

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the June 17, 2009 Regular Meeting

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on June 17, 2009, 10th Floor Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Thomas Lombardo
 Mark Smith
 Beth Cooper
 Tim McGuinness
 Vincent Martino

Staff: Laurie Albano
 Mickey Docimo
 Joseph Barbarotta
 Kevin Murray

Guests: Ernie Orgera – Sculpture at Scalzi Park

 Ben Barnes – Director of Operations

 Lara Barros – Wedding Pictures at Cove Beach

 Peggy Erlenkotter – Girl Scouts

 Tim Curry – Greater Stamford Tennis Association

 Vicki Druehl – Greater Stamford Tennis Association

 John Lorter – The Boat Locker

 Ryan Salvatore – West Beach Clean Up

 Steve McDermott – Cancelling of Boat Slip

 Don Rossi – North Stamford Little League

 Frank Costa – Costa Foods

 Craig Lippman – Thomson Reuters Corporation

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Thomas Lombardo.

Review of April 15, 2009 and May 20, 2009 Minutes.

Tabled to the July 2009 Commission Meeting.

Staff Reports

Ernie Orgera – Permission to Place Sculpture at Scalzi Park.

- Mr. Orgera requested permission to place a sculpture at Scalzi Park. The sculpture will be located between the bocce courts and the street. This location will not interfere with the snow plows or the Master Plan. The sculpture was originally at Latham Park, it was removed because it was sinking.
- Mr. Orgera explained that the sculpture is a stone piece that is carved. The sculpture needs to be restored; Mr. Orgera will bring a photograph to the Commission once the repairs are done.
- The sculpture was a gift to Mayor Malloy by a person that was on his committee when he first ran for Mayor.

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve placing of sculpture at Scalzi Park pending the review of the sculpture pictures.

Seconded by Mr. Martino

Unanimously Approved

Ben Barnes, Director of Operations – Moratorium

- Mr. Lombardo stated that Tim Curtin asked the Commission years ago to start a moratorium and the Commission approved it.
- Mr. Barnes stated that he has always been reluctant to have a moratorium. Mr. Barnes does not feel that this is the best way to think about the situation with respect to league play and the use City fields.
- Mr. Barnes understands that the prime hours at the fields are largely committed. The fields are largely booked by existing organizations, which means that we have very limited opportunities to allow new leagues or new usage to go forward, the practical effect of that is a moratorium. However, there are circumstances where we might be able to allow something. The

City has added capacity through addition of some of the fields that have been installed. The new field at Lione Park and the two fields at West Beach will create more capacity for certain types of play.

- Director Barnes proposed that the present Policy, which is from 2003 be revised. Mr. Barnes is aware that there have been requests for additional leagues, new teams and new users of pro organized play at City facilities. Director Barnes stated that a revised Policy will be presented before the Parks & Recreation Commission in July.
- Director Barnes stated that the Policy should recognize the historic relationships that the City and the City's parks have with existing organizations and leagues. Second, grow and develop, if league wishes to change the schedule a little bit because of changes of pattern of use or number of people enrolled in the league, we should try to find a way to accommodate them as best we can. Last, an organized system will be set up through which available time and space for fields is allocated to people who want it, based on the existing priorities that are established in the Policy. Right now the Policy does not envision new users coming forward and how to evaluate that new user compared to the existing users. If an existing league is shrinking the City then at some point will take the slots that they held, and they will be made available to other leagues, existing leagues or new leagues.
- Director Barnes explained that newly formed leagues will be reviewed probably in the beginning of the calendar year; they will have set dates to do this. They still have to work on this issue.
- Mr. McGuinness suggested that once the Policy is revised, that the Policy be presented to the Board of Education and recommend that they review it and maybe follow the same Policy.

