

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Minutes of the March 19, 2008 Regular Meeting**

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on March 19, 2008, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

**In attendance were:**

Commissioners:            Thomas Lombardo  
                                     Mark Smith  
                                     Beth Cooper  
                                     Timothy McGuinness

Staff:                            Laurie Albano  
                                     Joseph Barbarotta  
                                     Mickey Docimo

Guests:                        Lynne Colatrella – D.S.S.D.  
  
                                     Dante Terenzio – Bench Donation  
  
                                     Ellen O'Neill – Keep Stamford Beautiful  
  
                                     Michael Kraynak – Health Department  
  
                                     John Bysiewicz – Lymphoma Research Foundation  
  
                                     Tim Curry – Greater Stamford Tennis Association  
  
                                     Jim Serafino – Stamford Babe Ruth  
  
                                     Jean Rinaldi – Homer Wise Statue  
  
                                     James Vlasto – Homer Wise Statue  
  
                                     Nick Corbo – Sharkey Laurenno Tournament  
  
                                     Judd Ball – Sharkey Laurenno Tournament  
  
                                     Rick Brady – Sharkey Laurenno Tournament  
  
                                     Steve Daniels – Sharkey Laurenno Tournament

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Thomas Lombardo.

Commissioner Cooper arrived at 7:35 p.m.

Commissioner Martino did not attend the meeting.

## **Review of the October 17, 2007 Minutes.**

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Unanimously Approved

## **Review of the November 14, 2007 Minutes.**

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Lombardo

Yes: Mr. Lombardo  
Mr. Smith

Mr. McGuinness abstained; he was not present at the November 14, 2007 meeting.

## **Review of the January 16, 2008 Minutes.**

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

Unanimously Approved

## **Review of the February 28, 2008 Minutes.**

Tabled to the April 2008 Commission Meeting.

## **Staff Reports**

### **Mickey Docimo – Parks and Recreation/Operations**

- Mr. Docimo stated that the Parks Department is under funded. All the program expansions, except for one were cut from the budget.
- The Skate Park will open this coming weekend. Ann Marie Mones, Risk Manager, informed Mr. Docimo that she will not be able to get insurance without helmet enforcement at the Skate Park and that the park cannot be open during the winter months.

- Mr. Docimo stated that he put in for a program expansion for a Skate Park Manager and it was cut.
- The Budget Hearing with the Board of Finance will be on Monday, March 31, 2008. Mr. Docimo asked the Commissioners to attend the meeting if it was possible.
- Mr. Docimo stated that Ms. Albano put in for an additional camp, and it got cut from the budget. She did get some additional camp spots.
- Mrs. Cooper stated that she was approached by someone from the Board of Finance and stated that they would love to talk to the Parks & Recreation Commission in a collaborative way.
- Mr. Docimo stated that if Ms. Albano's budget gets cut, there will be program cuts.
- Mr. Docimo stated that there are six employees in the tree crew, three of them are out. The PARs are being held up by OPM and they will not give him the permission to fill the positions. In the mean time the tree complaints are piling up.

#### **Joseph Barbarotta – Parks Maintenance**

- Mr. Barbarotta stated that he is working with the State DEP, the Humane Society and the Wild Life Orphanage to put a plan together to relocate the Monk Parakeets at Cummings Park. There is a professor from Southern Connecticut State University who is getting involved, he is writing a book and will put Cummings Park in one of the chapters of his book.

They will be installing three poles with platforms; the birds will be relocated from the light poles to these new poles.

#### **Laurie Albano – Recreation**

- There were very big lines for camp registration, even though we had 5 or 6 registration dates.
- Ms. Albano distributed a copy of her revenue report. On Monday's registration we took in over \$125,000. To date we have brought in \$918,000 in revenue.
- On-Line Registration has been well received. We are in the process of putting together an RFP to solicit a new software.

## **Donations**

### **Ann Marie Benedetto - Bench Donation in Memory of Al Miranda at Scalzi Park.**

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Unanimously Approved

## **Special Events**

### **D.S.S.D. – Art in Public Places – June - August 2008.**

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

Unanimously Approved

### **D.S.S.D. – Alive @ Five Outdoor Concert Series, Thursday Evenings – June 19 through August 7, 2008 (no concert July 3) 5:00 p.m. at Columbus Park.**

The stage will go up on Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> and will be taken down on the night of August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

Unanimously Approved

### **D.S.S.D. – Pops in the Park, Wednesday Evenings – July 16, 23, 30, 2008 at Columbus Park.**

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

Unanimously Approved

### **D.S.S.D. – Arts, Crafts & Blues on Bedford – September, 13 & 14, 2008 – Bedford Street and Latham Park.**

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

Unanimously Approved

### **D.S.S.D. – Heights & Lights – Sunday, December 7, 2008 – 4:30 p.m. – Latham Park.**

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

Unanimously Approved

## **Ellen O'Neill – Keep Stamford Beautiful – Events for 2008.**

### **April:**

**Earth Day at Cummings Park.** Date TBD. Volunteers will be working along side the City carpenters to build poles on wooden platforms to relocate monk parakeet nests.

**Keep Stamford Beautiful Mayor's Empowerment Grant Project.** Will be planting approximately 50 trees in locations throughout the city in locations assigned by the Parks Department.

### **May:**

**UCONN Civic Responsibility Class Project.** Date TBD. Will be cleaning the litter from the streets of the Westside and Lione Park.

**Citi Smith Barney at Scalzi Park.** Date TBD. Volunteers will work with City carpenters to complete the renovations to the roller hockey rink begun in November.

**UBS at Cubeta Stadium.** Date TBD. Will complete the painting of Cubeta Stadium begun last fall. The paint is purchased in accordance with City regulations.

