

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING  
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL  
6:30 P.M.**

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88374144737>**

**Meeting ID: 883 7414 4737**

**Passcode: 527663**

**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/88374144737>  
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](mailto: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](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](mailto:lcapp@stamfordct.gov) or submit through a Chat message to the Commission Chair during the meeting.*

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A Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Paul Newman, Chair  
Melanie Hollas, Vice Chair  
Angela Adetola  
Jessica Katz  
Michael Tedder

Staff: Kevin Murray, Director of Parks & Recreation (Arrived at 6:43 p.m.)  
Lesley Capp, Assistant - Parks & Recreation Commission

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Newman called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and introduced the Commission Members and staff present.

Mr. Newman introduced the first item on the agenda.

- **Public Participation Session:** Each individual requesting to speak shall send a Chat Message to the Chair stating their name and address for the record. Public participation comments shall be limited to 3 minutes.

There were no speakers for the Public Participation Session.

➤ Review of the February 15, 2023 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes.<sup>1</sup>

The Commission considered the minutes of the February 15, 2023 Regular Meeting. There were no comments or modifications recommended.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve the February 15, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

➤ Hsi Cheng - *School of Visual Arts (New York) - Film Permit - Saturday, March 18, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Cove Island Park* - Set-up Begins at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-up Ends at 11:00 p.m. - 10 Total Participants.<sup>2</sup>

Ms. Cheng made brief comments on her application and answered questions from the Commission.

Mr. Newman was concerned about bringing a vehicle into the park to transport equipment. As Mr. Murray had not arrived at the meeting, Ms. Capp suggested Ms. Cheng stay on the call until Mr. Murray arrives so this issue could be discussed. Ms. Cheng agreed.

Ms. Hollas made a motion to approve the Film Permit for Hsi Cheng, School of Visual Arts to film in Cove Island Park on Saturday, March 18, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. with the condition Ms. Cheng speak with Kevin Murray, Director Parks & Recreation, to go over the details of bringing a vehicle into the park to transport equipment.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

**NOTE:** Ms. Cheng emailed Ms. Capp that she had another meeting at 7:00 p.m. and needed to leave. The issue of bringing a vehicle into the park was discussed with Mr. Murray and the application voted on later in the meeting.

➤ Daniel Kromidas - *Vox Church - Community Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Scalzi Park* - Set-up begins at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-up Ends at 1:00 p.m. - 300 Total Attendees.

As per an email sent to Lesley Capp, Assistant to the Parks & Recreation Commission, on March 15, 2023 at 6:04 p.m., this application had been Withdrawn.

➤ John Bysiewicz - *Stamford Boys & Girls Club Corporate 5K - Tuesday, May 16, 2023 from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Scalzi Park* - Set-up Begins at 4:00 p.m. and Clean-up Ends at 8:00 p.m. - 1,000 Total Attendees.<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Bysiewicz and Sam Gordon, Director, Stamford Boys & Girls Club, made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

After considerable discussion, Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve the Stamford Boys & Girls Club Corporate 5K on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. starting on Washington Boulevard and continuing into Scalzi Park for approximately a ½ hour from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:01:47

<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:04:30

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:09:05

Mr. Newman called for Ms. Cheng as Mr. Murray was now at the meeting.<sup>4</sup>

Ms. Capp stated she had a couple of items to report.

Ms. Capp said she received an email from Mr. Kromidas that he was withdrawing his application and also received an email from Ms. Cheng that she needed to leave for another meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Newman explained to Mr. Murray that Ms. Cheng had presented her application and it was mentioned that she needed to take a vehicle into the park to transport equipment. Mr. Newman asked Mr. Murray if he had reviewed Ms. Cheng's application and he replied, yes.

After a brief discussion, it was determined, as a condition of approval, Ms. Cheng would contact Mr. Murray to speak about the details of bringing a vehicle into the park to transport equipment.

➤ David Pellino - *Special Olympics Connecticut - Special Olympics Fall Festival Bocce Tournament - Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Scalzi Park* - Set-up Begins at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-up Ends at 6:00 p.m. - 200 Total Attendees.<sup>5</sup>

Mr. Pellino made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Adetola made a motion to approve the Special Olympics Fall Festival Bocce Tournament on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Scalzi Park.

Seconded by Ms. Katz

Unanimously Approved

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Ms. Hollas requested allowing Mr. Murray to speak about including pickleball permits at the Scalzi Park Hockey Rink before hearing from Doug Edwards, Stamford Pickleball Club, Inc. All Commissioners agreed.

