

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021
REGULAR MEETING
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
6:30 P.M.**

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85190655269>

Meeting ID: 851 9065 5269
Passcode: 022025

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/85190655269>
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, May 19, 2021 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Althea Brown, Interim Chair
Melanie Hollas
Michael Tedder

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

Absent: Paul Newman, Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Brown called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and introduced the Commission Members and staff present.

Ms. Brown introduced the first item on the agenda.

- Review of the April 21, 2021 Meeting Draft Minutes.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve the April 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Unanimously Approved

NEW BUSINESS:

No New Business.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Veterans Memorial Park** - Colleen M. Harkey, CFRE, Executive Director, Stamford Veterans Park Partnership: Update on Veterans Parks and QR codes on veteran's monuments.

This item was ***TABLED*** until the June 16, 2021 meeting as Ms. Harkey was unable to attend.

- **Cove Park** - Kevin Murray, Operations Manager Parks & Facilities: Discussion about Arbor Day, which is celebrated on the last Friday in April in the United States. It is marked by the planting of trees and emphasizes caring for them as a way to sustainably protect our planet's natural resources.¹

Mr. Murray provided details on the Arbor Day activities in Cove Island Park.

- **Stamford Sanction Baseball Team** - Paul Newman, Parks & Recreation Commission Member: Status of 50/70 designated baseball field.

This item was ***TABLED*** to the June 16, 2021 meeting as Mr. Newman was unable to attend.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Julie Blumenstock - ***Purple Deer Music Piano Recital - Sunday, June 6, 2021 (Rain date - Sunday, June 13, 2021) from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m.*** in Latham Park - Set-up starts at 12:00 p.m. and Clean-up ends at 3:30 p.m. - 20-30 Adults and 20 Children.²

Ms. Blumenstock made a presentation and answered questions.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve the Special Events application for the Purple Deer Music Piano Recital on Sunday, June 6, 2021 in Latham Park.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Unanimously Approved

TOURNAMENTS:

No Tournaments.

¹ Video Time Stamp - 00:02:50

² Video Time Stamp - 00:04:48

CORRESPONDENCE:

No Correspondence.

STAFF REPORTS:

➤ Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation: Recreation Update.

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Ms. Albano:³

[Begin Report]

RECREATION

- Busy in Summer preparation - hiring/physicals/drug screens, Lifeguards, Camp, Tram staff, permits, Adult leagues, Contract Vendors.
- Met with Board of Education about their FREE summer recreation and educational program (Federal COVID \$). They are predicting the refunds will be minimal from our already paid and registered campers. Hoping for that, and we are providing refunds only if the summer school education program is mandated by the Board of Education or parent has a mandate letter.
- Meeting set up with Kevin and Capt. Lombardo to discuss the 8:00 p.m. quiet zone and the 90-team beach volleyball leagues' parking needs. You are not available; let me know if you want to meet separately.
- Summer camp bus bids due Thursday.
- Met with our software vendor on a demonstration for a payment plan module and this week we meet regarding an invoicing module. Both are needed.
- Kids to Parks Day on Saturday went great. Stamford Police Dept. was a big hit.
- Lifeguards Orientation Wednesday night (May 19, 2021) and next Thursday night (May 27, 2021).
- Need to finalize a security guard for the weekend use of the Heroy pool. State guidance is loosening especially on masks. Not on pool capacity limits yet, but may or may not become less of a problem by mid-June pool opening?
- Sent Mark McGrath and Michael Pollard the baseball consultant scope of services new draft. As soon as I get feedback from both of them on content and on finding consultants to send bid to, I will forward you a copy and move on to Purchasing.
- Banner ads at softball fields. Legal gave me a good definition of what we can or cannot approve business-wise. I will approve them and if anything is questionable, I will bring to Legal.
- Met with Legal today to define the definition of a "charity" tournament. Does non-profit status always equal a charity and what about an individual who hosts a personal fundraiser for a cause?
- Also for near future, we need to begin the discussion on a policy for non-profit park and facility rentals. No current price exists and for youth programs we have no fees set and we do not charge any sanctioned youth sports organizations.

