

PARK COMMISSION

APRIL 9, 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
Nicholas Bragano
Kenneth Martin
Roger McGovern

Anthony Chmielewski
Richard Moore
Vincent Lipinski
Nancy Walsh

Also,

Dmitri Paris, Park Superintendent
First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst

Guests:

Jared, Sandy and Scott Platt, 11 Overlook Place (Parlor Rock Fountain Pool)
John Hendrickson, 150 Ridgewood Trail, Norwalk (Parlor Rock Fountain Pool)
Robby Barhpaga, 460 Edison Road (Cheetah Cricket Club)
Kevin Carley, 41 Saranee Circle (Trumbull Pisces)
Bill Odendahl, 815 White Plains Road (UnitedHealthCare Walk Request)

First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst stated that he had a conversation with the Trumbull Pisces board members and indicated he would try to assist them to secure alternate venues to accommodate their pool needs during the closure of Hillcrest Pool for renovations. He has contacted the Town of Monroe to determine if their pool facility could be available to Pisces based on a donation to share in pool costs covering their use. He commented that any assistance offered to accomplish out-of-town pool time for Pisces will be greatly appreciated.

Selectman Herbst also mentioned that he met a young man, Jared Platt, at a Pop Warner Banquet who mentioned there are remains of an historic fountain pool at Parlor Rock which needs to be rehabilitated. He asked this young man to contact him at his office, and Jared sent him pictures and a proposal for repairs of the fountain at no cost to the Town. The Selectman was impressed with Jared's proposal, discussed it with the Park Superintendent and forwarded the request to this Commission for consideration. Jared is in attendance this evening. The Selectman commented that this scenario proves that one person can make a difference (even if too young to vote) and that this is an example of the amazing ideas he receives from residents while attending a banquet or function.

Jared Platt (Historic Parlor Rock Fountain Pool):

Jared is 12 years old and in 7th grade. He said he moved to Trumbull near Parlor Rock two years ago and walks the woods almost every day. He found the historic fountain pool basin beneath brush just off the path area. He got information on-line from the Historical Society's web site that the area was the site of an old amusement park back in the 1800's which he thought was totally cool. The fountain greeted visitors as they came to the park. The brick and the walls are crumbling and being vandalized. He distributed pictures of the historic site. The fountain was made of bricks and concrete, 6 feet in diameter and 2 feet high. It is reported that the fountain had a large iron bird in the center with a long neck where the water flowed from its beak. He said reports say it was a swan, stork or crane. Today the brick basin still remains. Materials needed will be brick and mortar. He said he doesn't think any photographs exist of the original fountain. He will provide benches to be placed around it.

Jared's proposal is to clean the area around the historic fountain basin, rebuild the fountain, and his uncle who is with Infinity Iron Works in Bridgeport would create the iron bird portion as closely to the original as possible. The fountain could be set up as a planter with benches around it.

Superintendent said he fully endorses this project and will support Jared through the process. Superintendent feels that it would have to be accomplished in stages, possibly with help from scouts as there is a lot of clearing of brush before any repair to the actual fountain basin can happen.

Commissioner Martin, as a member of the Historical Society, said he will discuss with the Society any assistance they may be able to provide with searching for historic information they may have which is not currently on their web site as well as a possible fund donation.

Robby Barhpaga (Cheetah Cricket Club):

He submitted his Field Use Application to the Recreation Department. In attendance to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Chairman questioned what the Cricket Club can contribute to this project to create a Cricket Pitch within the parks system.

Mr. Barhpaga indicated that they will provide funding to build the "pitch"; they only need a designated field where they can install a 22 yards long, 15 yards wide, rectangular flat strip of ground for the Pitch (similar to the infield on a baseball field.) They would practice once a week from 5:00 to 7:00/8:00 p.m. May through August. They will play five home games during the season. Teams comprise 11 Trumbull resident players, coach and scorer with small spectator group. Upon question about maintenance, he responded that usually once a year they need to maintain the pitch (make sure its level and no holes). They will adhere to all Rules and Regulations regarding grounds and up-keep. They are accustomed to utilizing multi-purpose fields in other communities.

Kevin Carley (Trumbull Pisces):

He reported that they are in compliance with this Commission's January mandates. They are a new Board of Directors, delivered all information by March 1st, provided their Liability Insurance Certificate, Background Checks, Proof of 501c3 Status. They have a rough draft of By-Laws with final being provided to us by end of April. They have three new coaches. They tested 25 new resident swimmers, 23 were accepted to the three teams by age and ability (two swimming on a trial basis). All non-resident swimmers are removed from the team. Refunds were distributed.

