

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021
REGULAR MEETING
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
6:30 P.M.**

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81534108651>

*Meeting ID: 815 3410 8651
Passcode: 750541*

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/81534108651>
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.*

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*
- *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 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, August 18, 2021 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Paul Newman, Interim Chair
Melanie Hollas
Michael Tedder

Staff: Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation
Lesley Capp, Assistant - Parks & Recreation Commission

Absent: Kevin Murray, Operations Manager, Parks & Facilities

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Newman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and introduced the Commission Members and staff present.

Mr. Newman introduced the first item on the agenda.

CALL TO ORDER:

- Review of the July 21, 2021 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes.

Mr. Newman made note of the Special Events application for the PowWow-Celebration of the Culture of the Original People of Stamford submitted by Lyda Ruijter, Town Clerk, City of Stamford & Chief Vincent Mann, Ramapough Tribe which had been TABLED to this meeting, would not be discussed as Ms. Ruijter met with City Operations staff and it was decided to postpone the event until 2022.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve the July 21, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Unanimously Approved

NEW BUSINESS:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- James Serafino, President, Boy's Babe Ruth Baseball: Sanctioning of a Cal Ripken Youth Baseball charter for Fall of 2021 only.¹

Mr. Serafino made a presentation to the Commission providing details about starting a Fall travel program centered around 50/70 baseball.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve Babe Ruth Baseball's Fall travel program for the 2021 season only.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Unanimously Approved

TOURNAMENTS:

- No Tournaments.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Parks Funding Report written by Intern and recent NYU Graduate, Caleigh Hardecker submitted to the Parks & Recreation Commission by Representative David Watkins.²

Mr. Newman noted the report was for informational purposes only.

Mr. Tedder and Ms. Hollas both suggested the Policy & Procedures Manual be forwarded to Ms. Hardecker.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Guy Fortt and Russ Davis - Synergy1 Holdings, LLC & BlackRoads Auto Club - *Synergy1 Holdings, LLC & BlackRoads Auto Club Vintage Car Show - Sunday, August 22, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.* at Columbus & Veterans Parks - Set-up starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-up ends at 5:00 p.m. - 125 Adult Attendees.³

Mr. Fortt and Mr. Davis made a presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

¹ Video Time Stamp - 00:02:49

² Video Time Stamp - 00:09:42

³ Video Time Stamp - 00:11:45

Thomas Madden, Director, Economic Development, City of Stamford, also made comments in support of the event.

After some discussion, Ms. Hollas made a motion to approve the Special Events application for the Synergy1 Holdings, LLC & BlackRoads Auto Club Vintage Car Show to be held on Sunday, August 22, 2021.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

NOTE: Due to Hurricane Henri, which hit the east coast on Sunday, August 22nd, this event was postponed until Sunday, August 29, 2021.

➤ Todd Giorgi and Anna Giorgi - Fem & Fierce - *Battle of the Belles XI - Sunday, October 17, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.* at the Barrett Park Pavilion - Set-up starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-up ends at 6:00 p.m. - 75 Adult Attendees.

This application was **WITHDRAWN** by the applicant late afternoon on August 18, 2021.

STAFF REPORTS:

➤ Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation: Recreation Update.

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Ms. Albano:⁴

[Begin Report]

RECREATION:

- Fall program brochure is online both City and Recreation websites. Registration begins on Sept. 2, 2021.
- Summer day camps have ended.
- Beaches still busy. Reduced swim areas and schedule due to losing Lifeguards.
- Adult Leagues and weekend tournaments all running well. Summer season winding down, in playoffs.
- Tram will run through Labor Day.
- Recreation Supervisor replacement. Recruiting now.
- Baseball is down to four (4) consultant organizations. I set up a Selection Committee meeting on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 with Mark McGrath and Kevin Murray. Hope to get a selection made shortly thereafter.
- Recreation field use application and policies needs a review. Meg and I will be doing soon and will separate the field and tournaments into two applications. Need to discuss payment policy and weekend tournament staffing.
- Buses and Driving Schools at Cove Island Park lot an issue. Emailed Director McGrath and Kevin, and it has now stopped.
- Setting up September strategic planning meetings with Recreation Staff. Time to review and do a deeper dive into its mission, staffing and goals.
- Working on a new credit card processor that integrates with our point of sale/registration software.
- Will be working very soon on the extension of the Star Center lease with financial modeling assistance from Laura Burwick, Special Assistant to the Mayor.

