), and the Stamford Bombers are not solely based out of Stamford as public profiles from players are from outside the city of Stamford. Again, the goal of this communication is not to request to deny sanctioning - it is simply to point out that the standards should be followed by all leagues.

We kindly request acknowledgment of this communication via email as evidence it was distributed and read by the commission.

Regards,

Jim Lash
President | Stamford LL

From: Hollas, Melanie <MHollas@StamfordCT.gov>

Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 7:21 AM

To: Jim Lash <lash.jim@gmail.com>; Newman, Paul <PNewman@StamfordCT.gov>; Tedder, Michael <MTedder@StamfordCT.gov>; Adetola, Angela <AAdetola@StamfordCT.gov>

Cc: Mr. Jim Serafino <jserafino@stamfordbaberuth.com>; unityrac@aol.com; frankiespoto@gmail.com; Murray, Kevin <KMurray@StamfordCT.gov>; Quiñones, Matt <MQuinones@StamfordCT.gov>; Capp, Lesley <LCapp@StamfordCT.gov>

Subject: Re: Recent Stamford Bombers Sanctioning

Jim,

You are correct that Commissioner Newman requested to hear from the sanctioned baseball leagues at a Special Meeting. However, after the Regular Meeting the Parks & Recreation Commission reviewed the Field Policy Manual and determined there was nothing in the manual that states the Commission must review a proposed sanctioning with other sanctioned leagues.

In addition, the Parks & Recreation Department confirmed with the Commission that there would be field space available for the Stamford Bombers. Therefore, it was determined that each baseball league could speak for 3 minutes during the public participation session that is available every month before each meeting.

As Commissioner Tedder and I both stated during the Special Meeting, the Commission determines sanctioning by the information provided in the applications submitted to us. If the Stamford Bombers, or any other sanctioned sports league, knowingly violates the sanctioning policy, the sanctioning privilege will be revoked.

There seems to be some confusion on the house league and how it is written in the Field Policy Manual. The house league is not required per the Field Policy Manual. It is written as a suggestion. There is nothing that states a league MUST or is REQUIRED to provide a house league, only that a league SHOULD provide a house league. Again, the Stamford Bombers' application fulfilled the City of Stamford's Parks & Recreation Commission Policy as it is currently written.

As you have pointed out there are inconsistencies within the Field Policy Manual that will be reviewed and addressed by the Commission.

Best,

Melanie Hollas
Stamford Parks & Recreation Commission Chair