Their problem is that the Town's Hillcrest Pool is about to undergo renovations and will be closed. Pisces is scrambling for a place to swim for 90 swimmers. They have made arrangements with the Bridgeport JCC and University of Bridgeport to utilize their pools through April. They have reached out to Stratford, Monroe, Bridgeport, Albertus Magnus, Milford JCC and University of Bridgeport. They urgently need assistance to find alternative pool locations during the Hillcrest Pool renovation period. Pool use ranges in the area of \$100 an hour. They need about \$15,000 to cover April 23rd through balance of season. If Pisces can't provide a pool, these swimmers will move to other programs.

Upon question he responded that they are planning fund raisers, Pre-Paid Cards to purchase goods/ Swim Marathons.

Commissioner Moore suggested they perhaps contact corporate entities for donations. He gave them the contact name of Wayne Moore, former Yale gold medalist, as a possible reference toward use of Yale's pool. And, the Girls and Boys Village in Stratford was suggested as another possible pool location to check on.

They requested pool time again once Hillcrest Pool is back on line for two/three hours at night and to 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Bill Odendahl (UnitedHealthCare Wellness Champion):

He has changed his request for a run-walk series on the Rail Trail from Old Mine Park to Whitney Avenue to a *One-Time Walk*. Not a race or a run. If successful, it may be conducted on an annual basis. Only employees for UnitedHealthCare, parking at their facility, would start between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. and end by 6:30 p.m., they will have a First Aid station at Old Mine Park, participants to donate \$10 for water and supplies (balance would be donated to a charitable organization), walk to take place sometime in August or September. They could get 200-300 participants. They will stagger groups of walkers if necessary.

Upon question, he was told a Certificate of Insurance from UnitedHealthCare is required naming the Town as additional insured and would be required to pay over-time for Park Rangers for the event.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Moore, unanimously passed closing the Guest portion of the Agenda.

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed approving the Minutes of the March 12, 2012 minutes as distributed.

Cheetah Cricket Club Discussion:

- Decided that the Tashua, North Madison Avenue, Field would be the least intrusive field to construct a trial basis Cricket Pitch. No impact to core groups on this field.
- Cheetah Cricket Club to provide clays for Pitch.
- Superintendent would work with the group for installation of the Pitch. They to provide the clay. Park Department would assist with first installation; afterwhich, Cheetah Cricket Club would be responsible to outsource any future field maintenance work.
- Under the Field Use Policy, Cheetah Cricket Club would pay fee for games, practices would be free.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed to approve the Cheetah Cricket Club use of Tashua North Madison field with the stipulation they provide materials for installation of a Cricket Pitch and maintenance and clean-up throughout the season, conditioned upon meeting all safety standards for field use as determined by the Parks Superintendent and Parks and Recreation Commission in conjunction with the Facilities Use Policy; and, subject to Field Use Fee for games with subsequent Parks and Recreation Commission re-evaluation on an annual basis.

Parlor Rock Fountain:

Superintendent indicated this is an historic fountain location, and he will be committed to the project. Concern with possible vandalism was expressed.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. Bragano, unanimously passed approving the proposal for the renovation of the historic Parlor Rock Fountain Basin and installation of two benches by Jared Platt and family subject to clearing area of brush and fallen trees; and, to research and provide, for further consideration and approval prior to begin of construction, a comprehensive plan for the project as well as a rendering of the proposed metal structure in conjunction with the advice of the Parks Superintendent, Parks and Recreation Commission and Trumbull Historical Society.

Correspondence:

From Sean Jackson, Friends of Appalachia Fundraising Coordinator, requesting use of Long Hill Green for its annual community tag-sale fundraiser.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. Chmielewski unanimously passed to **DENY** request by Friends of Appalachia Fundraising Coordinator to use Long Hill Green for its annual community tag-sale fundraiser as this is a Non-Town sponsored event.

Park Development Plan of 1978:

Chairman explained and provided a copy of the Park Development Plan of 1978 projecting town needs, categories and standards projected to 1990. Both he and the Park Superintendent feel it is time for this Commission to review our facilities and update the Plan of 1978 which is now outdated and needs to have new facilities and properties identified and projections for the next twenty years incorporated. Chairman will have copies made available for all Commissioners, and Commission and Superintendent will begin the process of bringing the plan current.

