

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MAY 14, 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)	Anthony Chmielewski
Kevin Bellows	Nancy Walsh
Richard Moore	Roger McGovern
Kenneth Martin	Marie Petitti

Also, Dmitri Paris, Park Superintendent
Mary Markham, Recreation Director

Guests: Martin Shapiro, 36 Dogwood Lane, Trumbull Rotary
William Dunn, 51 Coventry Lane, Trumbull Rotary
Anthony Silber, 43 Stag Lane, Trumbull Rotary
Janice Kenney, 30 Saddle Hill Road, Monroe, CT Yankee Dachshund Club
Debbie West, 35 Church Hill Road, CT Yankee Dachshund Club
Thaddeus Cullina, 70 Old Dyke Road, Relay for Life Collection
Jen Liebowitz, 25 Koger Road, Trumbull Eagles Lacrosse
Deb Nakano, 5 Sunny Ridge Parkway, Trumbull Eagles Lacrosse
Paul Waldek, Pastor, Christ Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church
Doug Imri, 32 Ridgeview Avenue, Trumbull Little League
Mark Fritz, 133 Fernwood Road, Trumbull Babe Ruth League
Gary Beers, 88 Meadow Road West, Trumbull Babe Ruth League

Public Comments:

Martin Shapiro, Trumbull Rotary, current Sunset Run Chairman:

Requesting use of Twin Brook Park, July 27, 2012, to conduct their annual 5k Sunset Run with Kids Fun Run beginning at 6:15 p.m. and 5k Run at 6:45 p.m. They expect 500 runners, 50 children for fun run. This is a different type of event, it is a family fun day with jazz band and food. Upon question as to how much funds do they raise, he responded between eight and nine thousand dollars, with approximately 50 percent covering costs of police, rangers and T-Shirts provided all runners. The balance is utilized for Town and other Rotary national sponsorships.

Bill Dunn, Past Event Chairman:

Stated, he began this event ten years ago following the 911 terror attack of which his son survived. It has been a very successful fundraiser for Rotary.

Janice Kenney and Debbie West, CT Yankee Dachshund Club:

Request to use Old Mine Park for dog club Fun Day on August 4, 2012, with rain date of August 5, 2012. This is a small breed specific dog event with 20/30 dachshunds in attendance with their families. It will run from 10:00 to 4:00 p.m.. They request use of lower pavilion and meadow area. They have agility demonstrations, relay races and picnic. Following last year's request, they looked at the Dog Park which was determined not best for their event as they would not be able to control dogs other than theirs. Old Mine Park is the best location for them. They will clean up the area and provide an Insurance Certificate for the event.

Chairman noted that they are required to have Waivers, available from the Recreation Department , completed by all participants.

Janice Kenney and Debbie West indicated they are aware of this requirement and will have participants sign required Waivers.

Thaddeus Cullina, American Cancer Society Relay for Life fund raising at Unity Park Request:

He and six friends would like to set up a table at Unity park on a Saturday, either 5/12, 5/19 or 6/2, depending on weather when his team members could seek donations, perhaps sell candy or baked goods and walk around “shaking the can” as a fund raiser toward the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life at Masuk High School in Monroe, June 8/9.

Comments:

- We have concession stands at Unity and food goods would be in conflict.
- Concern with soliciting from ball game attendees. Announcement could be made from Game Box.
- Soliciting conflicts with our Ordinance and would be setting precedent.

Jen Liebowitz and Deb Nakano, Trumbull Eagles Lacrosse:

They are volunteer parents looking for scheduling on a field for their new summer travel team to practice. They will have membership comprised of those with 1998/1999 birth years. There are numerous lacrosse teams over the summer months but participating is very expensive. Many Trumbull residents find the fees too cumbersome, particularly with more than one child in the family. Players should continue playing together through the summer because they will be playing together once they get to the high school. With other organizations, fees are in the range of \$1,100 for summer play. They plan to be in the range of \$375. They want to be able to provide play for Trumbull children beyond the season. They need practice space on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. from June 11 to July 18. They will provide certificate of insurance and roster of players. They will provide background checks for two planned coaches and any parents to work with the players.

Upon question, they responded they have chosen 18 from perhaps 100 Trumbull resident players. Not all want to move to this new local team. Some can’t afford to play on other teams and needed a place to play.

Paul Waldek, Pastor, Christ Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Explained his church would like the use of a baseball field at Unity Park or Nothnagle Field for the days of Monday, July 16 through Friday, July 20 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon daily. They plan to offer a baseball skills clinic for ages 9-13. The clinic will be led by volunteer members of their congregation who have high school and college baseball/softball backgrounds. This is not for profit but will be charged to cover costs and expenses. They hope to have between 25 and 30 participants. Proof of insurance will be provided. He doesn’t know what interest yet, will begin with Trumbull residents, then to surrounding towns. They would have to cut off at 75 participants.

Commissioners suggested other field areas perhaps available. Their church is located in the Nichols section of town.

Doug Imri, Trumbull Little League:

Presented their Tournament Schedule as

June 25 – July 16 (U12 Softball District, 10/11 Baseball District, 9/10 Baseball District)

July 10 – July 13 (U12 Softball States – 2 out of 3 playoff)

June 25 – July 5 (U8 Softball)

July 01 – July 20 (U8 Baseball)

Mark Fritz and Gary Beers, Trumbull Babe Ruth League:

They will be hosting a 13 Year Old Tournament, a four town tournament, on June 29 through July 3rd.

