

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
JANUARY 9, 2012

First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst convened this organizational meeting of the combined Parks and Recreation Commission as required by the November 8, 2011 adopted Town Charter. The meeting was held at Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. with the following in attendance:

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Robert Ferrigno     | Vin Lipinski     |
| Anthony Chmielewski | Nancy Walsh      |
| Roger McGovern      | Nicholas Bragano |
| Kenneth Martin      | Richard Moore    |
| Marie Petitti       | Kevin Bellows    |

Also,  
Mary Markham, Recreation Director

Guests:  
Mike Mastroni, 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Fallen Heroes Memorial Tribute  
Susan Spillane, 50 Kingsbury Drive and Lisa Cerulli, 849 Plattsville Road  
Donna Smith, 156 Freshmeadow Drive  
Coach Mike Ferraro, 715 Frenchtown Road  
Lori Carrol, 6 Maymont Lane  
Michele Dwyer, 55 Teller Road  
Pam Georgas, Nature Commission Chairman  
Alicia Preusch, Museum Coordinator Trumbull Historical Society  
Brian Walsh, 10 Doe Hollow

First Selectman Herbst welcomed the Commissioners, those new to the Commission and those returning, indicating they are part of a freshman class of the combined Parks and Recreation organizational meeting. He indicated all of our appointed commissioners have an interest in our parks system and have the families and children of Trumbull at the top of their lists. He noted there were some vacancies which were filled. Richard Moore is a new member and comes from a long line of family members who have served the town. His father was a member of the Town Council and his grandfather served on the Park Commission. He stated that as the Commission proceeds forward, he would simply ask that we try to develop policies which meet the interests of our residents. The Park Commission has treated sports programs uniformly and taken a standard and measure of approach. Some facilities might not be part of our parks system but should be treated in the same manner...all for the benefit of those who jointly use our park system and town facilities. Keep that in mind. He will be more than happy to answer any procedural questions. Appointments have been signed-off by our Town Attorneys following the Town Charter language. You were separate, now collectively one commission. My staff will be more than accommodating to you. The Parks Superintendent and Recreation Director will be more than willing to answer any questions you might have. Thank you for serving on this newly combined commission.

Acting Chairman Robert Ferrigno requested nominations for Chairman.

**MOTION** by Vin Lipinski nominating Robert Ferrigno as Chairman, second by Richard Moore, unanimously passed.

Chairman Ferrigno requested nominations for Vice Chairman.

**MOTION** by Anthony Chmielewski nominating Kevin Bellows as Vice Chairman, second by Vin Lipinski, unanimously passed.

Return to order of the Agenda:

Public Comments:

Mike Mastroni, 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Fallen Heroes Memorial Tribute, Use of Indian Ledge Park, Saturday, September 29, 2012. He stated this date coincides with the last Sunday in September which is Gold Star Mothers' Day. They have permission from the families of those being honored to proceed with arranging for portraits. Senator Blumenthal is working on guest list for them. In response to question they have honored seven at each of the past events, they will reduce that number to keep event down to one hour of presentations.

Commissioner Moore questioned when the planned BMX bicycle event is planned for. (Response, two weeks prior to this date.)

Commissioner Chmielewski congratulated them on their impressive event honoring those service people lost serving our country.

Pisces Group representative was called forward by the Chairman.

Susan Spillane, 50 Kingsbury Drive and Lisa Cerulli, 849 Plattsville Road – Introduced themselves as Interim Co-Chairs of the Pisces group.

Susan Spillane explained that there have been issues in the past, they recently took over after the resignation of their chairman, Bill Collins. They have an existing Board, elected in the spring.

Commissioner Lipinski asked for a snap shot of their organization.

