

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL**  
**6:30 P.M.**

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89054464638>

*Meeting ID: 890 5446 4638*

*Passcode: 222995*

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A Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Paul Newman, Chair  
Melanie Hollas, Vice Chair  
Jessica Katz  
Michael Tedder (Left meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

Staff: Kevin Murray, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Lesley Capp, Assistant - Parks & Recreation Commission

Absent: Angela Adetola, Commissioner

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Newman called the meeting to order at 6:35 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.<sup>1</sup>

1. Alex Martinez, representing the family of Yuliana Arias Lozano, who was who was hit by a car on Washington Boulevard in December 2022. Mr. Martinez wanted to report the family has decided to purchase a memorial park bench and wanted to thank the Commission for bringing up this issue at the April meeting and also to thank Mr. Murray for working with the family on getting the memorial bench.
2. Toni DeCarlo, President Soundview Manor Property Owners Association, spoke about the ongoing issue with noise and loud music on the east side of Cummings Park. Ms. DeCarlo stated she sent an email to various City officials (Attached) about this issue and requested closing the gates at the entrance of Shippan Avenue and at Soundview Avenue at 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Newman stated he would share the email with the Commission and make it part of the public record.

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:02:18

Mr. Murray stated he attended a site meeting with Lou DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare; Thomas Lombardo, Stamford Police Dept. and Trevor Roach, Fire Chief, to discuss this issue and gate closures.

3. Sue Halpern asked about the Community Engagement Session on the Park Strategic Plan that was being held tonight. Ms. Halpern stated she had trouble getting into the meeting as the link was inactive.

Mr. Newman stated he would have Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations, get in touch with her about the future meetings planned so she would be able to attend.

4. Linda Guzda spoke about Cummings Pond and speeding on Soundview Avenue.

➤ Review of the April 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes.<sup>2</sup>

Ms. Hollas made a motion to approve the April 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Ms. Katz

Unanimously Approved

### **REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION:**<sup>3</sup>

- **AMENDED AND RESTATED LEASE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF STAMFORD AND THE HALLOWEEN YACHT CLUB, INC.:** The City of Stamford (“Lessor”) and The Halloween Yacht Club, Inc. (“Lessee”) were parties to a certain Lease Agreement dated April 13, 2010 and commencing on November 8, 2006 (the “Original Lease”). The Lessor and Lessee now wish to amend and restate the Original Lease to extend the Term, expand the Demised Premises and clarify the parties’ respective responsibilities.

Chris Dellaselva, Assistant Corporation Counsel and Steve Bagwin, Commodore of the Halloween Yacht Club, made a presentation explaining the terms of the lease and providing details on the operations of the Yacht Club and answered questions from the Commission.

After some discussion, Ms. Hollas made a motion that no further action needs to be taken by the Commission as the Commission does not have the authority to approve or disapprove a decision made by the Board of Representatives.

Seconded by Ms. Katz

Approved

(In Favor - Hollas, Katz & Tedder / Opposed - Newman)

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- Erica Mercado - *El Reino Un Ministerio Nuevo - Worship, Preach & Pray - Thursday, June 1, 2023 & Friday, June 2, 2023 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Lione Park* - Set-up each day begins at 4:00 p.m. and Clean-up Ends each day at 10:30 p.m. - 40 Total Participants.<sup>4</sup>

Ms. Mercado presented the application and answered questions from the Commission.

Mr. Murray explained this was coming to the Commission due to the location, set-up of their tent and the use of speakers.

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:15:11

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:16:30

<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:33:28

After considerable discussion, Ms. Hollas made a motion to **DENY** El Reino Un Ministerio Nuevo - Worship, Preach & Pray Event - Thursday, June 1, 2023 & Friday, June 2, 2023 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Lione Park. The Commission had concerns about the use of Lione Park due to the busy nature of the park and the noise level of the event that could affect the neighborhood. The Commission recommended the applicant investigate an alternative location.