➤ **Scalzi Park:** Discussion to include pickleball permits at the Scalzi Park Hockey Rink. The Parks & Recreation Department feels confident that a large audience can be incorporated to enhance the growth of the sport.<sup>6</sup>

Mr. Murray made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

After considerable discussion, Ms. Adetola made a motion to approve the proposal put forth by Kevin Murray, Director Parks & Recreation, to create pickleball permits at the Scalzi Park Hockey Rink.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Unanimously Approved

➤ **Doug Edwards, Board of Directors - Stamford Pickleball Club, Inc.:** Seeking to become a sanctioned organization by the City of Stamford.<sup>7</sup>

Mr. Edwards and Jill Tomasello, Board of Directors, made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

After some discussion, Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve Stamford Pickleball Club, Inc. to become a sanctioned organization by the City of Stamford.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

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<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:33:30

<sup>5</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:37:08

<sup>6</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:42:18

<sup>7</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:09:07

➤ **Michael Noto - Stamford Little League - Frank Noto Little League Field:** Mr. Noto is requesting approval to replace the existing broken scoreboard, which will require the use of a small bucket truck.<sup>8</sup>

Mr. Noto made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Tedder made a motion for approval to allow Michael Noto, Stamford Little League, to replace the broken scoreboard at Frank Noto Little League Field.

Seconded by Ms. Katz

Unanimously Approved

**OLD BUSINESS:**

➤ **John Barrot - Stamford Rugby Club:** Seeking to become a sanctioned organization by the City of Stamford. (*TABLED from the February 15, 2023 meeting*)<sup>9</sup>

Mr. Murray made some brief comments explaining the idea of using the outfield at Southfield in Bocuzzi Park.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Adetola made a motion for Stamford Rugby Club to become a sanctioned organization by the City of Stamford using the outfield field at Southfield in Bocuzzi Park.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Newman requested moving Correspondence forward. All Commissioners agreed.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

➤ **David Winston - Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary (*Item Walked On at the February 15, 2023 Meeting & TABLED*):** Requesting fifteen (15) parking passes or the 2023 parks season for volunteers working or participating in projects or events in the Sanctuary.<sup>10</sup>

Mr. Winston made a brief presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to approved the fifteen (15) parking passes for the Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary volunteers for the 2023 parks season.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Unanimously Approved

**OLD BUSINESS (Con't):**

➤ **Sustainable Playing Fields & Playgrounds:** Follow up from October 6, 2022 Special Meeting.<sup>11</sup>

Mr. Newman stated he received the comments & questions from Ms. Hollas and Ms. Katz and forwarded them to Michael Toma, Assistant Corporation Counsel.

Mr. Newman explained Mr. Toma was unable to attend tonight due to a prior commitment but also that Mr. Toma stated that he would like to meet with the new Corporation Counsel, Thomas Cassone, to go over the Commission's comments and questions before coming to a meeting to discuss this issue.

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<sup>8</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:21:35

<sup>9</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:32:00

<sup>10</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:36:00

<sup>11</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:39:44

Mr. Newman stated that Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations, would be putting together a “Working Group” to include himself and Ms. Hollas and members of the Board of Representatives for discussions on how the City would move forward with replacing the fields.

Mr. Newman also mentioned that there has not yet been a response from the Health Department.

Ms. Hollas stated she had a different conversation with Director Quiñones about the Working Group. Ms. Hollas stated she understood there would be no discussions about the materials for the fields. Director Quiñones had stated the fields will be artificial turf and the Working Group will discuss the regulations and policies for the artificial turf.

Ms. Katz stated it may not be appropriate for the Commission to be involved in discussions the Commission may or may not be in support of.

Ms. Adetola stated since a decision has been made on the artificial turf, then there is no need for any response from the Health Department.

After considerable further discussion, Ms. Katz suggested amending the Parks & Recreation Commission Policy document to state what the Commission stands for and to add pour-in-place.

Mr. Newman asked Ms. Katz to write the language for an addendum and make a presentation at the next meeting. Ms. Katz agreed.

Ms. Hollas mentioned that if the Working Group is to determine the field surface, it would determine if the Commission should participate or not.

Ms. Hollas also stated the EPA came out with a report on the chemicals from the artificial turf and their effects on the environment and users of the field. Ms. Hollas stated this was a concern with regard to liability.

Ms. Katz spoke about setting regulations for artificial surfaces with regard to temperature of the surface which could potentially put the City in a tough situation.

### **TOURNAMENTS:**

- No Tournaments.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

- Kevin Murray, Director of Parks & Recreation: Parks & Recreation Update.

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Mr. Murray:<sup>12</sup>

*[Begin Report]*

- Lione Park Playground Update: Demolition/Installation of playground unit will start around March 13, 2023 and existing rubber and repair is weather dependent.
- Working with our Legal Department to develop a License & Use Agreement with our Bocce League.
- Windstorm February 3, 2023 - Scalzi Park Little League field damage/tree: Purchase order received from Risk Management.
- New Oracle financial system is live as of March 6, 2023. Viewpoint Cloud (online permitting) and 365 Outlook has also been added to our operations.