They answered they are a competitive swim team, from age six through High School age. Try outs are for different levels of ability. They swim at Hillcrest Pool and University of Bridgeport to provide enough practice time for the kids. They have approximately 100 swimmers. No fee for use of pool. They have two seasons, Fall/Winter (Sept. to March) and Spring Summer (April to August). Trumbull residents. Paid coaches (certified USA Swim, CPR certified, background checks, paid by Pisces). They are a 501c3. 2010 Tax Return submitted to Recreation. Financials have not been reported. Board of Recreation asked for the Financials for two years as well as their minutes and an indication of out-of-town residents on the team which had to come off. They are a more competitive level than Little League etc. Compete state and nationals. Try outs. Not everyone makes the team.

Commissioner Lipinski asked how much do they pay. (Responded it depends on which group they are in. Highest level is \$2,000. Basic is six-year olds. They don't compete eight and younger swimmers. They have to be able to do free style and back stroke, but they must be kids who can swim well.)

Upon question of how many try out and how many make the team they responded there are approximately 100 on teams, 30 try out.

Coach Mike Ferraro, 715 Frenchtown Road:

Said 50/60 try out. Recreation Program was non-competitive when he began his job. Now three groups and High School. Totally different than Recreation style. They are a Club Swim Team. They could take a swimmer on to the Olympics or on to Harvard. They are really not a summer-recreation type team. They have 20/30 teams at a "meet". Extremely competitive. They don't take under age 5. If they have thirty kids in the water, they don't want those who can't swim. The Town's Learn to Swim Program is for those who can't swim. These kids need to be in the pool long before they can come on to their teams. Fee is based on the three levels, three days, four days and five days a week.

Commissioner Lipinski commented that we have many sports groups who request time on facilities and many pay fees because they have non-residents. They are not Recreation Programs because of the non-residents. They look for a facility to use and go out of town or pay for the facility.

Selectman Herbst noted some confusion as to why are we here for this group. Prior to consolidation, the Recreation Commission had jurisdiction over this program because it uses Hillcrest Pool. This is being taken up because the Recreation Commission last month voted to authorize their Director to send a letter of possible forfeiture of the use of Hillcrest Pool because they have out-of-town residents swimming. Bylaws questioned, one set has out-of-town residents provision, one does not. Financials need to be submitted in accordance with what the Park Commission's Field Use Policy does. Meeting requirements allows the Program to go forward to use the Pool. Policies and standards are applied uniformly in the parks system and town facilities that are associated with the school system. You must iron out the problem to move forward so children can use the facilities of the Town.

Commissioner Lipinski commented there are costs. This is no longer a Recreation Organization.

Selectman Herbst stated that this Commission must decide the direction that will be taken. They are still under the jurisdiction and purview of this commission. A policy on the merits of the program should be set. They are under your jurisdiction like any other sports group. There needs to be some kind of a regulation by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Lipinski agreed that every sports organization should be treated in the same way.

Chairman Ferrigno explained that the Park Commission has had a Policy for several years whereby if a group wants to use facilities, they must come to the Commission for approval and meet the requirements for use of facilities: 501c3, \$1.5 million Insurance Certificate, Background Checks, Submitted Financials, Names and Addresses of all participants, parents for residence, and names of all coaches. This is something that the Pisces group will have to provide now as well. As far as the competitive aspect, we will deal with that once the required information is submitted.

Recreation Director Mary Markham noted that they have turned in their paper work and non-resident swimmers were listed.

Pisces Chair commented that there are six swimmers not Trumbull residents. Lived in Trumbull, parents divorced, and were allowed them another year until they finish high school and their swimming career with Pisces. Did have approval from the Town to do that. There are only six, but, had pressure from parents of team members to remove them immediately. We would like to let them finish the season. They just can't pick-up and go to another team. If there was an error made, they lose out.

Selectman Herbst offered as a follow-up that the goal is to solve the problem. There has been a lot of concerns brought out. There are two versions of their Bylaws which needs to be addressed. We don't know the names of the Executive Board members. This group needs a membership meeting, open to all of the members of the organization, they should have an election of officers so everyone knows who is elected, new bylaws should be written and submitted to this Commission. We don't want six kids, through no fault of their own, to get caught in the cross fire. This Commission will come up with a strategy to grandfather in or phase out.

