

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021  
REGULAR MEETING  
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL  
6:30 P.M.**

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81358259068>

*Meeting ID: 813 5825 9068  
Passcode: 105325*

**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/81358259068>  
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, April 21, 2021 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Althea Brown, Interim Chair  
Melanie Hollas  
Paul Newman  
Michael Tedder

Staff: Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation  
Kevin Murray, Operations Manager, Parks & Facilities  
Lesley Capp, Assistant - Parks & Recreation Commission

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Brown called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and introduced the Commission Members and staff present.

Ms. Brown introduced the first item on the agenda.

➤ Review of the March 17, 2021 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes.

Mr. Newman made a motion to approve the March 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

(Ms. Hollas was ineligible to vote as she was not present at the March 17, 2021 meeting)

- Review of the April 8, 2021 Special Meeting Draft Minutes.

Mr. Newman made a motion to approve the April 8, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Ms. Brown

Unanimously Approved

Ms. Hollas and Mr. Tedder were ineligible to vote as they were not present at the April 8, 2021 Special Meeting.)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Kosciuszko Park:** John Zelinsky, Board of Representatives, District #11 and Alexander Koproski, Polish Cultural Society of Connecticut - Requesting permission to install a plaque providing a brief history of the Polish patriot the park is named after, Thadeuz Kosciuszko (1756-1817).<sup>1</sup>

Representative Zelinsky and Mr. Koproski made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

Mr. Newman made a motion to approve the plaque for Kosciuszko Park with the condition provide a draft of the language on the plaque and a mock-up of the plaque.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas      Unanimously Approved

- Hope Levensohn - Pickleball Courts: Proposal to install Pickleball courts in various parks in Stamford deemed appropriate and suitable.<sup>2</sup>

Ms. Levensohn made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

After considerable discussion, it was determined this would be a special project which would require a third party vendor to stripe or line the designated courts for pickleball and Mr. Murray would need to submit the project for City funding in the fall for the 2022-2023 budget. Mr. Murray also stated he would investigate costs and procedure for lining courts for pickleball.

Ms. Hollas made a motion to approve the addition of pickleball to various tennis and/or basketball courts and for Mr. Murray to review the current budget for any possible funding for the project and determine the exact location of the courts to be used.

Seconded by Mr. Newman

Unanimously Approved

- **Scalzi Park :**

- Alexandros Kapasouris, Stamford Youth Hockey Association (SYHA), House Coordinator: Proposal for revised signage to be posted at the Hockey Rink.<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Kapasouris made a presentation and submitted revised signage to be posted at the Scalzi Park hockey rink.

After a brief conversation, Mr. Newman made a motion to approve the signage with the grammatical corrections to be posted at the Scalzi Park hockey rink and with the possible addition of a QR code.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:04:20

<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:22:12

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:46:05

- Anne Goodnow: Proposed improvements to the Skate Park area.<sup>4</sup>

Ms. Goodnow made a presentation (PowerPoint Presentation Submitted) with a focus on the installation of lighting around the skate park to help reduce the incidents of vandalism and answered questions from the Commission. Mr. Chris Montalvo and Mr. Matt Anderson also made comments about their experiences and use of the skate park and their support of the improvements.

After some discussion, it was determined to **TABLE** this item until a future meeting so further due diligence on financing for this project could be done.

- **John Boccuzzi Park** - Jake Enterlin, Waterside Resident: Share ideas for a dog area in John Boccuzzi Park.<sup>5</sup>

Mr. Enterlin made a presentation for a discussion on a possible dog park where owners could go with their dogs and socialize and have something to eat and/or drink. Capt. Thomas Lombardo made comments on the challenges of something like this in a City-owned park. After some discussion and suggestions offered, the Commission agreed it was a great concept and offered their support on the endeavor.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Cummings Park** - Kevin Murray, Operations Manager Parks & Facilities: Proposal for Quiet Zone in the East Beach parking lot of Cummings Park.<sup>6</sup>

Mr. Murray made a presentation on a proposal to enforce the “Quiet Zone” prohibiting amplified music at all times and closing the beach at 8:00 p.m. from May 1st to September 30th and posting signage. Capt. Thomas Lombardo also provided comments regarding complaints from those residents who live in the area and confirmed the Stamford Police would enforce the closing of the beach at 8:00 p.m. and maintain the “Quiet Zone.”

