

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the November 18, 2009 Regular Meeting**

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on November 18, 2009, 10th Floor Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Thomas Lombardo
Beth Cooper
Mark Smith

Staff: Laurie Albano
Kevin Murray
Joe Barbarotta

Guests: Scot Weicker – Live Green Connecticut
Leigh Shemitz – SoundWaters/SailLaser
David Himmel – SailLaser (By Phone)
Rocky Cuscuna – Kane Avenue Field

Commissioner McGuinness, Commissioner Martino and Mickey Docimo did not attend the meeting.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Thomas Lombardo.

Review of the September 2009 Minutes.

Item was tabled to the December 2009 Meeting.

Staff Reports

Laurie Albano – Recreation

- The fall programs are almost done, the first quarter revenues are around \$135,000 which is consistent with last fall and possibly up a little bit.

- Winter registration dates are December 7th and 8th.
- The Hay Ride with Santa is sold out for the 10th year in a row.
- Recreation's mascot and costume character Rory the Tiger will be at the Pre-Parade Inflation Party this weekend.
- The Rec Study update will be done very soon. There was a delay with the old consultant, transferring the contract to the new one, but it is now in process.
- Recreation is applying for Transit District funds for summer bussing.
- The Cove Summer Playground site is very well attended, Barrett site does not have a good registration, Ms. Albano believes that an economic call needs to be made. Will review the issue with the new Director of Operations. Although Cove is very well attended it might be moved to the new Rogers School.
- Ms. Albano distributed copies of the new Winter Recreation Program Brochure.

Joe Barbarotta – Park Maintenance

- Mr. Barbarotta stated that the Parks Department is involved with the Balloon Parade this coming weekend.
- Mr. Barbarotta added a bench donation request at Cove Island from Ed Matthews to the Agenda.
- The Parks Department just put out a BID for materials which was never done before. Some of the materials that will be purchased are: mulch, clay for the fields, stone dust, etc. There have been about 250 responses to the BID. In the future there will be BIDS for other things such as plywood.
- Mr. Barbarotta stated that he received a visit from Ms. Kathy Rhodes who had a garden at Cove Island about 12 or 15 years ago. The garden was a Peace Garden which they were supposed to maintain but never did, and over the years got washed out. Now they would like to come back and restore the garden and do plantings. Mr. Barbarotta asked that they provide a plan in writing and told them that they will have to come in front of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Kevin Murray – Parks Maintenance

- Wrapping up the field renovations, currently mounds are being installed on the Little League Fields.

- Parks and Recreation purchased outfield protective capping for a fence, it will be installed next spring.
- The Marinas have closed down for the year, they closed on Sunday, November 15th. The tentative opening date for next year is Saturday, April 10, 2010 and closing on Saturday, November 20, 2010.
- Mr. Barbarotta stated that there have been some contentious situations going on at the Marinas with the Supervisor and some of the people that use the Marina. Mr. Docimo talked to them and iron out the differences, their season was extended and they all have a good relationship now.
- The Fishing Peer is out to BID. Mr. Lombardo asked that Lou Casolo be notified that when there are any Public Hearings related to the Parks he needs to notify the Commission. A Commissioner needs to be part of the Committee.
- Mr. Murray gave Mr. Lombardo a copy of the Summer Report from Pro-Park.
- Mr. Barbarotta stated that the AFB Contract expires on December 31, 2010. AFB has a final year option and they are hopeful that the new administration will extend the option year, evaluate them over the year, and make a determination.

Consent Agenda

Angela Bonomo – Bench Donation in Memory of Her Son at Cove Island Park.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded Ms. Cooper

Unanimously Approved

Barbara Preli – Rogers International School – 6th Annual Turtle Trot – Cove Island Park – Thursday, May 20, 2010 – 9:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Rain Date May 27, 2010. 100 Adults and 650 Children.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded Ms. Cooper

Unanimously Approved

Diana Washington – Liberation Programs – Request Permission to Plant a Tree at Park Located Next to Their Facility at 119 Main Street in Honor of AIDS Day and Sergio De Jesus.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded Ms. Cooper

Unanimously Approved

Add by Consent:

Ed Matthews – Bench Donation in Memory of His Son at Cove Island Park.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded Ms. Cooper

Unanimously Approved

Special Events

Scot Weicker – Use of Cove Island Park and Pavilion for Live Green Connecticut Event – Saturday, September 25, 2010 and Sunday, September 26, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Friday, September 24, 2010 for Set-Up. 600 Adults and 400 Children.

