

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021
REGULAR MEETING
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
6:30 P.M.**

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87363865079>

Meeting ID: 873 6386 5079
Passcode: 696176

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/87363865079>**
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, July 21, 2021 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Paul Newman, Interim Chair
Melanie Hollas
Michael Tedder

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

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Mr. Newman introduced the first item on the agenda.

➤ Review of the June 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes¹.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve the June 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Unanimously Approved

¹ Video Time Stamp - 00:00:37

➤ Review of the June 23, 2021 Special Meeting Draft Minutes.²

Ms. Hollas made a motion to approve the June 23, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:³

➤ Interim Chair

After a brief discussion, Mr. Tedder nominated Mr. Newman as Interim Chair.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to elect Mr. Newman as the Interim Chair until such time when elections can take place for a permanent Chair.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Unanimously Approved

NEW BUSINESS:

No New Business.

OLD BUSINESS:

➤ Update on 50/70 Baseball.⁴

Mr. Newman gave a report on Babe Ruth and the Little Leagues trying to meet to work out field schedules and an update on the grant funding for Northrup Field.

Mr. Tedder provided some insight from a conversation he had with a long-time Little League manager/ coach and former umpire stating that baseball participation is very low and the Commission should try to support appropriate programs to increase participation.

➤ **Cubeta Stadium:** Marc Fraioli - Senior City League (formerly Westchester Rockland Wood Bat League). Proposal for men's baseball 19 and over. Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation, will provide an update.⁵

Ms. Albano provided an update and recommended extending sanctioning through next year. Once we have the Consultant's Report, a strategic plan can then be put together to schedule field time for Mr. Fraioli's organization.

Mr. Newman stated Mr. Fraioli should submit a request for sanctioning and a roster for next year so discussions could take place over the winter.

Mr. Tedder suggested that some dates should be provided to give the organization a chance to play and provide exposure to Stamford residents to increase participation.

Mr. Newman allowed Mr. Fraioli to speak and he expanded on the suggestion by Mr. Tedder.

After considerable discussion, it was decided that Mr. Fraioli will submit a request for sanctioning and possibly attend the February meeting for further discussion.

TOURNAMENTS:

No Tournaments.

² Video Time Stamp - 00:02:03

³ Video Time Stamp - 00:02:50

⁴ Video Time Stamp - 00:04:50

⁵ Video Time Stamp - 00:08:04

CORRESPONDENCE:

No Correspondence.

STAFF REPORTS:

➤ Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation: Recreation Update.⁶

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

[Begin Report]

RECREATION:

- Camps busy: One (1) strep case, one (1) head stitches, one (1) broken arm, two (2) DCF child abuse cases and one (1) expulsion so far. Otherwise, majority of them are running well. Regular numbers still down at 879; below our typical 1,000+.
- Beaches busy. Great life guard team this year. Lead Supervisors and great work by Meg.
- Weather has been a challenge for camp, leagues and beaches.
- Adult Leagues all well except for rain.
- Tram all good up until last week. Fuel pump blew but back in operation. Good staff.
- Working on fall programs and brochure; sent to the printer.
- Banner ad “Your Ad Here” up at C1 softball field to entice advertisers and build revenue.
- PAR in for Bobby Pentino, Recreation Supervisor replacement. Bobby left for a similar position in Norwalk.
- Baseball consultant in process. Good leads on consultant organizations. Will request from each a resume and set up final selection committee. Hope to get a selection made by end of August/early September.
- New payroll system and Kronos issues. Some seasonal camp staff not paid since late June. Tough time to start a new system with so many seasonal staff hired, but they did. We cannot keep telling these folks they do not have a paycheck. We finally have it rectified.
- Buses and Driving Schools at Cove Island Park lot an issue. Emailed Director McGrath.