Seconded by Ms. Katz

Unanimously Approved

- Sam Cleaves - **The HT40 Foundation - All-Star Hockey Game Fundraiser - Thursday, August 3, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Terry Conner Rink (Cove Island Park) - Set-up Begins at 12:00 p.m. and Clean-up Ends at 9:00 p.m. - 2,000 Total Participants.**<sup>5</sup>

Rob Thorsen, Founder & Executive Director, made a presentation on their application and answered questions from the Commission.

After considerable discussion, Ms. Hollas made a motion to **Approve** the HT40 Foundation - All-Star Hockey Game Fundraiser - Thursday, August 3, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Terry Conner Rink (Cove Island Park) without the sale of alcohol.

Seconded by Ms. Katz

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Newman mentioned to Mr. Murray that the users of Troy Field try not to schedule any games or events for August 3, 2023. Mr. Murray stated he would speak with Michael Orgera.

- Brianne Moulder - **REACH Prep - REACH Prep Walk - Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Cove Island Park - Set-up Begins at 6:00 a.m. and Clean-up Ends at 1:30 p.m. - 250 Total Participants.**<sup>6</sup>

Ms. Moulder presented the application and answered questions from the Commission.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Hollas made a motion to **Approve** the REACH Prep Walk - Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Cove Island Park without a Balloon Artist.

Seconded by Ms. Katz

Unanimously Approved

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- No New Business or as may properly be introduced before the Commission.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Policy, Rules, Guidelines & Vision for Stamford Parks**<sup>7</sup>
  - Review and approval of revisions to the Parks & Recreation Commission Policies & Procedures (6.3 Health Department) as presented and discussed at the April 19, 2023 meeting.

This item was **TABLED** until the June 21, 2023 meeting so Mr. Tedder and Ms. Adetola could be included in the discussion.

### **TOURNAMENTS:**

- No Tournaments.

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<sup>5</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:47:55

<sup>6</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:15:15

<sup>7</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:20:18

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Mr. Newman mentioned the email received from Toni DeCarlo, President Soundview Manor Property Owners Association, who spoke during the Public Participation Session.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

- Kevin Murray, Director of Parks & Recreation: Parks & Recreation Update.
  - Update on Pickleball availability in City Parks for 2023.<sup>8</sup>

Mr. Murray gave an update of the availability of pickleball courts in the City and provided details on a proposal to permanently convert the two (2) tennis courts at Cummings Park to six (6) pickleball courts.

The Commission had further discussion on who is using the various courts and when and how to research those numbers and reservation and drop-in play for the pickleball courts.

Mr. Newman asked Mr. Murray if he was looking for approval from the Commission on the conversion of the tennis courts to pickleball courts at Cummings Park, and he responded yes.

The Commission had further discussion on this conversion and Mr. Murray provided additional details of the project.

Mr. Newman made a motion to approve converting the two (2) tennis courts to six (6) pickleball courts at Cummings Park with the condition Mr. Murray provide data relative to tennis and pickleball usage at Cummings Park, which information is to be reported at the June 21, 2023 meeting.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Unanimously Approved

- Review of Field Policy Manual with regards to Rainout and Inclement Weather / Weather Related Issues.<sup>9</sup>

Mr. Murray provided details on how the Recreation Department deals with inclement weather with regard to both natural grass and turf fields and answered questions from the Commission.

- Parks & Recreation Update.<sup>10</sup>

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Mr. Murray:

*[Begin Report]*

- Cummings Park four (4) bay court to be approved to be a standalone pickleball use only.
- July 4th Fireworks coordination and internal operations meeting to be scheduled for the upcoming June 30, 2023 show.
- Cubeta Stadium bleacher project in process.
- Dorthey Heroy baseball field dugout projects to begin soon.
- Scofieldtown Park pathway to tennis courts in process.
- Sleepy Hollow Park swing set installation to start soon, which includes pathway and fence.
- Athletic field lights are in process to be repaired by Shock Electric - twenty-five (25) bulbs and ballasts at Cubeta Stadium. Replace nine (9) bulbs at Cummings Field #1 and Troy Field.
- Hinding Tennis, LLC to start Scalzi hockey/pickleball game court soon.