After a brief discussion, Mr. Newman made a motion to approve the quiet zone for the east side of Cummings Park and close the beach at 8:00 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

- **Sanctioned Baseball Teams Special Meeting - April 8, 2021** - Althea Brown, Interim Chair and Paul Newman, Parks & Recreation Commission Board Member: Highlights on the Special Meeting and overview of the baseball teams’ progress reports, 50/70 program and ideas to increase baseball participation.<sup>7</sup>

Ms. Brown and Mr. Newman provided details and highlights of the Special Meeting held on April 8, 2021.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

No Special Events.

### **TOURNAMENTS:**

No Tournaments.

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<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:56:10

<sup>5</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:26:22

<sup>6</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:44:25

<sup>7</sup> Video Time Stamp - 01:56:00

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

No Correspondence.

## **STAFF REPORTS:**

➤ Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation: Recreation Update.

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Ms. Albano:<sup>8</sup>

*[Begin Report]*

- No new Positive COVID cases staff wise.
- Budget hearing with the Board of Finance on April 7, 2021 for Recreation and Rink went fairly well. Mary Lou Rinaldi and Richard Freedman questioned why the Star Center is not covering all its costs. No. 1 - We are in a pandemic; No. 2 - We never promised such; that we would try. Star Center programs are all young, low- to middle-income kids. All youth programs are fee supported not self-sustaining. The Board of Representatives hearing on March 31, 2021 went very well. One-page information sheet highlighting any significant budget issues and Capital funding had been presented to both Boards before the hearings.
- Recreation and Rink Staff continue to be a part of the planning for the new City ERP Financial software presentations by vendors. This will be a full Enterprise Resource Planning system to replace current HTE software.

## **RECREATION:**

- Camp registration almost full. Walk-in by scheduled appointment went very well and in fact, may keep post COVID.
- We were able to move the Westover Camp to Hart School due to continued construction at Westover. Thankfully in a near-by site.
- Have to move the first week of Davenport School camp to Springdale School due to a roof install of a chiller.
- Same State Guidance to-date per link:  
[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DPH/Communications/COVID19/DPH-Youth-and-Amateur-Sports-COVID19\\_UPDATED\\_Mar\\_2021\\_v52.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DPH/Communications/COVID19/DPH-Youth-and-Amateur-Sports-COVID19_UPDATED_Mar_2021_v52.pdf)
- Adult Volleyball leagues began and continue at Lathon Wider gym.
- Sport activities ongoing at Lathon Wider.
- Star Center programs preschool new Spring programs have started.
- Still planning Spring routine seasonal preparation and potential adjustments as virus dictates.
- No decision yet on the reopening of the Heroy Park pool due to COVID; however Health Department will inspect and waiting on Dr. Calder's direction. Odds are it will open with COVID precautions. Offering a camp there this year with a notation to registrants that if you register for this camp, the pool may not be available.
- Lione Park parking lot is open. Permitted play has begun.
- Very busy with permit applications for fields, tournaments and events.
- Softball and Kickball Spring adult leagues have started.
- Recruiting, hiring and interviewing camp and lifeguard staff.
- The Cove Island Park tram looks like it will run this Spring and Summer. Hiring drivers now.
- Ad Banner sales approved by the Board of Representatives will begin advertising for sale of such through our leagues and website marketing, etc. First banner sold!

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<sup>8</sup> Video Time Stamp - 02:05:23

- Revenues down in Recreation due to COVID (See Report).
- Youth Sports Consultant for Baseball ONLY. Still waiting on Administration input on the DRAFT scope of services I wrote for the RFP.