TERRY CONNER’S RINK:

- All Capex on track. Current A&V system shut down to come back mid-August.
- Roof leaks have occurred, but subsequently patched again. New roof needs to be factored into the overall financial model soon. Capex budget begins in fall.
- Camps light in numbers due to Board of Education free summer program, but 40 per session average and going well. Fifty (50)+ in next few weeks.
- Olympia brand ice re-surfacer is down and has been for some time now. First year model bought new in 2013 for \$190,000. Has always been a lemon; lots of repairs. Working now on our options with Olympia Corp. Potential fix here. Either truck it back up to Canada, or take our lumps \$ wise and trade it in for a new machine.
- Rink Operator position posted and certification list being prepared by Human Resources. We were waiting on the new fiscal year to fill it. Will be a welcome much needed hire for Ken.
- Same seasonal pay issues here too, mostly wrong rates. Getting fixed.
- Going to give the concession stand another shot with an RFP for a live food vendor. Will adjust specifications to only prime-time hours for prime season of September to March only. Have also reached out to all local delicatessens and restaurants directly sending them the RFP.

[End Report]

⁶ Video Time Stamp - 00:29:45

As Lyda Ruijter, Town Clerk, City of Stamford, joined the meeting, Mr. Newman asked to take an item out of order and to bring *Special Events* forward. All Commissioners agreed.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Lyda Ruijter, Town Clerk, City of Stamford & Chief Vincent Mann, Ramapough Tribe - Ramapough Culture & Land Foundation, Inc. - ***PowWow - Celebration of the Culture of the Original People of Stamford - Saturday, October 9 through Sunday, October 10, 2021 beginning Saturday, October 9, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. and ending on Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.*** at Cummings Park - Set-up starts on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 and Clean-up ends on Monday, October 11, 2021. (Set-up and Clean-up times TBD) - 1,000 Total Attendees (Estimated).⁷

Ms. Ruijter and Chief Mann made a presentation to the Commission explaining how the idea for the PowWow came about from discovering and preserving the original deed for the City of Stamford which confirms the presence of the Lenape Indians in Stamford. Ms. Ruijter explained that this could possibly be an annual event that could also be included in the curriculum of the education system.

After considerable discussion, the Commission decided to **TABLE** this item to the August 18, 2021 meeting so discussions with other City agencies (i.e. Police, Fire Marshal, Director of Operations) could take place and perform further due diligence.

Mr. Newman resumed the Staff Reports and introduced Mr. Murray.

- Kevin Murray, Operations Manager - Parks & Facilities: Parks Update.⁸

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

[Begin Report]

- New Fiscal Year 2021-2022: Requisitions are entered for all programs for purchase orders.
- Upcoming Capital Project submission projections FY 2022-2023.
- Park Attendants Update: Have received many compliments with all sites and attendants that are assigned during Friday through Sunday tours. Adding golf carts to assist with convenience/access to patrol Cove Island Park.
- Hurricane preparation tabletop exercise with City EOC/Operations teams.
- Vaccine sites are still active in multiple parks and have been redirecting on a revolving schedule. Park employees are coordinating setup and breakdowns for daily activity.
- Cove Island Park Red Brick Building receiving a facelift and exterior paint job.
- West Beach Pavilion: New roof and canopy repair upgrade is currently being done.
- Barret Park Drainage Project near playground after heavy rain held up great and drained properly.
- Courtland Avenue Park (Dog Park) bathroom facility received exterior upgrade where we replaced rotted wood and painted.
- Lione Park Sporting Lights: Replaced 25 Lights.
- Veterans Park Construction meeting held on July 8, 2021. Working off punch list and details regarding water scheduling and plantings.
- Parks/beaches are busy on nice days as is the norm.
- Baseball/softball and all other outdoor sports are full bloom schedules 7 days a week.
- Scalzi Rope Course: Insurance will be covering the expense of reinstalling the rope course, which has been authorized and hope work will begin at the end of summer.

⁷ Video Time Stamp - 00:44:50

⁸ Video Time Stamp - 01:17:30

- Away with Geese Test Pilot to begin in August within Cummings Beach/Park. Working with ordering units and will install and keep you posted.

[End Report]

➤ Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Action Report - July 13, 2021.

Following is the Action Report generated from the July 13, 2021 Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Meeting showing the list of events approved:

[Begin Report]

In Attendance: Mark McGrath
Kevin Murray
Laurie Albano
Gloria Montoya-Greenfield

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Mark McGrath, Chair.