Shoreline Adult Soccer League – Permit to Use West Beach Soccer Field Per Their Home Schedule – Sunday Mornings for Two Hours – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Martino

Unanimously Approved

Mickey Docimo – Parks & Recreation/Operations

- Mr. Docimo stated that Al Barbarotta from the Board of Education attended the meeting with Mayor Malloy and Director Barnes regarding field use. Mr. Docimo explained that it is Mr. Barbarotta's intention to follow the City's policies.

- The Board of Representatives wants Recreation to control permitting for all the fields. Mr. Docimo will be attending a Board of Representatives Meeting next month.
- The revised Policy is not going to be much different than anything being done now. There are not going to be any radical changes.

Laurie Albano – Recreation

- Busy getting camps ready to go. There are about 1,100 kids registered, camps start on June 26, 2009.
- The new software will no longer be the new registration software. Due to all the problems with the software and after meeting with the IT and Legal Departments, it has been decided to take steps to re-send the ownership of that product and keep what we have.
- Beaches are open.
- The Recreation Department has been helping with the Hatch Field Grand Re-Opening.
- Concerts are getting ready to get started.

Joseph Barbarotta – Parks

- There is a new beach machine, one is kept at Cove and the other bounces back and forth between Cummings, West Beach and occasionally down at Southfield Beach.
- Mr. Barbarotta stated that they are now in the new summer schedule. There are workers (seasonals and supervisors) in the parks from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- The first weekend that the parks were open there were some issues with garbage and Dan Colleluori helped by providing larger containers at Cove Island.
- Mr. Barbarotta congratulated Phil D'Amico and his crew for the great job he did at Cummings 2 Softball Field. He was able to grow grass at the field on time for the league games. By doing this he saved the City from buying \$35,000 worth of sod.
- We are OK with the osprey issue; Kevin Murray is doing some research with Shock Electric to put up an extension on one of the light poles that are there,

so the Osprey can nest very close to where they were without interfering with our lights.

Kevin Murray – Parks

- Ginger and Dave Winston coordinated with Keep Stamford Beautiful a big project at Cove. They planted 10 more beds at Cove Island parking lot.
- Heroy Pool will open on time. \$70,000 worth of repairs are being done to the pool.

Consent Agenda

No Consent Agenda Items.

Special Events

Lara Barros – Request to Take Wedding Pictures at Cove Beach and Permit for Limousine to Go Over the Bridge – September 12, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve wedding pictures at Cove Beach.

Seconded by Mr. Martino Unanimously Approved

Mr. Martino made a motion to approve the limousine to go over the bridge.

Motion dies for lack of a second Not Approved

Girl Scouts of Connecticut/Stamford Chapter – Use of Cove Island Park for Girl Scouts Annual Campout – September 11, 2009 to September 13, 2009 from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.

- Mr. Lombardo stated that no camp fire will be allowed.
- A Police Officer is required.
- Ms. Erenkoter requested that they are allowed to invite Girl Scouts from other communities so they can split the cost of the Police Officer and be able to have a two day event.
- Mr. Lombardo stated that if the event is done during the day a Police Officer will not be required.
- Mr. Lombardo would like more adults to attend the campout.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve 100 Stamford children and 25% out of town children for the use of Cove Island for two nights. A Police Officer will be required from a half an hour after sunset to half hour before sunrise. Mr. Lombardo will get the exact hours for them.

Seconded by Mr. Martino

YES: Mr. Lombardo
Mr. Martino
Mr. Smith
Mr. McGuinness

NO: Mrs. Cooper

Natasha Tomai – Boys & Girls Club of Stamford – First Annual BGCS Kick It to Kare – Kickball Tournament on Thursday, July 30, 2009 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – Boys & Girls Club Facility and Lione Park.

Tabled to July Commission Meeting. No representative was present.

Mary Jordan – Use of Kosciuszko Park for Birthday Event – June 21, 2009 from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – Would Like to Put Up a Tent.

No representative was present.

Sandra Kurimai – Stamford Apartment Company – Request Permission to Distribute Free Sunscreen (Branded Bottles Stating Company Name: www.ctbestapts.com) – Weekends in June, July and August 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tabled to July Commission Meeting. No representative was present.

