

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Minutes of the July 15, 2009 Regular Meeting**

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on July 15, 2009, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

**In attendance were:**

Commissioners:            Thomas Lombardo  
                                     Tim McGuinness  
                                     Vincent Martino

Staff:                         Laurie Albano  
                                     Mickey Docimo  
                                     Kevin Murray

Guests:                      Rodrigue Anilus – Light and Life  
  
                                     Trenét DaRosa – Yerwood Center  
  
                                     Johny Solórzano – Church of God  
  
                                     William – Church of God  
  
                                     Regina Lupo – Wedding Pictures at Cove Island Park  
  
                                     Sandra Kurimai – Stamford Apartment Company  
  
                                     Mike Gerardi – Memorial Plaque/Bench for Pete Hogan  
  
                                     Natalia Sieira – Memorial Plaque/Bench for Pete Hogan  
  
                                     Ellen O’Neill – Keep Stamford Beautiful  
  
                                     Chris Fisher – AT&T  
  
                                     Kevin Dey – AT&T  
  
                                     Jeff Morganteen – The Advocate  
  
                                     Dave Winston – Resident  
  
                                     Ginger Winston – Resident

Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Cooper and Joe Barbarotta did not attend the meeting.

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Thomas Lombardo.

### **Review of April 15, 2009, May 20, 2009 and June 17, 2009 Minutes**

Tabled to the August 2009 Commission Meeting.

### **Staff Reports**

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

- Mr. Docimo stated that enforcement has gone to a new level this year with the addition of the turf fields and the skate park. Four signs were put up at various locations a week ago, three of them are now gone. There have been brake-ins at Barrett Park and Cove Island Park, vandalism on the Tram, and renegade play it's at an all time high. There have also been problems at Lione Park.

Mr. Docimo explained that the Stamford Police are busy and they don't respond quickly to this kind of issues. Mr. Docimo has a call into Phil Mazzucco who is his liaison with the Police Department. Mr. Lombardo requested that Mr. Docimo give him one instance, telling him the date and approximate time of call, he will ask Captain Tomlin to look at the time the call came in, the time they dispatched it and time they arrived. Mr. Lombardo feels that this will help to figure out what the issue is, why the Police takes so long to respond to the calls.

- Mr. Docimo stated that he continues to be petitioned to close Southfield Park, and explained that he cannot close the park.

#### **Laurie Albano – Recreation**

- Very busy with camps and playgrounds.
- Fireworks went very well.
- Working on fall programs. Registration will start right after Labor Day.

#### **Kevin Murray – Parks**

- Fireworks were a big success.
- Frank Costa the new vendor for the parks did a very good job. Mr. Costa did things differently, he set up different booths around the whole complex on

Cummings Park.

- Clean up was not bad, minimum overtime was used on this job.
- There were dedication ceremonies for the Liberty Tree, Hatch Field, the Dog Park and Lione Park.
- The Dog Park is very busy.
- Scalzi Park's Playground is three quarters done.
- The Engineering Department is in charge of the circle at Scalzi Park, they are getting the money for that project.
- The basketball hoops at Cove Island Park are going to be replaced with glass basketball hoops to match Scalzi Park.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Ellen Brezovsky Migliaccio – Springdale PTO – Donation of Two Benches to be Placed at the Playground Right Outside Springdale School/Drotar Park.**

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Martino

Unanimously Approved

### **Special Events**

**Jean Rodrigue Anilus – Light and Life – Annual Evangelical Crusade – Jackie Robinson Park – Sunday, August 30, 2009 to Monday, September 7, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. – 500 Adults and 200 Children.**

- Dumpsters and electricity will be provided – there will be maintenance reimbursement charges.
- The Commission will only approve 6 days, more than that will damage the grass. Light and Life will have to choose 6 days from August 30, 2009 to September 7, 2009 and inform Mr. Frank Fedeli and the Parks Department of their decision.

Mr. Martino made a motion to approve 6 days.

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

Unanimously Approved

**Trenét DaRosa – Yerwood Center Inc. – Use of Lione Park for Sports Day – Wednesday, August 5, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – 60 Adults and 200 Children.**

- The lunch will be provided by the City.

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Martino

Unanimously Approved

**Johny Solórzano – Iglesia de Dios 7° Día – Use of Southfield Park for Fund Raising Activities on Sunday, August 9, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Activities to Consist of: Barbeque, Educational Games and Use of a Trampoline.**

- Cannot bring their own grills.
- Use of trampoline will not be allowed.

Mr. Martino made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

Unanimously Approved

**Jessica Lupo – Permit to Take Wedding Pictures at Cove Beach – Saturday, August 1, 2009 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

- Limo will not be allowed to go over the bridge.

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. Martino

Unanimously Approved

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

- No advertisement allowed in the parks.
- Commercial use of the parks is prohibited.

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to disapprove the request.

Seconded by Mr. Martino

Unanimously Approved

### **Old Business**

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

- Mr. Lombardo still needs to talk to Dave Emerson from EPB to verify his approval.
- Item tabled to the August Commission Meeting.

