

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021
REGULAR MEETING
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
6:30 P.M.**

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86466535901>

Meeting ID: 864 6653 5901

Passcode: 437808

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/86466535901>
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, March 17, 2021 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Althea Brown, Interim Chair
Paul Newman
Michael Tedder (Left at 7:30 p.m.)

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

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Ms. Brown introduced the first item on the agenda.

➤ Review of the February 17, 2021 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes.

Mr. Newman made a motion to approve the February 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

Ms. Brown introduced Mr. Kapasouris.

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **Scalzi Park Rink** - Alexandros Kapasouris, Stamford Youth Hockey Association (SYHA), House Coordinator:

- Proposal for signage to be posted at the Scalzi Park Rink.¹ (*Proposed Signage Submitted*)

Mr. Kapasouris made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

After some discussion, it was decided to **TABLE** this issue so suggestions from the Commission could be incorporated into the language on the sign and brought back to the April 21, 2021.

- Proposal to collect donations from SYHA parents who would like to help fund the installation of dasher boards at the Scalzi Park Rink.² (*Photograph of Dasher Boards Submitted*)

Mr. Kapasouris made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

After some discussion, Mr. Tedder made a motion to accept the donation of the dasher board and to accept donation of funds from the SYHA parents for completion with the condition Mr. Kapasouris work with Mr. Murray on obtaining any necessary building permits for installation and for Mr. Kapasouris return to a future meeting with an update on the project.

Ms. Brown introduced Mr. Blessing and Ms. McKenna.

➤ **West Beach Boat Ramp**³ - Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief and Erin McKenna, Associate Planner - Land Use Bureau: The existing boat ramp is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. As part of the replacement work, dredging, parking lot improvements, timber jetty repair and sand back passing will be performed. The improvements will allow for larger boats (35 ft.) to access the water. Construction is expected to start Fall/Winter 2021 and be completed by Summer 2022.

Mr. Blessing introduced Ms. McKenna who made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

The Commission asked for an update at a future meeting once the project gets started.

¹ Video Time Stamp - 00:04:02

² Video Time Stamp - 00:17:00

³ Video Time Stamp - 00:28:35

OLD BUSINESS:

- **John Boccuzzi Park**⁴ - Erin McKenna, Associate Planner, Land Use Bureau: will provide a construction update specifically, the grading of the site will necessitate the elimination of the basketball court, creating a temporary basketball court on one of the two tennis courts. In addition will go over the draft construction schedule.

Ms. McKenna provided an update on the SoundWaters Harbor Center and answered questions from the Commission.

- **Scalzi Park Riverwalk**⁵ - Kevin Murray, Operations Manager Parks & Facilities: Update and clean-up plans.

Mr. Murray provided an update on the clean-up for the Riverwalk.

- **Earth Day Tree Project**⁶ - Becky Collins, Pollinator Pathway Stamford: Launching Earth Day Sustainable CT Tree Project for planting native trees in Scalzi Park, Cove Island Park, Lione Park, and Chestnut Hill Park.

Ms. Collins made a presentation providing details of the project and answered questions from the Commission.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

No Special Events.

TOURNAMENTS:

No Tournaments.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No Correspondence.

STAFF REPORTS:

- Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation: Recreation Update.

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Ms. Albano:⁷

[Begin Report]

- No new Positive COVID cases staff wise.
- Budget hearing with the Board of Finance is now April 7, 2021 for Recreation and Terry Conner's Rink. The Board of Representatives hearing is March 31, 2021. One page information sheet highlighting any significant budget issues and Capital funding has been presented to both Boards before the hearings.
- Mayor's budget presentation/questions. (See previously sent reports on the Star Center and Recreation COVID Activity along with the budget PowerPoint presentation per the Mayor's office. TCR report to follow).
- Recreation and Rink Staff continue to listen in on new City ERP Financial software presentations by vendors. This will be a full Enterprise Resource Planning system to replace current H T E software.

⁴ Video Time Stamp - 00:38:00

⁵ Video Time Stamp - 00:45:40

⁶ Video Time Stamp - 00:48:40

⁷ Video Time Stamp - 00:55:12

RECREATION:

- Camp registration has begun. Walk-in by scheduled appointment and online.
- We were able to move the Westover Camp to Hart School due to continued construction at Westover. Thankfully in a close by site.
- New State Guidance per link . . .
<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DPH/Communications/Covid19/DPH-Youth-and-Amateur-Sports-COVID19 UPDATED Mar 2021 v52.pdf>
- Adult volleyball leagues have now been allowed to commence indoors this month at Lathon Wider gym.
- Sport activities ongoing at Lathon Wider with new update.
- Winter Star Center programs pre and after school are going well, and will wind down soon to give way to the new spring programs.
- Still planning spring routine seasonal preparation and potential adjustments as virus dictates.
- No decision yet on the reopening of the Heroy Park pool due to COVID. Offering a camp there this year with a notation to registrants that if you register for this camp, the pool may not be available.
- Waiting on Administrations decision to open the Lione Park parking lot. Permitted play begins early April.
- Very busy with permit applications for fields, tournaments and events.
- Softball and Kickball spring adult leagues are in preparation mode.
- Recruiting, hiring and interviewing camp and lifeguard staff.
- The Cove Island Park Tram is yet to be determined if it will run this spring and summer.
- Ad Banner sales approved by the Board of Representatives will begin advertising for sale of such through our leagues and website marketing, etc.
- Revenues down in Recreation due to COVID (See report).
- Youth Sports Consultant - I need to seek Administration input on the scope design for the RFP.