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<sup>8</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:27:56

<sup>9</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:57:45

<sup>10</sup> Video Time Stamp - 02:11:43

- Recreation Supervisor, Jack Lyons, stated May 1, 2023.
- Illegal vending going on at Lione Park. Notified Health Department and Stamford Police Department for assistance.
- West Beach boat ramp closed as of Thursday, May 10, 2023. Project to be completed in December.
- Cove Island Park boat ramp will be open for residents only this year. Designated trailer parking within Cove Park to assist with the anticipated overflow with the closure of the West Beach ramp.
- Working with Marketing Coordinator and Administration to launch new Parks & Recreation website.
- Eagles Boys Scout project completed at Fort Stamford by Hunter Fuda and Troop which preserved ADA handicap ramp for building; looks amazing.
- Pollinator Pathway volunteer day on April 22, 2023 was a big success. Thanks Melanie and Becky.
- Kosciuszko Park safety concern with park lights for boaters coming into the harbor with channel light. Implementing a new fixture to assist with the site perception and installing trees to block entering vehicles.
- The City of Stamford celebrated Arbor Day on April 28, 2023 at Lione Park where four (4) trees were planted within the park. Thanks to Elm Davey Tree and Bartlett for the support once again.
- Park bathrooms Citywide are now open as of May 1, 2023 for use seven (7) days a week.
- The City of Stamford celebrated Earth Day on Friday, April 21, 2023 at four (4) city parks.
- Recreation programming is booming with schedules. Spring volleyball, kickball, softball, baseball, soccer, cricket, swim lessons and more.
- Operations staff planning on beach season which starts up Memorial Day officially at all beach locations which includes Tram service at Cove Island Park.
- Seven-week summer camps are at full capacity at seven (7) sites. 200 kids on wait list.
- Recreation field checker to begin monitoring program permits May 15, 2023 Citywide.
- On April 20, 2023 Parks & Recreation Committee approved all fee increases for Parks & Recreation, Terry Conner Rink and E.G. Brennan Golf Course. Awaiting public hearing and full Board vote.
- Laz Beach Parking Management has begun as of May 6, 2023 for the weekends until Memorial Day, which will then be daily.
- Beach/park Ambassadors will begin Memorial Day weekend and work Friday through Sunday assisting with quality-of-life issues and educate park-goers about rules and regulations at Cove Island Park, West Beach, Cummings Park and Scalzi Park.

*[End Report]*

## **DISCUSSION:**<sup>11</sup>

### ➤ **Paul Newman - Parks Strategic Plan.**

Mr. Newman stated Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations, will be attending the June 21, 2023 meeting to discuss the Parks Strategic Plan.

### ➤ **Melanie Hollas - NIPS Fund Update.**

Ms. Hollas stated there are no further updates and this item is complete. This item will be removed from future agendas.

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<sup>11</sup> Video Time Stamp - 02:37:20

➤ **Update of Parks & Recreation Commission Strategic Goals for 2022/2023 as follows:**

- Ms. Hollas: Invasive Species initiative & RFP Update.  
Ms. Hollas stated Erin McKenna, Associate Planner, Land Use Bureau, reported a vendor has been selected but Purchasing has not officially awarded the project to the chosen consultant and the name cannot be released. Also, since the project is over \$100,000.00, the funding will require approval from the Board of Finance and/or the Board of Representatives.
- Mr. Newman and Ms. Hollas: Friends Groups.  
Ms. Hollas stated there still needs to be a meeting scheduled with Dana Lee, Assistant Corporation Counsel, to go over the outline for the Friends Groups.
- Mr. Tedder and Ms. Katz: Foundation and the City website.  
No update.

➤ **Michael Tedder - Scofieldtown Park Dog Park Proposal.**

Mr. Newman reported Carl Weinberg has taken over District 20 on the Board of Representatives and has been working with Mr. Tedder.

