

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021
REGULAR MEETING
VIA INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
6:30 P.M.**

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88980480660>

Meeting ID: 889 8048 0660

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/88980480660>
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, September 22, 2021 via the Internet on Zoom.

In attendance were:

Commissioners: Paul Newman, Interim Chair
Angela Adatola (Not sworn-in; cannot vote)
Melanie Hollas
Michael Tedder

Staff: Mark McGrath, Director of Operations (Arrived at 7:15 p.m.)
Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation
Kevin Murray, Operations Manager, Parks & Facilities
Lesley Capp, Assistant - Parks & Recreation Commission

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 August 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes.

Mr. Tedder made a motion to approve the August 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Unanimously Approved

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Gail Goldberg - Royal Caribbean - ***Travel Agency Trunk Show - Friday, October 22, 2021 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.*** at the Scalzi Park Pavilion (Parking Lot) - Set-up starts at 11:30 a.m. and Clean-up ends at 1:30 p.m. - 40 Adult Attendees.¹

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

After some discussion, the Commission unanimously denied the Special Events application for the Travel Agency Truck Show and suggested Ms. Goldberg contact the Mill River Collaborative to inquire about holding the event in Mill River Park.

- Len Murach - HFB Movie, Inc. - ***Happiness for Beginners Filming - beginning Friday, October 1, 2021 and ending on Thursday, October 14, 2021*** - Mianus River Park - Filming dates & times are as follows:²

- October 1 (9AM to 12AM)
- October 4 (6AM to 7PM)
- October 5 (7AM to 8PM)
- October 6 (8AM to 9PM)
- October 7 (9AM to 10PM)
- October 8 (10AM to 12AM)
- October 11 (6AM to 7PM)
- October 12 (7AM to 8PM)
- October 13 (8AM to 9PM)
- October 14 (9AM to 10PM)

Set-up will be 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 30, 2021 and Clean-up will be on Friday, October 15, 2021 (Time TBD) - 75 Total Adults.

Mr. Murach made an extensive presentation providing details on the use of the park, parking of trucks and trailers and the filming schedule.

Mary Ellen Burns, President, Friends of Mianus River Park, spoke in support of the project and provided additional details on HFB Movie, Inc.'s use and restoration of the park.

After considerable discussion, Ms. Hollas made a motion to approve the Special Events application for HFB Movie, Inc. to film in Mianus River Park from October 1 through October 14, 2021.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

NEW BUSINESS:

- Richard Evanko - Stamford Spartans Youth Football: Requesting to be sanctioned to play on City of Stamford fields.³

¹ Video Time Stamp - 00:02:42

² Video Time Stamp - 00:20:55

³ Video Time Stamp - 00:43:15

Mr. Evanko made a brief presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

After some discussion, Mr. Tedder made a motion to sanction Stamford Spartans Youth Football to play on City of Stamford fields.

Seconded by Ms. Hollas

Unanimously Approved

- Kevin Murray, Operations Manager - Parks & Facilities & Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation: New York Rangers - Discussion of a renovation and programming partnership at Scalzi Park Roller Rink.⁴

Thomas Madden, Director, Economic Development provided background information on the New York Rangers and gave details on the restoration work to be done at the Roller Rink.

Alexandros Kapasoris, Stamford Youth Hockey Association, House Coordinator, provided additional details on their support for the Roller Rink and the upgrades they would like to sponsor through the New York Rangers.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Hollas made a motion to approve the renovations and programming partnership with the New York Rangers at Scalzi Park Roller Rink.

Seconded by Mr. Tedder

Unanimously Approved

- Scott Ferlisi, Assistant Location Manager, Disney+: Request to film in City parks during October and November. Looking for large parking areas for trucks & trailers/campers near specific filming locations.⁵

Mr. Ferlisi made a presentation providing details of their parking requests and answered questions from the Commission.

