

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023
REGULAR MEETING
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
6:30 P.M.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89068821525>

Meeting ID: 890 6882 1525

Passcode: 175582

A Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Paul Newman, Chair
Melanie Hollas, Vice Chair
Angela Adetola
Jessica Katz (Left meeting at 7:45 p.m.)
Michael Tedder

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Newman called the meeting to order at 6:32 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 was no one present who wished to speak.

- Review of the July 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes.¹

Mr. Newman brought up the review and vote to adopt changes to the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure and the vote which was taken. The vote to adopt the changes discussed should have been denied as it was out of order due to the current Bylaws.

Mr. Newman read into the record Article XI from the Bylaws as follows:

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the Commission only after the proposed change has been read and discussed at a previous regular meeting, except that the Bylaws may be changed at any meeting by the unanimous vote of the members.

¹ Video Time Stamp - 00:01:34

As there were only three (3) Commission members present at the July 19th meeting, the vote should not have taken place at the same meeting the changes were presented and discussed. Mr. Newman stated that section of the minutes should be amended.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Newman then called for a motion to void the vote to adopt the changes discussed for Article V - Election of Officers - Section 2 taken at the July 19, 2023 Regular Meeting as the vote was not conducted in accordance with the established Bylaws.

Ms. Adetola made a motion to void the vote to adopt the changes discussed for Article V - Election of Officers - Section 2 taken at the July 19, 2023 Regular Meeting as the vote was not conducted in accordance with the established Bylaws.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Newman asked if there were any further changes.

Ms. Hollas noted on Page 1 it shows Ms. Tedder instead of Mr. Tedder.

Mr. Newman then called for a motion to approve the July 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes with the changes discussed.

Ms. Adetola made a motion to approve the July 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes with the changes discussed.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

(Mr. Newman and Ms. Katz were ineligible to vote as they were absent at the July 19, 2023 meeting.)

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Jay Boll - Laurel House - ***Laurel House Wellness 5K Walk & Run - Saturday, October 28, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Cove Island Park*** - Set-up Begins at 7:30 a.m. and Clean-up Ends at 1:30 p.m. - 75 Total Participants.²

Linda Autore, President & CEO, along with John Wooten, Vice President of Operations, made a brief presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

Ms. Autore did mention a change in the start time to 9:30 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve the Laurel House Wellness 5K Walk & Run on Saturday, October 28, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Cove Island Park.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

- Peggy Erenkötter - ***Stamford Garden Club Celebration - Sunday, September 10, 2023 (Rain Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023) from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Fort Stamford*** - Set-up Begins at 3:00 p.m. and Clean-up Ends at 7:00 p.m. - 38 Total Participants.³

Ms. Erenkötter made a brief presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

Ms. Hollas made a motion to approve the Stamford Garden Club Celebration on Sunday, September 10, 2023 (Rain Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023) from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Fort Stamford.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

² Video Time Stamp - 00:09:05

³ Video Time Stamp - 00:17:05

NEW BUSINESS:

- No new business or as may properly be introduced before the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Bylaws and Rules of Procedure** (*Discussed at the July 19, 2023 Meeting*): Follow-up discussion on the proposed amendments to Article V – Election of Officers - Section 2.⁴

Mr. Newman read into the record Section 2 with the discussed changes as follows:

Officers shall serve 12-month terms. Officers may run for consecutive 12-month terms; however, an officer may be removed from the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson position by a two-thirds vote from the majority of the then current Commission when previous notice has been given to the officer. A successor may thereafter be elected by the majority of the then current Commission for the remainder of said term. In the event of a resignation or removal of the Chairperson prior to the end of term, the Vice Chairperson shall serve in their capacity until the previous Chairperson's term expires. The earliest election for a successor Chairperson shall take place at the next meeting of the then current Commission after the resignation or removal of said officer. In the event of a resignation or removal of the Vice Chairperson prior to the end of term, an interim officer voted by the majority of the then current Commission shall serve in their capacity until the previous Vice Chairperson's term expires. The earliest election for a successor Vice Chairperson shall take place at the next meeting of the then current Commission after the resignation or removal of said officer.

The Commission discussed the changes to Article V - Election of Officers - Section 2 as presented at the July 19, 2023 meeting.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve the changes to Article V - Election of Officers, Section 2 as discussed at the July 19, 2023 meeting and read into the record at this meeting.