The Commission had some further discussion regarding the following topics:<sup>12</sup>

- 2023/2024 Goals.
- Public cemeteries as green space and the formation of a Cemetery Commission.
- Policy for submitting an item for the Parks & Recreation Commission agenda and possible future agenda items.
- Special Event application process; making a request to change the lead time from 30 days to 60 days.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Newman adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lesley Capp  
Assistant to the Parks & Recreation Commission  
May 23, 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>12</sup> Video Time Stamp - 02:43:25

**From:** Toni DeCarlo <[119decarlo@gmail.com](mailto:119decarlo@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 3, 2023 1:30 PM

**To:** Newman, Paul <[PNewman@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:PNewman@StamfordCT.gov)>; Lombardo, Thomas <[TLombardo@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:TLombardo@StamfordCT.gov)>

**Cc:** Murray, Kevin <[KMurray@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:KMurray@StamfordCT.gov)>; Quiñones, Matt <[MQuinones@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:MQuinones@StamfordCT.gov)>; Hill, Winton M. <[WHill@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:WHill@StamfordCT.gov)>; DeRubeis, Louis <[LDeRubeis@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:LDeRubeis@StamfordCT.gov)>; Bewkes, Bradley <[BBewkes@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:BBewkes@StamfordCT.gov)>; Watkins, David <[DWatkins1@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:DWatkins1@StamfordCT.gov)>; Shaw, Timothy <[TShaw@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:TShaw@StamfordCT.gov)>

**Subject:** Quiet Zone @ Cummings Beach

**Importance:** High

Good afternoon!

Happy May 3<sup>rd</sup>...or is it? Three days into opening the Quiet Zone and already we have concert speakers with their BOOM BOOM BOOM rattling our homes...DAY and NIGHT. Please check your 977-4444 dispatch records and you will see the number of calls we have had to make to plead for mercy especially in the evening when Officer Gould is not on duty. Year after year we have had the same complaint with no resolve.

I have a great idea...please read and think with open minds:

1. If you don't (and we know the City doesn't) have the supervision to monitor the beaches, don't open them so early. The weekend of Memorial Day is when the Quiet Zone should open. There is enough parking on the other side of the pavilion for the visitors to park.
2. As the City does at Cove Island...at dusk close the Parks...all of them. Nothing good happens in a park after dark!
3. Cummings has gates at the entrance from Shippan Avenue, which are used when the Park floods, lock them when the Park is supposed to close, then no one can access the beach area. The other gates at Soundview Avenue and the interior gate by the little bridge should be locked as well. Just think for a minute the domino affect...Officer Gould, who single-handedly does an awesome job when he is on duty, would have more time freed up to monitor the other 40 plus parks in the City. Also, if there is no access, then we (myself and my other 52 homeowners) wouldn't be calling the dispatchers who never have an officer to send..."due to priorities in the City", as well as the fact that the police who do not want to be bothered with noise at the beach, will not have to go...and...MOST IMPORTANTLY, (here's your incentive) none of you will get my emails year after year, month after month, day after day, begging you to please give us a "quality of life". The concert speakers were not invented when we bought our homes years ago, so the excuse of living near a park goes out the window...surely, if they were, we would have not moved here!

I know that this is not high on your list of to do's, but if you lived here I am sure you would do something about it. I am asking you, to really give #3 above some thought. Lou, you were at the meeting with "CAN" last Fall. You have the presentation about noise and the effect it has on the human body. Paul, I have been trying to get to you that same presentation to you, but I don't know where to send it. Please advise.

Thank you for your time and I remain hopeful that we can come to a satisfactory resolution together!  
Toni DeCarlo, President – Soundview Manor Property Owners Association (203) 979-0428

P.S. CASE IN POINT>>> Here it is at 1:11 p.m. and I just had words with a violator in the Quiet Zone with his concert speaker pounding. I guess he can't read the signs in English OR Spanish. HELP!!!!