TERRY CONNER'S RINK

- New egress door bids in per Nancy Ormsby, \$24K higher than expectation of around \$15K.
- Fire alarm system walk-thru with vendors last Thursday, May 13, 2021. Bids due May 27, 2021.
- Laura Burwick helped move permits along in Building for the A&V system, control panel and compressors. Hopefully work starts soon. Important to finish by end of June so camps/revenue is not delayed.

³ Video Time Stamp - 00:15:38

- Meeting with Ken and Laura this week on winter ice schedule. Ken has been approached by some new groups wanting ice time that have good size revenue numbers while not diverting other groups much.
- Capex construction meeting at 10:00 a.m. Monday, May 24, 2021. New electrical panel NEMA4x will now take 2½ to 3 months. Meeting Tuesday, May 18, 2021 to discuss, will update at meeting Wednesday night. Very big problem per my third comment above.
- Online registration will be reviewed soon.
- PAR in and waiting on post of Rink Operator vacancy. Hire post July 1, 2021.
- All indoor COVID precautions in place.

Will be ramping up marketing and ad sales soon now that COVID is on the down swing.

[End Report]

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

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Mr. Murray:⁴

[Begin Report]

- Kosciuszko Park driveway upgrades to be done by BLT which includes main strip to be paved, adjoining parking to be regraded, added material and new curb stops. **Estimated to be \$75,000.00.**
- Shock Electric started to repair light tower at Cubeta Stadium and also replace 25 lights to be completed by May 21, 2021.
- Parks Department has been assisting with all operations of vaccination sites within our parks. Sites being used are Courtland Avenue Park, John Boccuzzi @ Southfield, Jackie Robinson Park, Lione Park, Cummings Park and Cove Island Park.
- CPS Park Attendants: Attendants will start Memorial Day weekend for 26 weeks within five (5) parks/beaches at Cove Island, Cummings, Scalzi and Lione Parks and West Beach - Monday thru Friday.
- Veterans Park: “No Skate Boarding” signs and doggie poop bag dispensers have been installed to assist with the operations and issues that have occurred.
- Landscape Specialist position to be announced Friday, May 21, 2021.
- Barret Park Tree Project, which our Forestry Department and contracted crew (Asplundh Tree), removed 15 dead ash trees and stumps to be grinded out. In addition, we will be planting 18 trees.
- Barrett Park Drainage Project adjacent to the playground to be upgraded to assist with the water/drainage issue to be resolved as the playground is not useable after a significant rain storm.
- Cove Island Tree Planting: Saturday May 15, 2021 ten (10) trees planted by our Forestry Department and were assisted by the Girl Scouts.
- City Athletics are in full use as we have had many highlighted intercity rival games at Cove Island Troy Field and also Cubeta Stadium and will be hosting upcoming FCIAC Baseball Semi and Finals.
- Cove Island East Beach pavilion ADA bathrooms (men’s/woman’s) set to open Memorial Day weekend. Looks fantastic.
- Phase 4 park hiring of seasonal employees are in place. We have 28 employees selected and working within our parks daily.
- “Quiet Zone” signs are in place and being observed by Park Police and Stamford Police Dept.
- Citywide bathrooms are now open for the season.

⁴ Video Time Stamp - 00:28:15

- Citywide playgrounds are open and “Safe Guideline” signs are posted at each site. Parks staff will be disinfecting all playground amenities every Friday.
- Scalzi Ropes Course has been approved by both Boards and replacement will begin shortly in hopes will be up and running by July for youth programs.
- Twenty new BBQ grills have been purchased and installed throughout City parks
- Twelve new picnic tables have been purchased and will be delivered to park sites Citywide

[End Report]

➤ Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Action Report - May 12, 2021. (Posted on P&RC Website)

DISCUSSION:

No Discussion Items.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Ms. Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lesley Capp
May 24, 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