Recreation Director: Pisces is more a competitive club; it was set up by Recreation originally. Recreation has its own swim lessons. Ours could be "feeders" into Pisces Program. Improving technique, competition, determine their progress. Pisces could be feeder for THS. They are the next step past our swim lessons. They have pool prime time more than anyone else in the town.

Coach was asked. Is high school program open to Pisces? Could the swimmer be on both. (Response they are separate, when swimmers are on the THS team, they can't swim on Pisces. Soon as season ends, they can swim with Pisces. One or the other, during the season.)

Donna Smith, 156 Freshmeadow Drive, Secretary for Pisces: On Board for five years. Tried to get Board to follow rules with greater transparency. Kids are cut from Group 1. One girl was cut in February. Left to go to another group. Wanted to come back and told no room on the team; but subsequently, two others came on the team and two out-of-towners. Told they wanted to expand the team and make it more competitive. I thought it was a great idea. Next thing we knew, swimmers already placed on the team. Recreation sent a follow up asking for clarification saying there could be no out-of-towners on team. Email request in December asking for additional information. Someone misinformed. Clear to me that these swimmers should have never come on the team without written permission or clear permission. I knew this was a standard rule. We haven't had an election to the Board. Last time a real election was 2006. Annual event, names of board members put on a table, voted on it. No Article of Incorporation, Bylaws. An audit has never been done.

Chairman Ferrigno noted these are the concerns with transparency.

Ms. Smith said that as secretary she asked for this information. Lot of rules that haven't been followed. Just really need to know all the information.

Chairman Ferrigno indicated this Commission has control of all facilities outside schools for the town. Important we need all Boards with transparency of organization. We have taken steps in the best interest of our resident to correct those who did not meet these requirements. Everything fair and transparent.

Selectman Herbst stated that what's best for the kids is what we should be doing. Don't think it's productive to discuss fine points that Ms. Smith has brought forward. They absolutely must communicate with their members. He said their Bylaws state elect a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President. When President resigns, First Vice President ascends to President.

Questioned how did they end up with two co-presidents.

Response...happened very quickly, at six/eight weeks away from championship. We had to organize things. First Vice President may not want to fill those shoes. Reiterated that it isn't productive to rehash the past. We can't move forward.

Selectman Herbst noted this is what went wrong, this is what we are doing to move forward. Very disconcerting. Don't want kids to get caught in the cross fire. Should be treated just like all sports groups in town. He noted he is ex-officio member of this board and his recommendation is to have a nominating committee as quickly as possible and not wait until spring.

Ms. Smith said she was voted off the board because she was speaking out about not following the rules, wants the team to grow with rules and transparency, election should not wait, if not immediately should be within a certain period of time.

Commissioner Moore questioned again the total time period needed. (Response: They have six weeks to go to end of season, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Don't know if these swimmers paid their full year.) He questioned if it will affect them if we throw them off tonight. (Coach responded none of the out-of-towners ever in Hillcrest Pool, they swim at U.B. Two had personal problems moved to temporary residence out of town. They did pay in full. This will affect their career going forward.)

Lisa Cerulli, Co-Chair, responded to Ms. Smith's concerns noting that they were on copy of letter from Recreation Director Mary Markham which was addressed to Mr. Collins, to provide documents. They met as a Board with Mrs. Smith on December 19 because she had sent minutes to the Rec. Director. Board wanted to send the materials requested in a consolidated way. Secretary to send minutes, Treasurer the financials. The minutes had not been seen by the Board and Mrs. Smith was asked to step down from her position. An immediate election would not be in best interest of kids. There are a lot of things to learn that have to be done on a daily basis, ie. problem with Hillcrest Pool, closed, needed to find a place for the kids to go to. Got on the phone with U.B. to find a place for the kids. Daily things happen that affect the kids. Time of these meets. Host teams. Question of timers. We support everything Mr. Herbst has said.

Selectman Herbst noted that as co chairs you are members of the Board. You should have had information. You should have had this in hand. Board itself has to be more hands-on.