TERRY CONNER'S RINK:

- New Ammonia & Ventilation system still on for install ASAP. Winning bid is from Artic Air. Once bonds are submitted, they will begin work soon. Bid came in at \$243,000 and within budget.
- Ice stays up with Artic's first phase of work and will come down again for the second phase, which is the control panel and compressors in May or June. The goal is to complete this work before summer skate camps begin.
- All winter programming continues including youth hockey games/practices, skating lessons, synchro and ice rentals.
- Rink still hosting the CHC testing site that is under contract with the City and taking place in the lot outside the rink.
- I submitted the PAR for the 3rd Operator vacancy to be held until the new fiscal year July 1, 2021. Mayor has agreed.
- City has hired a Rink Consultant to review all rink operations. At this writing, I have not heard from him, but I assume he is working on it.
- A special TCR report has been developed for the budget hearings.
- Future goals are online registration, a live food vendor, and a potential trade-in with minimal cost of our Olympia ice re-surfacer that has given us trouble.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Both Recreation and Rink continue working with our Marketing person on email and social media marketing.

[End Report]

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

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Mr. Murray:⁸

[Begin Report]

- Cove Island Park - Woods/Euclid Avenue clean-up March 17 to March 19, 2021: Discuss plans with staff.
- Budget Presentations - Board of Finance - March 29, 2021 & Board of Representatives - March 31, 2021: Attached presentation and Summary Operating and Capital.
- Opening Day for all City athletic fields on Saturday April 10, 2021.
- Early Bird Softball Tournament at Cummings Softball fields 1 & 2: Saturday, March 13 & Sunday, March 14 and Saturday, March 20 & Sunday, March 21, 2021
- Seasonal Employee Phase 1 Hiring of (7) hires to start Monday, March 15, 2021.
- Seasonal Employee Phase 2 Hiring of (7) hires to start Monday, April 15, 2021.
- Parks total Seasonal Employees will be 30 to 35 for the 2021 spring/fall season from March 15 to October 31, 2021.
- Dock masters will start April 1, 2021 as the City marinas will be open April 10, 2021.
- Landscape Specialist/Athletic Field Supervisor: Applications due March 12, 2021 and will await certified list to have scheduled interviews. Goal is to hire for May 1, 2021.
- Parks Maintenance worker applications due March 19, 2021. This will populate certified hiring list as we expect movement within the next year with retirements, etc.
- Cove Island Bird Sanctuary annual grass cutting performed on Monday, March 8, 2021 by Parks staff.
- Kosciusko Park annual meadow cutting performed and completed on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 by Parks staff.
- Site visits with Cove Girls Softball League Directors on Friday, March 12, 2021 for Troy 1 and 2.
- Site visits scheduled for Stamford American League on Friday, March 19, 2021 for Vine Road, Kane and Northrop.
- Meeting US Coast Guard Auxiliary Group next Thursday, March 18, 2021 for possible startup to program use this summer for boat safety at Cummings Marina Boat House.
- Cove Island Park marina dredging site meeting with Engineering and coastal engineers to be held next Wednesday, March 17, 2021. Major safety hazard.
- Awarded Scofieldtown Park Maintenance Contract to Diamond Landscaping. Starts this month.
- 2021 Beach/Parking Management Kick-off meeting scheduled for Monday, March 29, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. with all Operations and staff.
- Scalzi Park Ropes Course: Insurance will be covering expense of reinstalling the ropes course. Met with Experiential Systems on March 1, 2021 with staff. Estimated cost is \$125,000. Goal is to have units up for July 1, 2021 for programming.
- Scalzi Park River Walk maintenance schedule: To discuss.

⁸ Video Time Stamp - 01:01:10

➤ Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Action Report - March 9, 2021. (*Posted on Website*)

[End Report]

DISCUSSION:

As Mr. Tedder left the meeting at 7:30 p.m., these items will be **TABLED** until the April 21, 2021 meeting.

➤ **Parks & Recreation Commission Policy & Procedures**

- Status
- Addition: Parks & Recreation Internal Committee
Permit Parking
Stamford Friends Agreement and Volunteer Application

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Ms. Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lesley Capp
March 22, 2021

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