Consent Agenda

Eve Anandam - Wedding Ceremony - Fort Stamford/Goodbody Garden - Friday, August 20, 2021 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 4:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 7:00 p.m. - 5 to 20 People Maximum will be Attending.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano Unanimously Approved

Davette Stephens - J & T Stephens Memorial Fund - Men's Softball Tournament - Cummings Park, Fields 1 & 2 - Saturday, July 31, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano Unanimously Approved

Special Events

Lyda Ruijter - Music at Czescik /Shippan Point Association - Music in the Park - Czescik Marina at the Gazebo - Sunday, September 19, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 12:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. - 150 Adults and 30 Children.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray Unanimously Approved

Lyda Ruijter - Ramapough Culture & Land Foundation, Inc. - PowWow - Celebration of the Culture of the Original People of Stamford - Cummings Park Pavilion - Saturday, October 9, 2021 and Sunday, October 10, 2021 - Event Starts Saturday, October 9, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. and Event Ends Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts Wednesday, October 6, 2021 and Clean-Up Ends Monday, October 11, 2021 - 1,000 People will be Attending.

First time event; should be forwarded to the Parks & Recreation Commission for approval.

Mark McGrath made a motion to forward request to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Seconded by Laurie Albano Unanimously Approved

Scott & Karlie Conn - Run For Austin (Memorial Run for Deceased Son) - Run For Austin 5K Run/Walk - Cove Island Park - Saturday, November 20, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - 35 Adults and 15 Children.

➤ Bathrooms will not be open.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Lee Bowbeer - Troop 15 Stamford - Explore Stamford Scouting - Cove Island Park - Saturday, October 2, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. - 25 Adults and 75 Children.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Sonya D. Van Norden - The Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut - Community Family Giveback Day - Lathon Wider - Saturday, August 21, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 11:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. - 100 Adults and 200 Children.

➤ Building Open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Any use of the building after 3:00 p.m. will require overtime.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

No New Business.

Tournaments

Olivia Bueno - Suburbia Roller Derby - Hockey Rink at Scalzi Park - (Derby League seeking to use the space for practice) - Wednesdays during July and August from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Tim Curry - 203 Volleyball - Youth Volleyball Tournament U12 - U18 Boys & Girls - Kosciuszko Park (2nd Choice Scalzi Park) - Friday, July 30, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

➤ Park available from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. only.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Luisa Duque - Six Love Tennis - Cove Island Park - Wednesday, July 21 to Wednesday, August 25, 2021 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

➤ Cost at Youth Tournament Rate of \$50 a week.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Robert Kucharski - J.M. Wright Technical H.S. Athletics - Wright Tech Soccer Team Daily Practice and Games - Scalzi 1 & 2 (2nd Choice Cubeta) - Wednesday, August 25, 2021 to Wednesday, November 24, 2021 from 2:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kevin Murray

Seconded by Mark McGrath

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

[End Report]

DISCUSSION:

- Request for a tree to be planted and plaque for Doug Brown at Terry Conner's Rink. Possible inclusion on August 18, 2021 agenda.⁹

Ms. Albano stated she had a discussion with Mr. Brown's widow, Leslie Sawyer Brown, and Mrs. Brown had decided she would like to purchase a park bench in honor of her late husband instead of the tree and plaque.

- **Melanie Hollas, Parks & Recreation Commissioner & Stamford Pollinator Pathways:** Report on a project working with Kevin Murray, Operations manager, Parks & Facilities and Park Volunteers/Friends of Parks groups to maintain specific areas in the various City parks and how to prevent accidental clearing of those volunteer areas by City employees. Ms. Hollas will also provide information on a possible signage and mapping project to identify the areas maintained by the various volunteer groups in each park.¹⁰

Ms. Hollas provided a report on how she is trying to coordinate the various parks' volunteer groups with City employees on taking care of specific areas of each park in the City.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Newman adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lesley Capp
August 2, 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

⁹ Video Time Stamp - 01:33:47

¹⁰ Video Time Stamp - 01:36:15