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<sup>12</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:56:30

- Working on budget presentation(s) for Parks & Recreation which includes Forestry and Marina Divisions. Due March 14, 2023.
- Volunteer Survey for clean-ups and also how to become a Friends Group within Parks & Recreation on our recreation website as of February 25, 2023.
- On the March 15, 2023 Parks & Recreation Commission agenda is the request for approval for the use of the Scalzi Park Hockey Rink as a pickleball location to accommodate the growth of the sport. Met vendor and we will be able to add six (6) courts in this area via permit.
- Bert Oubida resignation was on Friday, February 24, 2023. Therefore, we are working with Human Resources to post Recreation Supervisor position to hire. Interviews on Thursday, March 23, 2023.
- Supplied Board of Representatives fee wages for Terry Conner Rink, E.G. Brennan Golf Course, Recreation and Maintenance. Waiting on schedule from the Board of Representatives.
- Tree Climber interviews will be held on Monday, March 20, 2023 - four (4) candidates.
- Phase 1 Hiring: Seasonal employees to start March 13, 2023 - six (6) Parks employees.
- Phase 2 Hiring: Seasonal employees to start March 20, 2023 - five (5) employees.
- Marina Seasonal/Dockmaster employees to be hired Friday, March 31, 2023 - three (3) employees.
- Leagues: Current Winter Volleyball (Indoor 28 teams) and Basketball (Indoor 8 teams) completed.
- Recreation staff working on spring/summer permits and schedules with leagues.
- Aquatics: Swim lessons started on January 9, 2023. Classes all full. Adult Water Aerobics has started. Winter Session ends March 16, 2023.
- Still Recruiting Recreation staff at our local High Schools and on Indeed for Swim Instructors, Camp Counselors and Summer Lifeguards.
- Indoor pickleball programs are at full capacity and started January 9, 2023.
- Star Center: Winter Programs are concluding. Chess, Hula Hoop Class and ½ Day Camps for early Board of Education facilities along with scheduled birthday parties for this month. Zumba party on Friday, March 20, 2023. Indoor tennis lessons start March 18, 2023.
- Youth: Winter Session #1 - Basketball/Soccer and multisport held indoors at Lathan Wider Center.
- Special Events: Working on spring and summer permits and schedules.
- Registration for 2023 - 2024 spring and summer camps started online only on March 9, 2023 and in person appointments only is being held on March 14, 2023.
- Interviewing for Summer Directors, Summer Lifeguards and Assistant Directors for Summer Camps and requested wage increases for both.
- Hired Field Checker for April 10, 2023 startup to view all park/field use.

### **TERRY CONNER RINK UPDATE**

- Mayor Ice Rink Event/Announcement TCR Bonding on March 22, 2023.
- Fee increases to be included with Board approval.
- Engineering to assist with \$1M state grant and will generate RFP Bid for new roof.
- Staff obtaining proposals to replace two (2) water heaters for the Rink.
- High School Hockey and Youth Hockey Playoffs.

*[End Report]*

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Commission went through each discussion item below.<sup>13</sup>

- **Paul Newman - Project Updates:** Courtland Park playground & Barrett Park.
- **Paul Newman - City Website Updates.**
- **Melanie Hollas - NIPS Fund Update.**
- **Paul Newman - Parks Strategic Plan.**
- **Update of Parks & Recreation Commission Strategic Goals for 2022/2023 as follows:**
  - Mr. Newman and Ms. Hollas: Friends Groups.
  - Ms. Hollas: Invasive Species initiative & RFP Update.
  - Mr. Newman: Baseball and field usage.
  - Mr. Tedder and Ms. Katz: Foundation and the City website.
  - Mr. Tedder: Dog Park at Scofieldtown Park.
  - Ms. Adetola and Mr. Murray: Setup of pickleball courts and working with pickleball and tennis players.
- **Application and Waiver Agreement for volunteer groups to work in the City parks.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Newman stated he needed to leave the meeting as he was on duty and asked if there were any other items from the Commission.

Mr. Tedder mentioned the Dog Park at Scofieldtown Park and he would provide an update at the April 19, 2023 meeting.

Ms. Hollas mentioned the RFP was advertised and seven responses were received, one of which was removed due to not filling out the application correctly. There should be a consultant selected by mid-April.

Ms. Hollas made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Adetola and the vote was carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Newman adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Capp  
Assistant to the Parks & Recreation Commission  
March 21, 2023

*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](http://cityofstamford.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_is=9)

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<sup>13</sup> Video Time Stamp - 02:22:56