Seconded by Ms. Katz

Approved 4-1-0

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

Ms. Hollas stated Gabby Silver was in attendance and would like to add an update of the Turf Analysis under Old Business.⁵

Mr. Newman called for a motion to add an update on the Turf Analysis to the agenda under Old Business.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to add an update on the Turf Analysis to the agenda under Old Business.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Unanimously Approved

- **Turf Analysis - Gabby Silver:** Update on the discussion of ideas for performing a Turf Analysis on artificial vs. natural grass.

After some discussion, the Commission decided to **TABLE** further discussion to the September 20, 2023 meeting.

⁴ Video Time Stamp - 00:20:45

⁵ Video Time Stamp - 00:37:10

- **Policy, Rules, Guidelines & Vision for Stamford Parks** (*Tabled from the July 19, 2023 Meeting*): Review of the proposed edits discussed at the July 19, 2023 meeting.⁶

After considerable discussion, the Commission decided to **TABLE** this item to the September 20, 2023 meeting.

TOURNAMENTS:

- No Tournaments.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

STAFF REPORTS:

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

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Mr. Murray:⁷

[Begin Report]

- Summer sport seasons are concluded and/or in playoff competition which includes kickball, softball and beach volleyball.
- Recreation Fall brochure registrations starts September 5, 2023 for all Fall programs and sport leagues.
- All seven (7) summer camp sites concluded on Friday, August 11, 2023.
- Dorthey Heroy Pool closed as of Friday, August 11, 2023, which was the last day for the camp.
- Summer lifeguards will be monitoring beaches the week of August 14, 2023. Starting August 18, 2023 it will be Friday through Sunday only until Labor Day.
- Cove Tram will now be running on weekends only until Labor Day.
- HT40 Event at Terry Conner Rink that was held on Thursday, August 3, 2023 was a huge success in which 2,000 people attended.
- Terry Conner Rink Financial Statement. (*Attached*)
- Parks & Recreation July Financial Statement. (*Attached*)
- Citywide Park Strategic Work session August 14, 2023 which discussed three (3) opportunities.
 1. **OPPORTUNITY 1: Community contributions, philanthropy, and donations (both through sweat equity and capital/operations financing). Park Sponsorship Programs.**
 2. **OPPORTUNITY 2: Corporate sponsorships and advertising revenue for recreation facilities.**
 3. **OPPORTUNITY 3: Additional fiscal policy measures to raise funds for parks and facilities.**
- Organic Field Program.
- Susan Nable sign at Chestnut Hill Park unveiling ceremony is scheduled for Friday, August 25, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
- Laz Parking Beach Operation July Financial Report. (*Attached*)
- Laz Parking Park Attendants Report. (*Attached*) Beach/parks and northern park routes which started August 16, 2023.
- Working on Proposals to make Cummings Park pickleball court standalone. City funding available is approximately \$25,000. Looking to obtain private donations as well.
- Courtland Avenue Park: Working with Land Use Bureau, Engineering and Architect to prepare design plan for Dog Park upgrades. ARP funding is available to assist with the project.

⁶ Video Time Stamp - 00:43:25

⁷ Video Time Stamp - 01:33:32

- Twenty (20) Citywide playgrounds annual inspections to be scheduled this fall from IPS which is the certified inspection company.
- Phillip J. Giordano Playground signs have been ordered and unveiling ceremony TBA this fall.
- Parks & Recreation will look to provide monthly events on new website which will inform all on upcoming events within our parks. This information is generated by Community Pass program.
- Carwin Park Concert Series was held on Tuesday, August 8 & August 15, 2023.
- Approved fee Resolutions (*Attached*) for Terry Conner Rink, Recreation camps, Tournament fees and Park Maintenance fees.

[End Report]

DISCUSSION:

- **Citywide Parks Strategic Plan Update.**⁸
- **Parks & Recreation Commission Strategic Goals for 2023/2024.**⁹
- **Update of Parks & Recreation Commission Strategic Goals for 2022/2023 as follows:**¹⁰
 - Mr. Newman and Ms. Hollas: Friends Groups.
 - Ms. Hollas: Invasive Species initiative & RFP Update.
 - Mr. Tedder and Ms. Katz: Foundation and the City website.
 - Mr. Tedder: Scofieldtown Park Dog Park.
- **Application and Waiver Agreement for volunteer groups to work in the City parks.**

ADJOURNMENT

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 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Lesley Capp
 Assistant to the Parks & Recreation Commission
 August 24, 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

⁸ Video Time Stamp - 02:02:25

⁹ Video Time Stamp - 02:31:55

¹⁰ Video Time Stamp - 02:32:35