

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021  
REGULAR MEETING  
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL  
6:30 P.M.**

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING**  
**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89558485329>**

***Meeting ID: 895 5848 5329***  
***Passcode: 294045***

**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/89558485329>  
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.*

---

A Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

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

Staff: Lesley Capp, Assistant - Parks & Recreation Commission

Absent: Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation  
Kevin Murray, Operations Manager, Parks & Facilities

**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 May 19, 2021 Meeting Draft Minutes.

Mr. Newman and Mr. Tedder commented that the 50/70 Discussion from the May meeting that was Tabled to the June 16, 2021 meeting was not on the agenda and would like to add that item.

After considerable discussion, Ms. Brown denied the request to include the 50/70 discussion. Ms. Brown then called for a motion to approve the May 19, 2021 Draft Meeting Minutes. There was no response.

Ms. Brown called on Alexander Koproski. As Mr. Koproski was not at the meeting, Mr. Brown called on Colleen Harkey.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Veterans Memorial Park** - Colleen M. Harkey, CFRE, Executive Director, Stamford Veterans Park Partnership: Update on Veterans Parks and QR codes on veteran's monuments.<sup>1</sup>

Ms. Harkey made a presentation to the Commission and answered questions.

Mr. Koproski announced he was on the meeting.<sup>2</sup>

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Kosciuszko Park** - Alexander Koproski, Polish Cultural Society of Connecticut: Proposal on commemorating General Thadeuz Kosciuszko in Kosciuszko Park. Mr. Koproski presented a draft of the summary and a mock-up of the plaque and discussed its placement and installation funding.

Mr. Koproski made a presentation and went over the materials sent to the Commission regarding the plaque and answered questions.

Mr. Newman made a motion to allow the installation of the plaque commemorating General Kosciuszko with the text as presented by Mr. Koproski.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

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

- **Cove Park** - Becky Collins and Kate Haas, Pollinator Pathway Stamford Committee and Melanie Hollas, Parks & Recreation Commission Board Member: Update on Sustainable CT Tree Project for planting native trees and Kosciuszko Park improvement project.<sup>3</sup>

Ms. Collins, Ms. Haas and Ms. Hollas provided an update on the tree planting project and answered questions from the Commission. Ms. Collins also provided an updated on the Kosciuszko Park grant.

---

<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:12:03

<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:23:45

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:32:55

Mr. Newman stated he would like to provide an update on 50/70 under Old Business.

Ms. Brown proceeded to introduce Sharon Lewis.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- Sharon Lewis - United Jewish Federation - Jewish Community Relations Council - *A Walk for Unity in our Community - Sunday, October 10, 2021 (Rain date - Sunday, October 17, 2021) from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m.* at Cove Island Park - Set-up starts at 10:30 a.m. and Clean-up ends at 4:00 p.m. - 400 - 600 Total Attendees (Estimated).<sup>4</sup>

Ms. Lewis provided a brief summary of the event and answered questions from the Commission.

After considerable discussion, Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve the United Jewish Federation's *A Walk for Unity in our Community* event on October 10, 2021 in Cove Island Park.

Seconded by Mr. Newman

Unanimously Approved

**TOURNAMENTS:**

No Tournaments.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

No Correspondence.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

- Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation: Recreation Update.

The following Staff Report was submitted by Ms. Albano:

*[Begin Report]*

**RECREATION:**

- Full time Recreation Supervisor, Bob Pentino, has resigned and I will move to fill position as soon as possible. Most likely will be without this position all summer. Adjusting in this busy time as best as possible and remaining staff super-busy and being very helpful.
- Lifeguards on duty at all beaches, 7 days a week, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Heroy pool opens on the June 19, 2021. Camps, tram staff, permits, adult leagues (softball/beach volleyball), independent sanctioned leagues and contract vendors all in full swing.
- Lifeguard Orientation went well and trainings is ongoing. Masks still worn in close encounters.
- Camp Directors and Counselor Orientations went well. Camp begins on Monday, June 21, 2021. Hiring continues for special needs staff and counselor positions as kids accept a position and then decline it. All sites full.
- Met with Kevin Murray, Operations Manager, Parks & Facilities and Capt. Thomas Lombardo to discuss the 8:00 p.m. "Quiet Zone" and the 90-team beach volleyball leagues' parking needs. Not able to find a solution that met Capt. Lombardo and the Stamford Police Department so teams will have to park elsewhere in the park and move cars by 8:00 p.m. Fingers crossed here.