After considerable discussion, the Commission decided to **Table** this item as Mr. Tedder had to leave the meeting and there was no longer a quorum to vote and also to allow Mr. Ferlisi to work further with Director McGrath and Ms. Albano to finalize details on exactly where the trucks/trailers could be parked. As filming would begin on October 14, 2021, which is before the next scheduled meeting on October 20, 2021, Mr. Newman will call for a Special Meeting, if needed, to vote on the final dates, times, and places.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

TOURNAMENTS:

- No Tournaments.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

STAFF REPORTS:

- Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation: Recreation Update.

The following Staff Report was submitted and discussed by Ms. Albano:⁶

⁴ Video Time Stamp - 00:56:35

⁵ Video Time Stamp - 01:17:50

⁶ Video Time Stamp - 01:43:50

[Begin Report]

RECREATION:

- Revenues have risen from \$108,000 last Thursday morning to \$121,000+. Great numbers this fall.
- Programs all about to begin including use of WHS pool for full swim lesson classes.
- Fall Adult Leagues good numbers and start soon.
- Permits for fall underway and or complete.
- Meeting set with Mark McGrath and Kevin Murray to discuss the weekend tournament variables and new policy on such.

TERRY CONNER RINK:

- Some issues with Stamford Youth Hockey and CT Rangers travel teams recently. Kids unattended in locker rooms causing minor damage/mess; not complying with masks, both home and away teams (away team on Saturday was using nasty language to staff when asked to put masks on); insurance certificate not in until late last Friday for their event which caused all staff to jump through hoops on Saturday, and no renewal certificate in for season/year. I will write them both a letter and I am banning the travel team from NY who used the nasty language for a game at Terry Conner Rink. If it happens again, the ban will be for the season.
- Capex good with exception of some final electrical work due to parts delays.
- Olympia ice resurfacers meeting on Friday for Capital budget decision.
- Meeting with Purchasing on Wednesday to review specifications I have written for potential bid for a live food vendor.
- Got vending machine revenue finally figured out and will be coming to us now; and Pepsi, after multiple emails from me, has finally fixed its machine for credit card use.
- Pre dis hearing with a Rink Operator on Wednesday.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- TCR CapEx/CP-1 Forms in planning stage and will be ready for submission on October 12, 2021.
- Annual Reports for both departments are just about done for submission to Director of Operations on October 23, 2021
- Still waiting on communication from Human Resources on my three (3) vacant positions. I have followed-up. I know they are busy, but the processes can run over a half a year to get someone hired.
- Met with Springfield College, our Baseball Study Consultant. Provided them with information needed and they are underway. This is a graduate class assignment.
- Spending more time working with filming logistics staff. For some reason its ramped back up with multiple requests. Some parks always have impacts to local play/use, and some at golf course.

[End Report]

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

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

[Begin Report]

- CPS Beach Attendants season has completed as of Labor Day, Monday, September 6, 2021. Reporting and visual perception has been received as a positive program at our parks/major beaches.
- Laz Parking, as of Labor Day, Monday, September 6, 2021, will work weekends only up to October 1, 2021 at permit beaches.
- Vaccine sites within parks are still up and running 7 days week.