TERRY CONNER RINK:

- All Capex and pre-ice shutdown for A&V system done. Ice started take down process this past Sunday. Next phases of capex includes the new compressors and electrical control system. Hope to re-open the rink on Sept. 7, 2021 if all goes well.
- No new roof leaks after most recent patching. New roof needs to be factored into the overall financial model soon. Capex budget begins in fall.

⁴ Video Time Stamp - 00:28:32

- New fire alarm system in process and will tie in to the new Ammonia system.
- Camps numbers shot up the last two weeks of camp due to BOE free summer program being over.
- Olympia brand ice re-surfacer Rep will be here on Friday to survey the machine. First year model bought new in 2013 for \$190,000.00, has always been a lemon; lots of repairs. Working now on our options with Olympia Corp. Potential fix here, trucked back up to Canada, or take our lumps \$ wise and trade it in for a new machine.
- Rink Operator position posted and still waiting on certification list being prepared by Human Resources.
- I have re-written the DRAFT specs for the concession stand again to give another shot at an RFP for a live food vendor. Hope to have it out to purchasing soon.

[End Report]

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

The following Staff Report was submitted by Mr. Murray:

[Begin Report]

- Vaccine sites weekly have been active with Stamford Parks and crew has been doing a fantastic job daily for set-up coordination.
- Ordinance for Public hearing and final adoption: Organic Field Program has a public meeting on Tuesday 8/24 within the operations Committee
- Greenwich Organic Site meeting: Visited Greenwich and met with Superintendent of grounds Tim Coughlin to view grounds that have been organic for the last 10 years of the program, major take a ways was dedicated trained staff and education of the product, over management of the properties which includes mandatory shutdowns, land supplies to support the organic plan and most importantly funding to incorporate the program
- Looking to set up Site meetings with Branford CT and Cheshire to view organic model- keep you posted
- Away with Geese product will be installed this coming week within the Cummings Park/Beach property- attached is the Placement map of the units we are installing for the Test Pilot
- Youth Baseball/softball leagues and tournaments are now widening down
- Mayors Mask Mandates in Stamford Parks are to be followed- attached Memo indicates for City parks air locations, the mask mandate is an effect for the mass gatherings over 100 individuals as the event pertains to outdoor settings
- Board of Representatives, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 31, 2021 will discuss eliminating beach Pass Charges for Stamford Residents. This was submitted by Representatives John Zelinsky (District 11) and Megan Cottrell (District 4).
- Reconnecting Barret Park group has been meeting monthly and master plan architect proposals are now being reviewed for capital submission this coming for future upgrades
- Cove Island upgrades to Playground Gazebo, Picnic shelter and Red brick maintenance and bathroom building.
- Vaccine sites continue in to the Fall season within Park locations thus working w administration to hold (6) dedicated seasonal employees to ensure continues set up and break downs throughout as the last day annually for seasonal currently is 10/15/21.
- Bathrooms within major parks to remain open until November 15, 2021 as we have been experiencing warmer weather over the last several years and with staff resources we have additional seasonal employees and are proposing to leave major bathroom locations open/cleaned. Normally bathrooms would be closed on October 15, 2021, which is the last day for the seasonal employees. Porta-johns will be stationed for use in the smaller parks as normal.

[End Report]

In Mr. Murray's absence, the Commission had a brief discussion about the Board of Representatives, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 31, 2021.⁵ Ms. Hollas asked about the revenue generated from beach pass charges and the expenses paid by those revenues collected.

➤ Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Action Report - August 10, 2021.

Following is the Action Report generated from the August 10, 2021 Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Meeting showing the list of events approved:

[Begin Report]

In Attendance: Kevin Murray
Laurie Albano
Gloria Montoya-Greenfield

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:20 p.m. by Kevin Murray. Director McGrath did not attend the meeting, Kevin Murray speaking for Director McGrath.

Consent Agenda

DOMUS Kids, Inc. - 10th Annual DOMUS NINER - Cove Island Park - Sunday, September 19, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Set-Up Starts at 6:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 11:30 a.m. - 80 Adults (Max) - 20 Children (Max).