---

<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:43:44

- Still giving camp refunds for the Board of Education FREE summer COVID Federal funded program only if the parent has a mandate letter. Met with the Board of Education and they are predicting the refunds will be minimal and so far it has been under 15.
- Summer camp bus bid awarded.
- Met with our Recreation software vendor on a demonstration for a payment plan module and an invoicing module. Both are needed as Recreation needs to maintain per City accounting controls and records retention purposes.
- Mark McGrath, Director of Operations and Michael Pollard, Chief of Staff, have not yet responded on the new draft for the baseball consultant scope of services. I need feedback from both of them on content and on finding consultants to send the bid out. DRAFT copy forwarded to Commission, and ultimately will move on to Purchasing. Recreation has to find the funds somewhere for this study.
- No word yet from Legal to define the definition of a "charity" tournament. Does non-profit status always equal a charity and what about an individual who hosts a personal fundraiser for a cause?
- Director McGrath assisted me and we have given a permit free of charge to Stamford Peace to run a summer league at Scalzi and Lione basketball courts. They were the City's youth basketball provider at the schools over the winter. Currently no youth leagues sanctioned by the Commission are charged any use fees.

**TERRY CONNER'S RINK:**

- Due to the new electrical panel NEMA4x now taking 2½ to 3 months, the rink will now stay open through mid-August shifting the original shutdown from mid-May through mid-August to mid-August through mid-September.
- Trying to fill as much ice rental time as possible now due to the change in rink/ice shut down for Capex schedule change.
- New Egress door to the mechanical room awarded. Work to commence soon. \$24,000.00
- Fire alarm system bidder selected at a cost of \$132,275.00.
- Artic Air Contract (Machine Room equipment and ventilation upgrades): \$243,000.00 in progress.
- Capital account will have a free balance of ±\$70,000.00 to complete egress door work and any other planned capital work.
- Fall and winter ice schedule contracts in process.
- Capex construction meetings ongoing at 10:00 a.m. Mondays.
- Online registration start date anticipated for October 1, 2021.
- Rink Operator vacancy will be posted soon. Hire post July 1, 2021.
- All indoor COVID precautions still in place.
- Marketing ongoing, and ad sales will be pursued for rink opening in mid-September.

Respectfully submitted June 15, 2021

**Laurie Albano**  
**Superintendent of Recreation**

*[End Report]*

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

The following Staff Report was submitted by Mr. Murray:

*[Begin Report]*

- Cove Island Park East beach ADA Bathrooms have been open since Memorial Day weekend.
- Barret Park Drainage Project is complete prior to opening of camp on June 21, 2021.
- Barret Park Bathroom/common area and Classroom Painting is complete prior to opening of camp on June 21, 2021.
- Vaccine sites continue weekly in our Stamford parks - Jackie Robinson Park, Lione Park, Scalzi Park, Latham Park, Cummings Park, Cove Island Park, and Courtland Avenue Park. Staff is responsible for setup and breakdown daily, 7 days a week.
- Dorothy Heroy Pool opens Saturday, June 19. Heroy camp opens up Monday, June 21, 2021.
- Spring 2021 tree planting projects on June 1 and June 4, 2021. The City planted 85 trees - 71 of them were in the parks, 11 at two schools and 3 on City roadsides. Forestry department will continue to monitor trees and water when necessary

**Barrett Park: 15 trees planted**

**Old Cummings Park: 5 trees planted**

**Cummings Park: 16 trees planted**

**Scalzi Park: 11 trees planted**

**Cove Island Park: 11 trees planted**

**Kosciuszko Park: 13 trees planted**

**Newfield Elementary School: 4 trees planted**

**Toquam Elementary School: 7 trees planted**

- Met with BLT to discuss the Kosciuszko Park parking lot upgrade with the City Engineering Department. The proposal will be going to the Engineering Department for approval. The storm drains that are currently onsite will also be discussed with regard to the paving project per the guidelines of storm water. Restore the lot and approve the perception while staying under the guidelines is the goal. Will report back to the Commission when approved/scheduled.
- CIAC State Semifinals held at Cubeta Stadium on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. Great night for Stamford baseball as four local high schools participated including West Hill High.
- Peter Stokes has been selected to be the Landscape Specialist for the City of Stamford Parks Division starting Monday, June 28, 2021.
- Memorial Day Parade was rescheduled to Sunday, June 13, 2021 at Veterans Park.
- Pollinator Pathway meeting was held on Friday, June 11, 2021 with Melanie Hollas and operations staff for future planning.
- Courtland Avenue Playground meeting with Land Use and architect discussion on June 9, 2021.
- CPS Park Attendants began on Friday, May 28, 2021 and will be working Friday through Sunday throughout the season. Major issues at Lione Park and have been doing a great job at Cove/Cummings/ West and Scalzi Parks.
- Lione Park lamp replacement for (25) bulbs to be replaced for this Thursday, June 17, 2021 by Shock Electric.

