

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024
SPECIAL MEETING
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
7:00 P.M.

ZOOM WEBINAR
Webinar ID: 815 2658 9619
Passcode: 817846

A Special Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

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

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Hollas called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and introduced the Commission Members and staff present.

Ms. Hollas introduced the first item on the agenda.

➤ **Stamford Bombers:** Request to be a sanctioned league in the City of Stamford. (*TABLED from the February 21, 2024 meeting.*)

The Parks & Recreation Commission will continue their discussion on the potential approval of the Stamford Bombers as a sanctioned team in the City of Stamford.

Ms. Hollas opened the meeting to public comments and asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak. The following persons addressed the Commission:

- Jim Serafino, Stamford Babe Ruth
- Jason Dube, Vice President, Stamford Little League
- Frank Spoto, Stamford Legion

Ms. Hollas asked if there was anyone else present who would like to speak; there was no response.

Ms. Hollas closed the public participation portion of the meeting and opened the Special Meeting.

Ms. Hollas called for a motion to bring forward the discussion regarding the sanctioning of the Stamford Bombers tabled from the February 21, 2024 meeting.

Ms. Adetola made a motion to bring forward the discussion regarding the Stamford Bombers tabled from the February 21, 2024 meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

Ms. Hollas thanked everyone who spoke and provided a brief status update since the February 21, 2024 meeting.

Ms. Hollas made a motion to grant temporary sanctioning to the Stamford Bombers for one (1) year and then return to the Commission after that year to provide a report on their experience.

Seconded by Ms. Adetola

Mr. Newman asked if there would be further discussions with the applicant. Mr. Newman stated the reason he had requested to hear from the other sanctioned organizations was to see how they all felt about another league being sanctioned to use City fields.

Mr. Newman further stated that he felt a vote should be held off due to the following:

- Stamford Bombers did not provide a complete 2023 roster. Mr. Newman felt the Stamford Bombers roster was not 100% Stamford residents.
- Only having ten (10) players on a travel team. Difficult to manage a travel team with only 10 players. Should be at least 12 or 13 players.
- No house league program for players 13 and under. This is part of our sanctioning policy.
- Sanctioning will not provide priority in field allocation.
- The request from the Board of Education not to sanction any other teams should be considered.

Mr. Newman stated that he is against sanctioning the Stamford Bombers at this time.

Ms. Hollas stated in response to Mr. Newman's comments that she felt the temporary sanctioning was beneficial so costs could be reduced for the participating children as the Stamford Bombers rent field space and also to see if the field space available is adequate.

After some further discussion, Ms. Hollas called for a vote to temporarily sanction the Stamford Bombers for one (1) year.

The sanctioning of the Stamford Bombers was approved by a vote of 3-1-0.
(Hollas, Adetola and Tedder - In Favor / Newman - Against)

ADJOURNMENT

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

Ms. Hollas adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lesley Capp
Assistant to the Parks & Recreation Commission
March 8, 2024

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