Superintendent said important changes for this Commission to consider are:

- Security
- Rail Trails
- Deterioration of aged pools.
- Environmental Contamination
- Expanded Recreation Uses

Mr. Martin expressed concern with current projects impacting park properties as with sewer line installation disruption at Mischee Brook Park and impact of the Rail Trail through Twin Brooks Park and how it is going to be monitored. He is concerned with the macadam pathway which encourages motorized bikes and easy access to facilities. Superintendent explained that the State has determined that the macadam facilitates maintenance and emergency access.

Mr. Moore noted users with pets not abiding by the Leash and No Feeding of Waterfowl in parks. He felt we should be enforcing our ordinances.

Chairman explained that the Superintendent is planning to change the patrol pattern of Rangers this season with some doing stationery assignments at designated parks at specific times.

Mr. Chmielewski retired from meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Cemetery Drive (Nothnagle Park):

Chairman commented that for some time now it has been the intent of this Commission in keeping with Trumbull Parks Opening and Closure times to have barrier gates installed for safety and security reasons during park closure times. It has been the plan to have such a barrier gate installed on Cemetery Drive at the entrance area to Nothnagle Park. He indicated that this Commission should set in motion a plan to Abandon that part of Cemetery Drive that passes into Nothnagle Park property. Superintendent felt we need to have the property lines defined by the Town's Engineering Department to begin the process of Abandonment.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. McGovern and unanimously passed that this Commission recommend to the First Selectman the Abandonment of Cemetery Drive at the entrance to Nothnagle Park.

Superintendent's Report:

- First fertilizer applications applied.
- In process of planting recovery plantings at Twin Brooks Park Rail Trail expansion project.
- Annual Cherry Tree Planting with the Nichols Garden Club about to begin.
- The Old Mine Stream Buffer Planting funded project is about to begin with plan for 1000 plantings, berms and water gardens.
- Revitalizing planting in front of the Historic Helen Plumb building.
- A long-term lease is in process for Town use of the building next to the Helen Plumb building to be utilized as a Visitors' Center and landscaping will be accomplished at that location.
- Pumps are back in at Beach Pool, new chlorine lines installed.
- New Life Guard Stands installed at Beach Pool
- Lavatory and Concession Stand at Beach Pool painted.
- Having problems with the new Field Use Scheduling Computer Program, which need to be resolved.
- Will be working with a new Turf Specialist at the THS artificial turf field this season.
- Concessions Contract still in force for the next several years.
- Barn move to Abraham Nichols Park. Currently waiting for mason work to be done. Plan is to dismantle the barn by July.

MOTION to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. by Mr. Lipinski, second by Dr. Bellows and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Administrative Assistant

PARK COMMISSION
APRIL 9, 2012
MOTIONS

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Moore, unanimously passed closing the Guest portion of the Agenda.

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed approving the Minutes of the March 12, 2012 minutes as distributed.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed to approve the Cheetah Cricket Club use of Tashua North Madison field with the stipulation they provide materials for installation of a Cricket Pitch and maintenance and clean-up throughout the season, conditioned upon meeting all safety standards for field use as determined by the Parks Superintendent and Parks and Recreation Commission in conjunction with the Facilities Use Policy; and, subject to Field Use Fee for games with subsequent Parks and Recreation Commission re-evaluation on an annual basis.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. Bragano, unanimously passed approving the proposal for the renovation of the historic Parlor Rock Fountain Basin and installation of two benches by Jared Platt and family subject to clearing area of brush and fallen trees; and, to research and provide, for further consideration and approval prior to begin of construction, a comprehensive plan for the project as well as a rendering of the proposed metal structure in conjunction with the advice of the Parks Superintendent, Parks and Recreation Commission and Trumbull Historical Society.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. Chmielewski unanimously passed to **DENY** request by Friends of Appalachia Fundraising Coordinator to use Long Hill Green for its annual community tag-sale fundraiser as this is a Non-Town sponsored event.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. McGovern and unanimously passed that this Commission recommend to the First Selectman the Abandonment of Cemetery Drive at the entrance to Nothnagle Park.

MOTION to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. by Mr. Lipinski, second by Dr. Bellows and unanimously passed.