*[End Report]*

➤ Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Action Report - June 8, 2021.

Following is the Action Report generated from the June 8, 2021 Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Meeting showing the list of events approved:

[Begin Report]

In Attendance: Mark McGrath (via phone)  
Kevin Murray  
Laurie Albano  
Kim Gerbert

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Mark McGrath, Chair.

**Consent Agenda**

No Consent Agenda.

**Special Events**

**Gerard Gasparino - ARI of Connecticut, Inc. - Cummings Park - Memorial Celebration - Monday, June 14, 2021 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 8:00 p.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 9:00 p.m. - 40 Adults.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

**David Tate - Cloonan Middle School/Stamford Public Schools - Moving Up Ceremony - Cubeta Stadium - Monday, June 14, 2021 - (Rain Date-Wednesday, June 16, 2021) - 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Set-Up Starts at 8:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 11:30 a.m. - 110 Children and 200 Adults.**

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

**Sharon Lewis - United Jewish Federation - Jewish Community Relations Council - A Walk for Unity in Our Community - The Walking Track and Center Field of Cove Island Park - Sunday, October 10, 2021 (Rain Date - Sunday, October 17, 2021) from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 10:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 4:00 p.m. - 400 - 600 Attendees.**

\*\*\*Request has been forwarded to the Parks & Recreation Commission for approval. This is a very large, first time Event.

Kevin Murray made a motion *Deny* the request and to forward to the Parks & Recreation Commission for their review and possible approval.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

**Colin Bawol and Shakira Bawol - Picnic Gathering - Fort Stamford, Goodbody Garden - Saturday, June 19, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 11:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 8:00 p.m. - 25 Adults and 5 Children.**

\*\*\*Fort Stamford is used for more passive gatherings, not picnics. Use of a different park will be suggested.

Kim Gerbert made a motion to *Deny* the request and will suggest the use of a different venue/park.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

**Old Business**

No Old Business.

**New Business**

No New Business.

**Tournaments**

**Marcelino Molina - LFG Softball - Softball Tournament - Cummings 1, 2 & 5 and Kosciuszko - Saturday, September 25, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve based on the number of fields that need lighting.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

**Tim Curry - Greater Stamford Tennis Association - Family Classic (Parent - Child Division) - Scalzi Park - Saturday, September 18, 2021 and Sunday, September 19, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

**Vanessa Dyson - Stamford Hospital - Surgeons' Field Day - Scalzi Park - Field 1 - Tuesday, June 29, 2021 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

**Caroline Sasser - Stamford Peace Youth Foundation - Scalzi Park Basketball Courts - (2<sup>nd</sup> Choice Lione Park Basketball Courts) - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, July 12, 2021 - August 19, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

\*\*\*There is no fee on the books for this type of Youth Sports Organization. However, all Youth Sports Organizations are not charged a fee to use Stamford Parks/Facilities. If the Parks & Recreation Commission sanctions them as a Youth Organization, this will solidify that they are not charged a fee.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kevin Murray

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

[End Report]

**DISCUSSION:**

**50/70 Program:** Ms. Brown asked Mr. Newman to provide an update on the 50/70 program.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> Video Time Stamp - 00:59:35

Mr. Newman gave an extensive update on various leagues and provided details on the modification of several City fields for 50/70 use.

Mr. Newman emphasized Stamford American Little League's request to apply for a grant to make modifications at Northrup Field for 50/70 use, which would need to be submitted for by the end of June.

Mr. Newman made a motion to approve Stamford American Little League to apply for the grant to modify Northrup Field for 50/70 use.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

After considerable discussion, Ms. Brown would not permit a vote on the motion to approve Stamford American Little League to apply for the grant.

Ms. Brown then called for a motion to approve the May 19, 2021 Draft Meeting Minutes.

Further discussion ensued and Ms. Brown would not permit a vote on any motion other than the approval of the May 19, 2021 Draft Meeting Minutes. No motion was made to approve the May 19, 2021 Draft Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Mr. Newman and Mr. Tedder protested. Ms. Brown ended the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lesley Capp  
June 21, 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)