**XL Capital /Signature Construction, Cummings Park and Beach.** Date TBD. Over 100 volunteers will create raised concrete beds along the beach/park line. The beds will then be planted with native perennial species. Another group will repair the paint on the Pavilion and picnic tables. In addition, a group will go to the City of Stamford Animal Shelter to clean and organize their facility.

**Great American Clean-up Saturday, May 31, 2008 – 8:00 a.m. to Noon.** Volunteers will be planting over 10,000 annuals in planters and beds all over the city as well as cleaning up their neighborhood streets. Neighborhoods will be assisted by school groups from Stamford High, Westhill High, AITE and the Boys Scouts.

### **June:**

**GE/KT Murphy School Friday, June 6, 2008 Cove Island Park and Beach.** Project TBD. In partnership with Keep Stamford Beautiful, GE, KT Murphy School and the City Park Department. 50 Employees from GE will partner with 50 students to improve the park and beach.

**UBS Executives at Cove Island Park.** Date TBD. Over 140 senior executives from UBS will continue planting the traffic islands at Cove Island Park with native perennials species.

**UST Corporate Team Building Event.** Date TBD. Location TBD. Over 100 volunteers will gather to improve a city park or beach. Possible choices are renovations at Barrett Park, including painting the Pavilion and creating a flower bed around the flagpole. Other choices include continuing the perennial plantings at either Cove or Cummings Parks or a project in partnership with the Westside NRZ.

**Additional Projects.** Will include daily ongoing litter abatement and landscaping performed by residents of Liberation House and individuals assigned community service hours by the Superior Court. This program is supervised at all times by Keep Stamford Beautiful, in accordance with the needs of the City of Stamford Department of Operations.

**Annual Deloitte Impact Day Community Service Corporate Team Building Project – Cove Island Park and Beach. June 6, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Over 100 volunteers will continue in the planting of the traffic island at Cove Island Park with native perennial species. In addition, volunteers will paint the park's picnic tables and clean the beach.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

Unanimously Approved

**Health Department – Use of Cove Island Pavilion – Lead Information, Lead Screening and Picnic for Children. August 23, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Unanimously Approved

**Michael Charles – Kosciuszko Park – International Limbo Contest – July 12, 2008 from 1:30 to 9:30 p.m.**

The Commissioners were concerned that Mr. Charles did not have a concrete plan of the entire event and how it would transpire and operate.

Mr. Smith made a motion to reject proposal.

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

Unanimously Approved  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. McGuinness  
Mr. Lombardo  
Mrs. Cooper

**Barbara Rose – Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation – Walkathon on Sunday, September 28, 2008 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Cove Island Park.**

Tabled to the April 2008 Commission Meeting. No representative was present.

**Lymphoma Research Foundation – Fourth Annual Lymphomathon – Cove Island Park and Pavilion or Pavilion by the Water – Saturday, October 4, 2008. Set Up at 8:00 a.m. Until Cleanup at Noon. The Walk will Begin at 10:00 a.m. Back Up Date October 18, 2008.**

No amplified music or microphones can be used at the park.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

Unanimously Approved

**Greater Stamford Tennis Association and Recreation Services – Request Permission to use Scalzi Park’s Tennis Courts and Hitting Wall for Tennis Block Party on Saturday, May 3, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Unanimously Approved

**Greater Stamford Tennis Association and Recreation Services request to use Scalzi Park’s Tennis Courts for the Inaugural Connecticut Public Park Tennis Championships, Thursday, May 15 to Saturday, May 18, 2008 – Thursday to Friday from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday to Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Maintenance Reimbursement charges will be waived due to the fact that they are a non-profit organization providing free tennis lessons to low income Stamford children. Mr. Smith requested that Greater Stamford Tennis Association only use 10 of the 12 Tennis Courts.

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mrs. Cooper and Mr. Smith

Unanimously Approved

### **Old Business**

**David Winston – Booth Realignment and Traffic Sidewalk Plan into Cove Island Park.**

Tabled to the April 2008 Commission Meeting.

**Stamford Babe Ruth – Talent Evaluation at Cubeta Stadium – Monday, June 23, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Mr. Jim Serafino stated that the registration fee will be \$495 per kid and \$395 for Stamford residents.

Commissioners stated that they believe that the registration fee is too high including the registration fee for Stamford Residents. In addition, the Talent Evaluation is being run by Bobby Valentine's Sports Academy, which is a commercial vendor.

Mr. Smith made a motion to hold Monday, June 23, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for Stamford Babe Ruth – Talent Evaluation at Cubeta Stadium.

There will be a \$750 maintenance reimbursement charge.

Mr. Smith will be meeting with Mr. Serafino to discuss registration fees.

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

Yes: Mr. Smith  
Mr. McGuinness  
Mr. Lombardo

Mrs. Cooper abstained because her son is employed by the vendor.

**James S. Vlasto and Jean Rinaldi – Proposal to Erect a Bronze Statue of Homer L. Wise (World War II Veteran) at Veterans Memorial Park.**

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve proposal to erect a bronze statue of Homer L. Wise at **Homer L. Wise Park**.

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Unanimously Approved

**Rocky Cuscuna – Request to Install Dugouts at Kane Avenue.**

Item was taken off the Agenda.

**New Business**

**Nicholas Braccia – Stamford Bocce.**

Tabled to the April 2008 Commission Meeting. No representative was present.

**Tournaments**

**Sharkey Tournament – Use of Cubeta Stadium – August 2, 2008 thru August 11, 2008.**

Mrs. Cooper made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Unanimously Approved

**The April Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting will take place either on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Cooper

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Margarita Arenas  
March 24, 2008