Lisa said Sue and I took over together. We know everything that has to be done. We want to have an election but in the short term. Best to allow the current board members keep on the remainder of the season. To bring in a whole new group next week would not be the best for the kids...who have meets and swim times.

First Selectman Herbst said that all who spoke with conflicting points raised tonight praised and have admiration for your coaches. They are excellent with the high school as well. Now, just an issue of governance.

Lori Carrol, 6 Maymont Lane: Reiterated praises of Pisces. Two girls through program, top swimmers. Don't think we should be turned over right away. Train the new people.

Michele Dwyer, 55 Teller Road: Positive program. Two girls involved, THS senior and 8<sup>th</sup> grader. Put in over ten years with Pisces. Feel nothing but positive for board. I think they put in endless hours doing a fine job.

Commissioner Lipinski referred them to the US Swim web site. Found information on how to start a swim club.

Pam Georgas, Nature Commission Chairman:

They have a few programs coming up this spring in the park system.

- Under Junior Naturalist Explorers they have 'All about Birds' segment, April 30, 4-5:30 p.m. Twin Brooks Park.
- 'Exploring the Parks through Geocaching', April 22, Old Mine Park.
- Little Green Thumb Ambassadors, four to six year old children and parents gardening at the community gardens at Abraham Nichols Park.

And,

- Will likely participate in CFPA CT Trails Day again this year, June 2 and 3. Permission to start out from Old Mine or Indian Ledge park.

Alicia Preusch, Museum Coordinator Trumbull Historical Society:

Request to host, in conjunction with the Central Library's One Book, One Town Program (Book – Cold Mountain), a two-hour Civil War ReEnactment (ten members) event at Abraham Nichols Park Orchard on March 4, 2012. Parking at lower level and at Nichols Methodist Church (if needed, additional parking at Fire House and NIA). This is for families and Civil War buffs. No fee.

Brian Walsh, 10 Doe Hollow:

Questions on Pisces. When will you decide what type of program you want this to be...Recreation or Club?

Chairman said we will make a decision tonight with same rules we have now for other park facilities. Part of that decision will be made by what your organization wants concerning transparency. We will look forward to reviewing By-Laws you present to us.

Commissioner Lipinski said the biggest challenge will be mastering the 'dry side' as well as the 'wet side' of the swim organization...

Chairman said the need is for the best program for the entire group, financial transparency, responsibility of leadership.

**MOTION** by Mr. McGovern, second Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed to close Public Comments portion of Agenda.

Set Meeting Dates for 2012:

Chairman said it has been traditional for the Parks Commission to meet on the second Monday of the month, third when second falls on a holiday, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Following discussion on dates and time of meeting,

**MOTION** by Mr. Bragano, second by Mrs. Petitti, unanimously approved to meet at Town Hall on the second Monday of the month, third Monday when second Monday falls on a holiday.

**MOTION** by Mr. McGovern, second by Mrs. Petitti, unanimously approved to meet at 7:00 p.m.

**MOTION** by Mr. Bragano, second by Mr. Martin, unanimously passed approving November Meeting Minutes of the Park Commission and December Meeting Minutes of the Recreation Commission.

**Budget Review:**

Chairman distributed copies of both the Park Commission and Board of Recreation budgets for Fiscal 2011-2012 indicating that the Parks Superintendent and Recreation Director are preparing their individual budget requests for 2012-2013 which need to be review by this Commission within the next two weeks.

Selectman Herbst asked that they keep in mind that in view of the current economic conditions with high debt service, Board of Ed increase, Pension responsibilities and effects of revaluation, it is every department's responsibility to be austere with its budget proposal.

Chairman indicated the combined Commission will meet with him Wednesday evening, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. to review its Budget presentation. Recreation Director and Parks Superintendent will send copies of their budget requests to all Commissioners for review prior to the budget meeting with the First Selectman.

**Field Use Policy:**

Mr. Lipinski noted that the Field Use Policy needs to be amended, now a Facilities Use Policy.

Decided that copies of the current Field Use Policy will be provided all Commissioners for recommendations to the Committee which comprises the Recreation Director, Athletic Director, School Facilities Manager, Park Superintendent and Park Commission Chairman.