- Mr. Weicker requested permission to use Cove Island Park and pavilion for a 2 day community festival called Live Green Connecticut. The festival will promote living green with a focus on education, sustainability, caring for our environment, natural resources and climate protection. Net proceeds will be donated to pre-selected environmental and conservation charitable organizations. Promoting Green Technology and sustainable lifestyles. Education is a big part of this event. They will provide families with environmentally friendly money saving ideas.
- Some of the proposed beneficiaries are: Connecticut Audubon Society, Norwalk Maritime Aquarium, SoundWaters and the Nature Conservancy.
- They will booths featuring:
 - Connecticut 'Green' Businesses
 - Connecticut 'Green' Careers
 - Organic Farmer's Market
 - Landscaping & Garden Centers
 - Local Artists
 - Environmental & Conservation Groups
 - Nature Centers
 - Charitable Organizations
 - Schools
 - Other Charitable Organizations
- Attractions:
 - A Speaker's Tent
 - Environmental & Conservation Speakers

SoundWaters Schooner
Beardsley Zoo's Zoomobile
Rainforest Reptiles Live Animal Show
Marine Ecology Exhibit
Nature Center Exhibits
'Green' Activities for kids
Strolling Entertainers
Music
Food & Beverage
And much, much more

- Mr. Weicker would like to have Speaker's Tent.
- Sponsors will be the key to generate revenues for this event.
- This event will benefit Stamford by increasing visibility and potential business to local businesses and artisans. This event will bring business to Stamford, increasing the Tax Revenue. Local beneficiaries will include but will not be limited to restaurants, hotels, taxi service as examples.
- There is no event in Stamford or anywhere in Connecticut that brings charitable organizations together in one event.
- Mr. Weicker would like the local schools to participate. He would like to do a competition on sight, (green inventions).
- Mr. Weicker stated that there will be 75 tents at Cove Island.
- Mr. Smith and Mr. Barbarotta suggested that that this event be done at one of the schools. Mr. Weicker prefers Cove Island Park.
- Mr. Smith feels that with Mr. Weicker's creativity and experience there will be a lot more people attending the event, and he worries how we will be able to handle that.
- Mr. Weicker proposed to have people park at the Clairol site and shuttle people from there to Cove Island Park.
- Mr. Weicker requested that all the tents have power. Mr. Barbarotta stated that this could be very costly. Mr. Weicker understands and suggested to only offer electricity to food tent.
- Mr. Lombardo stated that Mr. Weicker will have to contact the food vendor at the park before anybody else.

- No amplified music is allowed at the park.
- Mr. Weicker would to request use of the City's Band Wagon.
- No vehicles can drive over the bridge.
- The Building Department will have to approve the tents.
- Mr. Lombardo stated that the Commission will defer action until the Commission discusses the event with the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Mickey Docimo. Commission will get back to Mr. Weicker.

Old Business

David Himmel (by phone) and Leigh Shemitz/SoundWaters – SailLaser – Expanded Sailing Programming in Cove Island Park – Programs to be Offered at Holly Pond and Through the Cove Island Beach or Marina.

- Ms. Shemitz stated that SoundWaters proposed to continue to run the Summer Sailing Programs and SailLaiser will run sailing at spring, fall and weekends and evenings for the summer. Ms. Shemitz has been talking with Laurie Albano about different ideas about going through the Recreation Department.
- Ms. Albano stated that Ms. Shemitz was not adverse to having the Recreation Department sponsor this program as one of their contracted services. The split is 25% of the revenue collected goes to the City and the other 75% goes to the vendor.
- Mr. Himmel stated that all of their people will be certified by US Sailing.
- Mr. Lombardo stated that the Commission will pass this through the Law Department. Mr. Lombardo will ask Mr. Docimo to discuss this program with the new incoming Director of Operations and the new Mayor to be certain that there is not an issue there. The Commission will get back to Mr. Himmel and Ms. Shemitz.

New Business

Candace Owens – Request for Permit to Operate Small Jetski Business at a Stamford Beach Location.

Item was tabled to the December 2009 Commission Meeting. No representative was present.

Rocky Cuscuna – American Little League – Improvements to the Kane Avenue Field.

- Mr. Cuscuna stated that American Little League would like to pave the backstop area at Kane Avenue, and will cover the cost.
- Mr. Lombardo feels that paving may present a drainage problem.
- Mr. Barbarotta suggested to put mulch instead of paving or to grown grass, the parks crew can do this. Mr. Barbarotta stated that the Parks Department can also help with new benches.
- Mr. Lombardo stated that if the plan suggested by Mr. Barbarotta turns out to be too expensive, American Little League could donate some of the money they had for paving to help with the cost. Mr. Cuscuna stated that he would have to have the board approve it.
- It was brought to the Commission’s attention that some trees are going to be taken down by Mrs. Lorenti’s house at Kane Avenue. Mr. Barbarotta will get a report for next meeting.

Add by Consent:

Chabad Lubavitch – Permission to Place a “Hanukah Menorah” and Having a Celebration to Turn on the Light at Latham Park – December 13, 2009 from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. – 50 Adults and 25 Children.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Mrs. Cooper

Unanimously Approved

Tournaments

No Tournaments.

Correspondence

No Correspondence

The next Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 16, 2009.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Cooper

Seconded by Mr. Smith

The meeting adjourned 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
November 23, 2009