⁷ Video Time Stamp - 02:01:57

- Capital Submissions are due October 12, 2021 for park planning. Working with staff to identify projects.
- Barrett Park Master Plan has hired design firm Beta Group to do master improvements for Barrett Park. Public meeting scheduled for October 21, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. under the pavilion.
- Major park/beach bathroom facilities to remain open until November 15, 2021. Administration request.
- Six (6) Seasonal Employees to be retained for the unforeseen future for vaccine detail for park location setups/breakdowns and cleaning daily per the pandemic.
- All other seasonal operation staff last day will be October 15, 2021.
- Fall Sport schedules are active.
- Tree climber vacancy: Michael Gentile has taken a job in Ridgefield leaving this vacancy; working with Human Resources to repost position.
- Representative Susan Nabel organized a group for a park cleanup, planted 150 daffodils bulbs and prepared picnic tables at Heroy Park on Sunday, September 19, 2021.
- Meeting to discuss Non Synthetic Turf Fields in Stamford with the Town of Branford. Possible meeting/visit on October 1, 2021 with Melanie Hollas.
- Heroy Park Tennis Court Upgrade: Planning on start-up of upgrade at Heroy Tennis court. Awaiting purchase order from our State contact, Game Time.
- Working on Annual report due September 23, 2021 and will send to P&RC for next month.
- Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting - September 29, 2021: Approval of Public Hearing concerning beach and park pass fees for residents in light of PR30.066 discussions. September 09, 2021 - Submitted by Representatives Cottrell, Sherwood, and Zelinsky. Data given to Board prior to meeting of park/beach maintenance items such as labor operation hours and overtime and also beach machine maintenance.
- Hurricane Ida: Preliminary FEMA submission was \$43 million Citywide, which included park/infrastructure. Awaiting FEMA declaration.
- Working with Thomas Madden, Director, Economic Development on the possibility of the New York Rangers assisting with Scalzi Park Roller Hockey Rink upgrade.
- Scalzi Tennis court Update: Sixteen (16) lamps are in the works and staff to change out nets.
- Carwin Park Fence upgrade to begin this week - September 20 2021.

[End Report]

➤ Parks & Recreation Internal Committee Action Report - September 7, 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: Mark McGrath
 Kevin Murray
 Laurie Albano (Via Phone)
 Kim Gerbert

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Mark McGrath.

Consent Agenda

No Consent Agenda.

Special Events

Susan Nabel - Susan Nabel & Ashley Ley, Candidates for Board of Representatives 20th District - Team 20 Kick-Off and Park Clean-Up - Dorothy Heroy Park - Sunday, September 12, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 3:30 p.m. - 25 Adults - 10-12 Children.

➤ Susan Nabel requested the date be changed to Sunday, September 19, 2021.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve Team 20 Kick-Off and Park Clean-Up at Dorothy Heroy Park with new date of Sunday, September 19, 2021.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Gail Goldberg - Travel Agency Organization - Royal Caribbean - Travel Agency Trunk Show - Scalzi Park Parking Lot - Friday, October 22, 2021 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 11:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 1:30 p.m. - 40 Adults.

➤ No commercial activity in the park.

Mark McGrath made a motion to forward to the Parks & Recreation Commission for their review and approval.

Seconded by Kevin Murray

Unanimously Approved

Amy Laughlin, Children's Librarian - Ferguson Library, Youth Services Department - Outdoor Story Time in Latham Park - Tuesdays: 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 11/9, 11/16/2021 from 10:15 a.m. to 10:45/11:00 a.m. - Set-Up Starts at 10:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 11:15 a.m. - 30-50 Adults - 30-50 Children.

Kevin made a motion to approve.

Seconded by Kim Gerbert

Unanimously Approved

Christine Phelps - Stamford Youth Hockey Association - SYHA Season Opening Picnic - Saturday, September 18, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Set-Up Starts at 8:30 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 3:30 p.m. - 100 -150 People Will Be Attending.

➤ They need to be reminded of COVID-19 Regulations.

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve pending the generator use for inflatable Rink.

Seconded by Laurie Albano

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

No New Business.

Tournaments

Robert Kucharski - J. M. Wright Technical High School Athletics - Use of Scalzi Park/Cubeta Stadium for Cross Country Daily Practice - August 25, 2021 to November 24, 2021 from 2:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - There will also be two (2) meets on October 5, 2021 and October 12, 2021.

Kim Gerbert 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 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Margarita Arenas

September 8, 2021

[End Report]

DISCUSSION:

- Melanie Hollas, Commissioner: Follow-up to Invasive Species Plant Management Meeting held on September 10, 2021 at Fort Stamford.⁸

Ms. Hollas suggested postponing this presentation until the October 20, 2021 meeting since Mr. Tedder had to leave the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Newman adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lesley Capp
September 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

⁸ Video Time Stamp - 02:17:00