### **Field Policy Revisions.**

- Item tabled to the August Commission Meeting when all the Commissioners will be present.
- Mr. Docimo stated that there was a meeting with Mayor Malloy. The Mayor's intentions are not to change the way we are doing business now, but to reinforce so we have a little more substance behind our decisions.
- Mr. Docimo explained that the Field Policy is about field allocations. There are permitted groups that have been using the fields for a long time that have a lot of permits for whatever sport, i.e. soccer, baseball. We will have a list of those groups and their date of formation. Anybody that comes requesting field use will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- Mr. McGuinness stated that people often ask him about field usage. When people drive around town and see open fields, it makes them question why there is a moratorium when the fields are not being used?

Ms. Albano said that possible reasons why on a night there is no one on a field is because something fell through, the game got cancelled or Parks cancelled the field because it was not playable.

Ms. Albano stated that the Recreation Department does not give out a blanket permit; a schedule has to be provided to show that there are legitimate games on that night. Mr. Lombardo requested that the schedules be checked. Mr. Docimo suggested that Babe Ruth League be invited to a Commission Meeting.

- Mr. Docimo stated that neither the Recreation Department nor the Board of Education schedule Trinity High School's baseball field. Trinity High School is a private school and all the scheduling of their fields has to go through them. The Recreation Department does not schedule Board of Education fields either.
- Mr. Docimo stated that Cubeta is very busy. He explained that there are supposed to be only 200 games played at Cubeta, last year we had about 250 games, and this year we will be at around 200 games.
- Mr. Docimo stated that the year before last there were almost physical fights over the fields. Ms. Albano stated that this goes back to the Policy and asked what is the Parks and Recreation Department's main mission? Who and how many duplicate organizations do we want using the fields?

- Mr. Murray stated that Parks Department night coverage employees have been going out to check every field and to check usage. Mr. Murray has dated documentation of all the fields that have been used since April 1, 2009. Mr. Lombardo requested to make that report available to the Commission through Mr. Docimo within the next two weeks.

**New Business**

**Mike Gerardi/Natalia Sieira – Memorial Plaque and/or Bench for Pete Hogan at Belltown Park.**

- Mr. Gerardi would like to have a plaque or Bench for Pete Hogan who was a counselor at Belltown Park since 1983, he passed away last year.
- Mr. Lombardo stated that the Commission does not approve plaques for the parks and suggested a bench instead.

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve a bench for Pete Hogan at Belltown Park.

Seconded by Mr. Martino

Unanimously Approved

**Ellen O’Neill – Keep Stamford Beautiful – Planting Plans for Cummings Park.**

- Mrs. O’Neill explained that from the residential section all the way down to West Beach, going in front of the pavilion and all along the beach park barrier there might be 100 planting spaces that are set into the ground. Keep Stamford Beautiful would like to plant a nice palette of plants that will live in sand, these will be native plantings. They have selected about 3 or 4 different kinds of native grasses.
- Mrs. O’Neill requested that the Parks Department take care of turning the soil over. Keep Stamford Beautiful will water the plants in the first establishing season and after that they are on their own.
- Mr. Winston stated that the big issue that needs to be addressed is the amount of traffic that comes through those islands from the parking space.
- Mr. Lombardo stated that if the worker from Keep Stamford Beautiful that has caused problems in the past is going to be involved in this project, he will have to be supervised by the Parks Department.
- Mr. Lombardo stated that Keep Stamford Beautiful needs to make sure that the height of their signs is compliant.
- Mrs. O’Neill stated that they are still collecting illegal signs.

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to approve planting plans for Cummings Park.

Seconded by Mr. Martino

Unanimously Approved

**Kevin Dey – SAI Communications – Discuss Possibility of Using Park Property for a Wireless Facility.**

- Mr. Dey stated that AT&T Customers in the area around Fort Stamford need wireless service.
- Mr. Dey requested permission to explore putting up a wireless facility in Fort Stamford.

Mr. McGuinness made a motion to disapprove the request.

Seconded by Mr. Martino

Unanimously Approved

**J. Iappolito – Extension of Girls Softball – Summer/Fall Programs.**

No representative was present.

**Tournaments**

No Tournaments.

**Correspondence**

No Correspondence.

Mr. Martino made a motion to add Tim McGuinness' request to the agenda.

Mr. Lombardo stepped down from the Chair to second the motion.

Unanimously Approved.

**Tim McGuinness – Request for an Exception to Permit 6 Youth AAU Baseball Games Between Now and August 1, 2009 at Belltown Field.**

- Mr. McGuinness requested 6 to 10 days of Belltown Field up until August 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be a one time exception.
- Ms. Albano will double check the schedule for availability of Cubeta and Belltown and will get back to Mr. McGuinness.
- Mr. McGuinness will provide the names of the players.

Mr. Martino made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

Unanimously Approved

**The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on August 19, 2009.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Martino

Seconded by Mr. McGuinness

The meeting adjourned 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Margarita Arenas  
July 17, 2009