- Needs to provide amount of Parking Passes requested.
- Per Mayor's mandate, any event with over 100 people must wear a mask.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya-Greenfield Unanimously Approved

Francisco Fernandez - Wedding Ceremony - Fort Stamford - Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 11:45 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 1:45 p.m. - 10 Adults will be Attending.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray Unanimously Approved

Peggy Erenkottter - Stamford Girl Scouts (Girl Scouts of Connecticut) - Girl Scout Camporee - Cove Island Park (Pavilion Not Available) - Saturday, October 16, 2021 & Sunday, October 17, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 16th to 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 17th - 25 Adults and 100 Children.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya-Greenfield Unanimously Approved

Special Events

Dr. Tommie Jackson - Concerned Clergy Coalition - Voter Registration Rally - Jackie Robinson Memorial Park - Saturday, August 28, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - 75 Adults and 25 Children.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya-Greenfield Unanimously Approved

⁵ Video Time Stamp - 00:43:33

Todd Giorgi and Anna Giorgi - Fem & Fierce - Battle of the Belles XI - Barrett Park - Sunday, October 17, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 6:00 p.m. - 75 People will be Attending.

➤ Event should be forwarded to the Parks & Recreation Commission due to the following reasons:

- Proof of 501(c)3 status with EIN Number - (TAX Exempt Form was not attached to application.
- Layout of property indicating where in the park they are going to be located.
- Are they bringing any equipment/apparatus in the park?
- Parking Plan.
- Any thoughts of using a different park?

Kevin Murray made a motion to forward request to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya-Greenfield

Unanimously Approved

Fiona Wilkes - Liberation Programs - Community BBQ - Jackie Robinson Park - Friday, September 17, 2021 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 11:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 2:00 p.m. - 70 Adults and 5 Children.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya-Greenfield

Unanimously Approved

Guy Fortt and Russ Davis - Synergy1Holdings LLC & BlackRoads Auto Club - Synergy1Holdings & BlackRoads Auto Club, Vintage Car Show - Downtown Stamford/Between Columbus Park & Veterans' Park - Use of Columbus Park for DJ ONLY - Sunday, August 22, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 5:00 p.m. - 125 Adults will be Attending.

➤ Event should be forwarded to the Parks & Recreation Commission due to the following reasons:

- First time event.
- Size of event.
- Needs to provide logistics of where electricity is needed.
- Has the D.S.S.D. been notified of event?
- Questions regarding alcohol consumption.

Kevin Murray made a motion to forward request to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Stamford Public Education Foundation - US Day/Marcus for Change 5K Walk & Run - Walk though Scalzi Park - Sunday, September 26, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 3:00 p.m. - 150 Adults and 150 Children.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya-Greenfield

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

No New Business.

Tournaments

Chris Passamano - Stamford High School - Use of West Beach Soccer Field for Soccer Practices (Boys & Girls) - Thursday, August 26, 2021 to Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Gloria Montoya-Greenfield

Unanimously Approved

Wilmer Joseph - Hoop4All - Basketball Tournament Boys & Girls and Book Bag Giveaway - Basketball Skills Challenge - Lione Park - Sunday, August 29, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Laurie Albano made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kevin Murray

Seconded by Gloria Montoya-Greenfield

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

[End Report]

DISCUSSION:

➤ Melanie Hollas, Commissioner: Update on “Friends of Parks” and park signage project.⁶

Ms. Hollas provided an update on the project using aerials of each park involved showing placement of plaques and signage produced by Erin McKenna, Associate Planner, Land Use Bureau.

Mr. Newman made note of the Board of Representatives August 24, 2021 Public Hearing on an ordinance prohibiting the use and application of non-organic substances on City-owned properties.⁷

After some discussion, it was decided the Commission would submit a letter to the Board of Representatives in support of Proposed Ordinance Item 030.094.

Mr. Newman mentioned that the Commission may be getting a fourth member as a candidate is scheduled to go before the Board of Representative, Appointments Committee in August and then will appear before the full Board in September.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Newman adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lesley Capp
August 30, 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

⁶ Video Time Stamp - 00:46:57

⁷ Video Time Stamp - 01:09:55