**Nature Commission Request:**

**MOTION** by Mr. McGovern, second by Mr. Martin, unanimously passed to approve the Nature Commission's request for spring use of facilities for

- Under Junior Naturalist Explorers they have 'All about Birds' segment, April 30, 4-5:30 p.m. Twin Brooks Park.
- 'Exploring the Parks through Geocaching', April 22, Old Mine Park.
- Little Green Thumb Ambassadors, four to six year old children and parents gardening at the community gardens at Abraham Nichols Park.

And,

- Participate in CFPA CT Trails Day again this year, June 2 and 3 starting out from Old Mine or Indian Ledge Park.

**Trumbull Historical Society Request:**

**MOTION** by Mr. McGovern, second Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed to approve, with Superintendent's further recommendations on specifics, request to host, in conjunction with the Central Library's One Book, One Town Program (Book – Cold Mountain), a two-hour Civil War ReEnactment (ten members) event at Abraham Nichols Park Orchard on March 4, 2012. Parking at lower level and at Nichols Methodist Church.

**Parks Superintendent and Recreation Director Reports:**

Chairman noted that in an effort to keep meetings shorter in length, the thought is to have both the Parks Superintendent and Recreation Director submit reports one week prior to monthly meetings allowing Commissioners to direct any questions in advance of the meeting for action at the meeting.

**MOTION** by Mr. McGovern, second by Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously approved to have the Parks Superintendent and Recreation Director submit reports one week prior to monthly meetings allowing Commissioners to direct any questions in advance of the meeting for action at the meeting.

Fallen Heroes Event, Sept. 29, 2012:

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed approving 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Fallen Heroes Memorial Tribute, use of Indian Ledge Park, Saturday, September 29, 2012 with direction and advice on facilities use by the Park Superintendent.

Festa Tournament Committee Request to Appear:

The Committee for this event has been requested to appear to discuss several items on use of facilities. This is an annual softball tournament event at Unity Park, honoring a deceased parent, sponsored by Trumbull Little League. The Park Commission has concerns with regard to their timely payment of Ranger Overtime invoices, Noise Ordinance requirements and request for facilities at an hour earlier than parks opening time and no contingency plan for weather or field closures. The Trumbull Little League has advised the Tournament Committee that in order for it to be continued to be sponsored by TLL, the tournament must designate someone as liaison with TLL and the Town and submit financial accounting of the event which is long overdue. The Festa Committee representative has indicated they will attend our February meeting.

Pisces Use of Facilities Discussion:

- Trumbull Residency Requirement for use of Hillcrest Pool.
- Recreation Scholarships provided only if they are 100% residency.
- Recreation Department oversee its programs.
- Began as a Recreation Program, grew to a Competitive Program.
- Spending many thousands for coaches.

**MOTION** by Mr. Lipinski, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed that the Trumbull Pisces program, a program sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Commission, has twenty days from the date of this meeting or until Monday, January 30, 2012 in which to hold a membership meeting of all adults affiliated with the Trumbull Pisces program. At said meeting, there shall be an election of the executive committee, as proscribed by the Pisces bylaws and/or regulations currently in full force and effect. Only Trumbull residents will be allowed to vote in said election. Upon the election of an executive committee for calendar year 2012, the Trumbull Pisces thereafter will have 30 days to meet the requirements of the Parks and Recreation Commission and submit the following:

1. Copy of liability insurance policy in full force and effect with declarations indicating effective dates of insurance coverage and with policy limits of at least \$1,500,000.00
2. The liability insurance policy must name the Town of Trumbull as an additional insured and a certificate must be provided confirming this
3. Background checks to be performed on all coaches associated with the organization. Said background checks will be administered by the executive board in conjunction with the Trumbull Police Department;
4. Proof of 501(c)(3) status;
5. Tax returns and financial statements for the last (3) years;
6. Names and addresses of all girls and boys and their parents who participate in the Pisces program;
7. Copies of the full and complete agendas and minutes of every Trumbull Pisces meeting which have taken place from January 2010 up until the present time.