Old Business

Tim Curry – GSTA Quick Start Tennis Court Proposal at Cummings Park.

- Mr. Curry from the Greater Stamford Tennis Association (GSTA) offering to do some renovations to the Tennis Courts at Cummings Park. Currently there is a bank of two courts and bank of four courts. At some point the GSTA would like to eventually help resurface the entire facility, due to financial limitations they cannot offer to do it from the get go. The GSTA proposes to do the facility in two phases, the first of which will be to convert the bank of two courts, which at present is beyond unplayable.
- The GSTA would like to continue using the court as they do now for their City program moving it from Scalzi Park to Cummings to alleviate some of the backlog at Scalzi and provide the opportunity for more kids to play. They are planning to convert the bank of two unusable adult courts to six smaller

courts. There is a new format called Quick Start, the GSTA and the International Tennis Federation are working on this new format. Everything for play under the age 8 years old will be on this format.

- Phase II of the project will include the resurface of the four adult courts as they are, or if they could expand the footprint to include six adult courts.
- Mr. Docimo feels that this project is a win, win for the City.
- Mr. Curry stated that the GSTA has 20% Grant and a private funder who is willing to fund the rest of the cost for this project.
- The Commission requested that Mr. Curry provides information in writing explaining the project before the July 2009 Commission Meeting.

Tabled to the July 2009 Commission Meeting.

New Business

Margaret Eckert – Request to Place Memorial Plaque Honoring Beverly Eckert and Her Volunteer Work in Stamford at Daskam Park Along Side Her Husband Sean Rooney’s Plaque.

- Mr. Lombardo suggested that a bench be donated instead of a plaque. The bench could be placed near Mr. Rooney’s plaque.

Mrs. Cooper made a motion to accept the request to have a plaque, but the plaque will have to be for a bench not a rock to be consistent with other commemoratives.

Seconded by Mr. Martino

Unanimously Approved

The Boat Locker Kayak Demonstration on July 5, 12 and 19, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mrs. Cooper made a motion to disapprove the request.

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

Unanimously Approved

Ryan Salvatore – Request Permission to Clean-up Area Between His Property Line and the Plantings Installed at West Beach by the Garden Club.

- Mr. Salvatore stated that the Shippan Garden Club has planted a Bird Sanctuary, beyond that is sort of wild grass that gets cut several times a year. The area is completely overgrown; there are a lot of kids that hang out there

drinking. In concert with the Garden Club Mr. Salvatore has developed a plan to plant and cleanup the entire area. The Garden Club has reviewed Mr. Salvatore's proposal and provided comments, he also submitted the proposal to David Emerson. Mr. Emerson stated that as long as the Garden Club and the Parks & Recreation Commission are OK with the plan, he doesn't have any problems. Mr. Salvatore will not remove any mature trees; he wants to remove low growing weeds and invasive species.

Mr. Lombardo requested a written opinion from Dave Emerson. Mr. Barbarotta will check with Jeanette Brown from the WPCA regarding requirements for plantings near the stone wall.

- Item tabled to the July Commission Meeting.

Steve McDermott – Appeal Penalty for Cancelling His Boat Slip at Czescik Marina for Summer 2009.

- Mr. McDermott stated that he had paid for a slip at Czescik Marina for summer 2009 before the deadline. Mr. McDermott was on a waiting list at another Marina that is a lot more affordable, his name came up after he had paid for the City Marina. Mr. McDermott opted out of the City Marina to take the new slip, the City only reimburse him 50%. Mr. McDermott does not feel that this fair and is appealing the decision on the main grounds that there is still a waiting list for a 24' slip. He asked last week after he canceled his slip if there were any slips available and was told that there was a waiting list.
- Mr. McDermott distributed an article that relates to a similar situation, people paid deposits and they were not getting their deposit money back. Attorney General Blumenthal said it is an apparent violation of State Law. Mr. McDermott feels that in some way this is similar to his issue. Mr. Lombardo stated that he can talk to Corporation Council and ask for their opinion.
- Mr. McDermott paid \$1,600 to the City for the boat slip, he received \$800 back. He feels that it is fair for the City to keep \$100 for managerial cost, but requests that he gets the other \$700 back.
- Mr. McDermott stated that he received something in writing after he signed up stating that if he cancelled the boat slip before June 1st he will only get 50% back.
- Mr. McDermott is willing to take a 19' boat slip at Cove for the \$700.

