

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

March 12, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)
Kevin Bellows
Vin Lipinski
Nancy Walsh

Kenneth Martin
Richard Moore
Nicholas Bragano

Also,
Park Superintendent Dmitri Paris
Recreation Director Mary Markham

Guests:

Donald Cote, Trumbull T.R.A.C.K. BMX
Len Levi, 10 Oldfield Road, Trumbull Radio Control Club
Bill Odendahl, 815 White Plains Road (United Health Care)
Mike Fedell, 117 Pinewood Trail (Senior City Team)
Pat McNally, 41 Chatham Drive (Cub Scout Leader)
Joan Dosky, 20 Quaker Lane, (Trumbull United)
Sharon Lomnitzer, 42 Peaceful Valley Rd (Trumbull United)

Public Comments:

Donald Cote, Trumbull T.R.A.C.K. BMX:

Explained that Trumbull BMX has received a generous donation of equipment and labor from one of their rider's parents and his employer to assist with rebuilding the BMX track to a national-caliber track and for safety purposes...some current spots too sharp or too deep. Work will be done by a professional track builder. There will be no structural or drainage work, just reform the jumps. Work will be confined to the straits between the corners, starting hill and finish lines. Work will involve one hydraulic excavator with a professional operator. They would like to start work on March 20th and will take about three days of machine work to move material aside, re-establish, after which the T.R.A.C.K. members will rake and seed. He presented a sketch of the track project layout.

Chairman indicated that he met with BMX representatives at the site last Monday and the project will have minimal impact on the Track. Changes will be for safety and liability purposes...too sharp and too deep in some spots. Town's insurance agent felt that this Commission's decision would be fine. They are moving material aside, re-establishing the track, seeding. Project is a donation to the T.R.A.C.K. organization.

Mr. Cote presented T.R.A.C.K.'s Racing Schedule for 2012.

Len Levi, Indian Ledge Radio Control Club:

He provided his request packet to the Recreation Director. Insurance Certificate for \$1.5 million. He is following-up to answer any questions. They are planning an event for Sunday, March 25th, their Winter Freeze Fly as well as three other Saturday dates for events which take place from 8:30 to 3:00 p.m. When they have an event, they request no scheduling of the Artificial Turf field, Indian Ledge #2, as they fly over that field coming in to Indian Ledge #1. For weekday practices 8:14 to 10:00 a.m., they have 12/15 fliers, fly 8/10 minutes each, grill hotdogs and out. If the field is scheduled, they don't fly that day.

Recreation Director commented that the flies are a fun thing to watch and they keep the geese away.

Bill Odendahl, United Health Care:

He discussed their possibly planning a Living-Healthier series of events in June and July by hosting six to eight Wednesday evening, trail run/walk/races from Old Mine Park to Whitney Avenue and perhaps beyond. The time would be between 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. They would invite people to come to Old Mine Park and have them run/walk the trail as a health project. They would mark off miles, have a 4 mile run/walk/races, as well as a kid's fun run. They are planning on charging \$5-10 a person for water, and employees will be along the route and at the Whitney Avenue intersection. They expect under 50 participants. They could allow parking at United Health Care and shuttle to park as well as park parking. Mr. Odendahl would be the director.

Discussion included expressed concern for:

- Whitney Avenue crossing....would require a police officer for traffic control at Whitney Avenue.
- Narrowness of Trail....use by residents would be impaired.
- Parking at Old Mine Park limited.
- One race or walk for a trail could possibly be considered prior to a series of walks.
- Walk/Races require a lot of planning and controls.
- Concerns with safety aspects.
- Park Rangers would be required.
- Insurance would be required.

Mike Fedell, Senior City Baseball Team:

Senior City is a hard ball league, 19 to 45 years old. They play post-season. 75% Trumbull residents under a grandfather clause. They pay \$75 per game for field use, \$50 lighting fee. Paid \$1,650 last year for lights. Their schedule is set following American Legion and Babe Ruth scheduling. They use available fields at that time. They work well with these leagues. Babe Ruth and American Legion coaches come from their league. Recreation Director now scheduling fields. He commented Park Rangers were great last year, checking field users.

Pat McNally, resident Cub Scout Leader:

He came to discuss a safety concern with the Old Mine Park vehicle bridge. He is very concerned with the condition of the bridge and its railings. He presented photos of the bridge. Railings are in great dis-repair and someone could fall in from the side of the bridge. Top of the bridge is a grate you can see through. Bridge should have high railings in good condition.

Superintendent indicated that he has spoken with Mr. McNally and explained that close to four years ago the Town applied for a grant to rebuild the bridge and now funding of \$120,000 is in place to move forward. The project falls under D.E.E.P regulations and even with the rebuild, it will not have a railing on the left-side because of flood control regulations. It will have a tire-high berm. D.E.E.P. wants no obstruction. There will be a protective fence on the right side. The left-side drop is about 3 feet to sand. The Town is in process of preparing bid specifications for the re-build now. Following his conversation with Mr. McNally, he did have a crew shore-up current railings.

Mr. McNally said he wanted to express and document his concern. He feels there is a huge liability there and doesn't understand it. Kids go over that bridge all the time. Chain and signs should be installed.