If the Trumbull Pisces fail to comply with the above requirements and deadlines, then the Parks and Recreation Commission reserves the right as a sponsor of the Trumbull Pisces to affix penalties for disobedience thereof, including but not limited to the suspension and/or forfeiture of the use of the Hillcrest Middle School pool with respect to any and all programs connected or affiliated with the Trumbull Pisces.

Commissioner Chmielewski exited meeting at 10:40 p.m.

Current Non-Residents in Pisces Program:

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. McGovern, passed with 8 in favor (Petitti, Bellows, Walsh, Moore, Martin, Bragano, Ferrigno), one abstention (Lipinski), one absentee (Chmielewski) to grandfather-in six non-resident swimmers of the Pisces Program until the end of the current season, on or about March 18, 2012.

**MOTION** to adjourn at 10:45 p.m. by Mrs. Walsh, second Mr. McGovern and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe  
Clerical Adm. Asst.

**PARK COMMISSION MOTIONS**  
**JANUARY 9, 2010**

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**MOTION** by Vin Lipinski nominating Robert Ferrigno as Chairman, second by Richard Moore, unanimously passed.

Chairman Ferrigno requested nominations for Vice Chairman.

**MOTION** by Anthony Chmielewski nominating Kevin Bellows as Vice Chairman, second by Vin Lipinski, unanimously passed.

Return to order of the Agenda:

**MOTION** by Mr. McGovern, second Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed to close Public Comments portion of Agenda.

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**MOTION** BY Mr. Bragano, second by Mr. Martin, unanimously approved approving November Meeting Minutes of the Park Commission and December Meeting Minutes of the Recreation Commission.

Nature Commission Request:

**MOTION** by Mr. McGovern, second by Mr. Martin, unanimously passed to approve the Nature Commission's request for spring use of facilities for

- Under Junior Naturalist Explorers they have 'All about Birds' segment, April 30, 4-5:30 p.m. Twin Brooks Park.
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**MOTION** by Mr. Lipinski, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed that the Trumbull Pisces program, a program sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Commission, has twenty days from the date of this meeting or until Monday, January 30, 2012 in which to hold a membership meeting of all adults affiliated with the Trumbull Pisces program. At said meeting, there shall be an election of the executive committee, as proscribed by the Pisces bylaws and/or regulations currently in full force and effect. Only Trumbull residents will be allowed to vote in said election. Upon the election of an executive committee for calendar year 2012, the Trumbull Pisces thereafter will have 30 days to meet the requirements of the Parks and Recreation Commission and submit the following:

1. Copy of liability insurance policy in full force and effect with declarations indicating effective dates of insurance coverage and with policy limits of at least \$1,500,000.00
2. The liability insurance policy must name the Town of Trumbull as an additional insured and a certificate must be provided confirming this
3. Background checks to be performed on all coaches associated with the organization. Said background checks will be administered by the executive board in conjunction with the Trumbull Police Department;
4. Proof of 501(c)(3) status;
5. Tax returns and financial statements for the last (3) years;
6. Names and addresses of all girls and boys and their parents who participate in the Pisces program;
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If the Trumbull Pisces fail to comply with the above requirements and deadlines, then the Parks and Recreation Commission reserves the right as a sponsor of the Trumbull Pisces to affix penalties for disobedience thereof, including but not limited to the suspension and/or forfeiture of the use of the Hillcrest Middle School pool with respect to any and all programs connected or affiliated with the Trumbull Pisces.

### Current Non-Residents in Pisces Program:

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. McGovern, passed with 8 in favor (Petitti, Bellows, Walsh, Moore, Martin, Bragano, Ferrigno), one abstention (Lipinski), one absentee (Chmielewski) to Grandfather in six non-resident swimmers of the Pisces Program until the end of the current season, on or about March 18, 2012.

**MOTION** to adjourn at 10:45 p.m. by Mrs. Walsh, second Mr. McGovern and unanimously passed.