Mr. McGuinness made a recommendation that the City keeps \$800 and provides a 19' boat slip at Cove for Mr. McDermott.

Seconded by Mr. Martino

Unanimously Approved

North Stamford Little League – Request to Host George Foster Baseball Clinics and Changes/Additions to Permit Time.

- Mr. Don Ross stated that they want to do a week Baseball Clinic. George Foster will come and coordinate the clinics and donate 20% of the proceeds back to the league.
- The proposed dates for the clinics are June 29, 2009 to July 2, 2009 at \$350 per child.
- Ms. Albano stated that any commercial activity allowed in the parks is if they partner with the City of Stamford, the City keeps 25% of the proceedings.
- Control of the roster and registration needs to be done through the Recreation Department.
- Insurance needs to be provided.

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve request based on the current City vendor practice of 25% and that is done through the City's Recreation Department.

Seconded by Mr. Lombardo

YES: Mr. McGuinness
Mr. Lombardo
Mrs. Cooper

ABSTAINED: Mr. Martino

Frank Costa – Request to Put Vending Machines In at Cove, Cummings and West Beach.

- Mr. Costa requested to put vending machines in at Cove, Cummings and West Beach. The vending machines will have water, vitamin water and getorate. This request was incorporated in his Bid for the parks' concessions.
- The Commission discussed past concerns about vending machines. Mr. Barbarotta is concerned that they might get vandalized. On the other hand in the past we had a positive response especially at cove from the walkers. Mr. Barbarotta stated that if one is allowed at Cove, it will be near the red building and they can build some kind of shelter.
- Mr. Costa stated that he would like to give it a try and put the vending machines in the parks, if they are vandalized and it doesn't work out he will remove them.

- The vending machines will be situated as follows:

West Beach at the Concession Stand
Cummings by the Life Guard under the pavilion
Cove by the Concession Stand

Mrs. Cooper made a motion to approve request to put in a vending machine that has water, vitamin water and getorate at Cove, Cummings and West Beach with a timer for the light.

Seconded by Mr. Martino

Unanimously Approved

Tournaments

Thomson Reuters Corporation – Softball Tournament at Cummings Park – Saturday, July 18, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Tentative Number of 200 Attending.

- In addition to the use of all four fields for the Softball Tournament they would like to use the barbeque area as well. Mr. Lombardo stated that they can get a permit for a beer keg, or bring canned beer or soda, wine is not allowed. A special permit is needed for the beer keg.
- There will be a \$350 Tournament Fee and \$2,000 maintenance reimbursement charge. Mr. Lippmann stated that they may have to cut back on field time.
- City will provide 20 One Day Passes for parking.
- Not allowed to bring their own grills.
- No amplified music allowed.

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve the exclusive use of all four fields at Cummings Park for Softball Tournament on July 18, 2009 with a \$350 Tournament Fee and a maintenance reimbursement charge of \$500 for each field.

Seconded by Mrs. Cooper

Unanimously Approved

Brian Maloney – Federal Little League and the Conetta Family – Picnic on September 12, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Two Little League Fields at West Beach.

- No amplified music is allowed.

- Need to use the grills that are at the location.
- No alcohol except for beer in cans or a keg permit. No bottles allowed.

Mrs. Cooper made a motion to approve.

Seconded by many

Unanimously Approved

Correspondence

No Correspondence.

Commissioner Smith left the meeting early.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on July 15, 2009.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. McGuinness

Seconded by Many

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
June 19, 2009