Joan Doskey (Treasurer) and Sharon Lomnitzer (President) Trumbull United:

Recreation Director has their binder. Their program this year is similar to the past. They practice at Old Mine, Indian Ledge 4 and the Turf field during the week. Use Kaechele complex on Saturday. Turf field Saturday and Sunday evenings. Sometimes they have to be creative in finding an extra large field. Season begins in March. They would like to conduct a fund raiser to purchase bleachers for the Indian Ledge Turf Field. They try to keep people off the field with lawn chairs. Bleachers would eliminate this problem. They have experienced a problem with non-resident college-age players using Indian Ledge Turf Field when they arrive for scheduled play. They are intimidating to the Trumbull United coaches. Their practice is to call the police, who call the rangers, who then have them removed. They have dragged the goals across the turf field and will damage it. They are up there beginning in May when school closes. Last season, they arranged to have the Ranger arrive at the field ten minutes before their scheduling to have these non-scheduled players removed before scheduled players and parents arrive.

Superintendent and Recreation Director felt with the new scheduling plan, Rangers will be alerted as to who should be on particular fields and hopefully remove some of these type problems.

Mrs. Dosky touched upon the Top Soccer special-needs league who play at Kaechele, Saturdays 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. This program has been most successful and really a plus for Trumbull United Soccer.

MOTION to close Public Comments portion of the Agenda by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed.

MOTION to approve the minutes of February 13, 2012 as distributed by Dr. Bellows, second Mr. Moore, unanimously passed.

Old Business:

Mr. Martin commented that Christian Heritage's request for facilities is perhaps an imbalance from the number of facilities used by Town programs. He noted that they charge for their summer camps (Rec. Director said charge is for the coaches and school program).

Recreation Director said Christian Heritage provides whatever they have available when we make a request of them. Both Little League and Babe Ruth League utilize their facilities for try-outs. Historically we try to accommodate non-public school programs. We are never able to schedule all they request. Their list is a "wish list".

Facilities Use Requests:

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed to approve AYSO's request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Field Use Policy requirements being met.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve Lacrosse request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Field Use Policy requirements being met.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mrs. Walsh and Mr. Moore, unanimously passed to approve Christian Heritage's request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Field Use Policy requirements being met.

MOTION by Mr. Bragano, second by Dr. Bellows, and passed (Mr. Martin abstained) to approve Little League's request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Field Use Policy requirements being met.

MOTION by Mrs. Walsh, second by Mr. Bragano, and passed (Dr. Bellows abstained) to approve Babe Ruth League's request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Field Use Policy requirements being met.

MOTION by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Bragano, and passed (Dr. Bellows abstained) to approve American Legion League request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Field Use Policy requirements being met.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Bragano, and passed (Mr. Lipinski opposed) to approve Trumbull Titans request for field scheduling for practices only subject to field availability and Field Use Policy requirements being met.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. Bragano, unanimously passed to grant Pisces pool time from April 1 through April 9, 2012, as long as all members of Pisces are Trumbull residents. If Pisces would like facility time beyond April 9, 2012, it must come to the April 9, 2012 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to request additional dates.

Civil War Re-Enactment, Abraham Nichols Park Orchard, March 4, 2012:

Mr. Martin reported a most successful event. Approximately 300 people attended, adults and children. They had two enactment performances. Parking was well organized and controlled. Grounds were left fine with no damage to the park. The Historical Society hopes to be able to do it again next year.

MOTION by Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed to accept the proposal by T.R.A.C.K. BMX to accept a donation of equipment and labor to assist with rebuilding the BMX for safety purposes, with work to be done by a professional track builder who shall provide certificates of Liability Insurance and Worker's Compensation Insurance prior to start of project anticipated to begin by March 20, 2012.

MOTION by Mrs. Walsh, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve Indian Ledger Radio Control Club request for field scheduling subject to field availability and Field Use Policy requirements being met.

MOTION by Mrs. Walsh, second by Mr. Bragano, and passed (Dr. Bellows abstained) to approve Senior City League's request for field scheduling subject to field availability and Field Use Policy requirements being met.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Martin, unanimously passed to approve Trumbull United Soccer request for field scheduling subject to field availability and Field Use Policy requirements being met.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mrs. Walsh, unanimously passed to **DENY** request from United Health Care to host a Walk/Run Series on the Rail Trail beginning at Old Mine Park, Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. starting in June and ending in July.

Old Mine Park Bridge Discussion:

Superintendent reiterated that we have no ability to address concerns for the design of the vehicular bridge to be rebuilt over the river to access facilities. The reconstruction is based on approval by D.E.E.P and its specifications for flood control. We can't change the design of the D.E.E.P. approval. The project is about to be bid and will proceed giving us a much better constructed vehicular bridge. There is a pedestrian bridge available for walkers.

Superintendent's Report:

- Department has been taking advantage of the wonderful spring weather conditions.
- Playground equipment nearly completed at Davidow Park.
- Annual inspections of Playground Equipment has been requested.
- Working on internal trails at Twin Brooks Park.
- Long Hill Garden Club has donated \$2,000 for a Witch Hazel planting.

Dr. Bragano said he had a communication asking when elementary schools will be released for play because of the good weather conditions?

Superintendent indicated that as scheduling requests have now been approved by the Commission, fields will be released. League representatives should contact the Superintendent for dates.

Recreation Director Report:

Registration for programs begins on Monday, April 2, 2012.

Hillcrest Pool will close for repairs approximately by May, 2012.

Miscee Brook Park:

Mr. Moore reported the continued dumping of sewer construction materials within Mischee Brook Park.

Chairman and Mr. Martin explained that we have already brought this issue to the Director of Public Works, and Sewer Coordinator. There is a litigation issue. Once settled, the park will be restored.

Mr. Martin reported graffiti on the Rail Trail fence at Whitney Avenue.

MOTION to adjourn at 9:55 p.m. by Dr. Bellows, second Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Administrative Assistant

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