**TERRY CONNER'S RINK:**

- New ammonia & ventilation system install starting. Winning bid is Artic Air and once bonds are submitted, they will begin work soon. Bid came in at \$243,000.00 and within budget.
- Ice stays up with Artic's first phase of work and will come down again for the second phase, which is the control panel and compressors in May or June. The goal is to complete this work before Summer skate camps begin.
- All winter programming done. Spring ice continues including youth hockey try-outs, skating lessons, synchronized and ice rentals.
- Rink still hosting the CHC testing site that is under contract with the City and taking place in the lot outside the rink. Will be over by end of May before Memorial Day weekend.
- I submitted the PAR for the third Operator vacancy to be held until the new fiscal year July 1, 2021. Mayor has agreed. No word yet.
- City has hired a Rink Consultant to review all rink operations. Met with him as did rink staff. Should be done any day now.
- Future goals are online registration, a live food vendor, and a potential trade-in with minimal cost of our Olympia ice re-surfacer that has given us trouble.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- Both Recreation and Rink continue working with our Marketing person on email and social media marketing.
- Fireworks TBD soon. State capacity if only 500. Vendor has a May 1, 2021 deadline.

[End Report]

➤ Kevin Murray, Operations Manager - Parks & Facilities: Parks Update.

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Mr. Murray:<sup>9</sup>

[Begin Report]

- Park Attendants Program to be scheduled for 26 weeks starting Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day. Staff attendants at Cove Island/Cummings/Scalzi and Lione Parks and West Beach - Friday thru Sunday 7:00 am to 11:00 pm.
- Scazli Park Ropes Course Bid waiver for replacement, which is covered by FEMA claim and City insurance, was approved by Board of Finance and now needs approval by Board of Representatives. Schedule will be to get replacement up in running by mid-June by contractor.
- April 10, 2021 was opening day for Baseball and Softball fields.
- Phase 3 seasonal hire is requesting 10 additional seasonal employees to start on Monday, April 19, 2021. Currently we have 13 employees in place and will have 23 seasonal employees as of April 19, 2021.
- Board of Finance and Board of Representatives budget presentations are complete.
- Henkel Corporation will be sending volunteers on Saturday, April 24, 2021 to do a beach/park cleanup from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm - 50 to 60 people at Cove Island Park.
- Cubeta Stadium has 35 lights out currently. Looking to get re-lamp project done with City contractor.

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<sup>9</sup> Video Time Stamp - 02:19:40

- East Beach Bathroom Building is looking great; bathroom fixtures going up as I type.
- City Playgrounds to be open. Guidelines for playgrounds to be posted at all City playgrounds. Weekly sanitizing to be performed three times a week by parks staff.
- Reinstall and update signage and banners on all COVID guidelines in all City parks.
- Reconnecting Barret Park Committee is being created and have our first meeting Thursday, April 15, 2021 in which all enhancements and upgrades will come before the Commission.
- Kosciuszko Park site meeting on April 9, 2021 with BLT. Work collectively for park upgrades in which all enhancements and upgrades will come before the Commission for approval/capital planning.
- City marinas are staffed and opened on Saturday, April 3, 2021.
- Still awaiting certified list for Landscape Specialist position to schedule interviews.
- Euclid Avenue/Cove Island Park woods debris was removed by Parks staff. Three (3) day project.
- 2021 Beach/Parking Management Kick-off meeting was on March 29, 2021 (**Attached Documents**)
- Citywide bathrooms to be open Saturday, May 1, 2021.
- Additional cleaning for high-touch wipe down to be scheduled daily.
- Cummings Park “Quiet Zone”: East Beach parking lot to be discussed on agenda.
- Scalzi Hockey Rink: Approval on agenda.
- Scalzi Skate Park Proposal: Item on agenda.

*[End Report]*

➤ Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Action Report - April 12, 2021. (Posted on P&RC Website)

**DISCUSSION:**

No Discussion Items.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Ms. Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lesley Capp  
May 5, 2021

*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)