He noted they are in process of fundraising for the rehabilitation of Unity infield. First half by local fundraisers, second half will be corporate sponsorships. They would like to have the banner policy waived for their 12 week season to allow them to post laminate signs with corporate logos and colors. This would give them a better opportunity to secure larger corporate sponsorships.

Chairman reminded that there has been a Banner Policy in place for many years with type of material, color and size of banner and lettering which all sports groups are required to follow.

Mr. Fritz noted they are volunteers and fund raising will be very difficult to come up with the funds needed to rehabilitate the field. They estimate the project to be in the range of \$35,000.

Chairman noted that for the past five years, this Commission has suggested closing down the field for Fall Ball to allow for rehabilitation. Town was willing to assist with the fall work. Last year when there were funds for a project, installing a batting cage was selected over field rehab. Now the heavy field play has brought the field to a condition beyond seasonal maintenance. He explained that the Banner Policy was developed as a uniform policy for all users which doesn't downgrade the aesthetic quality of the fields.

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Moore, unanimously passed to close guest portion of the Agenda.

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Martin, unanimously passed accepting the minutes of the April 9, 2012 meeting as distributed.

Trash in parks discussion:

There is an abundance of soda cans, bags with dog feces, drink cups strewn throughout the parks system. We no longer put out and pick-up trash barrels. Facility users would fill barrels with household trash, particularly where we had a through roadway. Our removal of barrels was established when state and federal parks moved to this practice some years ago. We get a great number of complaints; however, we no longer have a garbage truck and manpower is at a premium for our department. To reinstate garbage pick-up would require a special appropriation or consideration for the next fiscal budget.

MOTION by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Moore, unanimously passed to invite the Director of Public Works to attend our June meeting to discuss reestablishing trash pick-up within the parks system.

Old Business:

Park Development Plan of 1978. Chairman distributed copies of the Plan to members for discussion at a future date.

Chairman distributed copies of the Final Town Council approved budget for July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

Recreation Director:

Field scheduling has been fed into the new computer program. They have had a problem with connection to Town Hall. Computer is down most of the day. Outside service to the building is now being checked.

New Business:

Mr. Martin noted that he has become aware of a Planning and Zoning Public Hearing presentation by the Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency on the Rail Trails Proposal this coming Wednesday evening, May 16, 2012. He questioned why the Parks and Recreation Commission has not been notified of this hearing as the trail greatly impacts parkland and facilities, particularly parking areas with non-residents.

Discussion on the Rail/Trail System within our community and its impact to our parks system, its parking and facilities as well as bikers riding off the trail and into our woodland trails inflicting great damage. Our Ordinance, Section 15-11 (d) (5) prohibits all-terrain vehicles, dirtbikes, snowmobiles, motorcycles, motor bikes, etc, except on designated roadways or parking lots of a park. Bicycles are not specifically listed and should be.

MOTION by Mr. Martin, second by Mrs. Petitti, unanimously passed that this Commission respectfully request the Planning and Zoning Commission make notification to the Parks and Recreation Commission of any specific request made by the Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency concerning the continued expansion of the Rail/Trail system within or contiguous with Town of Trumbull Park property.

MOTION by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed to request the Town Attorney to begin the process to have Park Ordinance, Section 15-11 (d) (5) amended to include bicycles specifically as not allowed on trails or fire roads off established roadways and parking areas without permission of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Actions on Requests:

Rotary Club Sunset Run:

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Martin and Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed approving Rotary Club requesting use of Twin Brook Park July 27, 2012, to conduct their annual 5k Sunset Run with Kids Fun Run beginning at 6:15 p.m. and 5k Run at 6:45 p.m.

CT. Yankee Dachshund Club:

MOTION by Mrs. Walsh, second by Dr. Bellows and passed, six in favor, one opposed (Mr. Martin), approving request by the CT. Yankee Dachshund Club to host its dog club Fun Day on August 4, 2012, rain date August 5, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Old Mine Park lower pavilion and meadow area with presentation of Insurance Certificate holding the Town harmless and completion of signed Waivers as provided by the Recreation Department for each participant.

Thaddeus Cullina Request to Set up donation table for Cancer Society Relay for Life at Unity Park:

Request was discussed considering earlier comments on concession stands at Unity and food goods would be in conflict; concern with soliciting from ball game attendees; soliciting conflicts with our Ordinance and would be setting precedent.

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski to deny request by Thaddeus Cullina to set-up donation table for Cancer Society Relay for Life at Unity Park, NO SECOND. Motion withdrawn.

MOTION by Mrs. Walsh, second by Mrs. Petitti, to approve request by Thaddeus Cullina to set-up donation table for Cancer Society Relay for Life at Unity Park. The members of the Parks and Recreation Commission present at the meeting abstained from voting on the motion and the motion was lost.

Trumbull Eagles Lacrosse

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve field scheduling under Category 3 of the Facilities Use Policy with applicable fees, subject to field availability and 100% Trumbull residents for Trumbull Eagles Lacrosse, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. from June 11 to July 18. They to provide certificate of insurance and roster of players and background checks for coaches and any parents to work with the players.

Christ Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church:

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Martin, unanimously passed to approve Christ Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church to use Nothnagle Field Monday, July 16 through Friday, July 20 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon daily for a baseball skills clinic for ages 9-13, for Trumbull residents and Church members only with documented background checks for all coaches and managers. Proof of insurance naming the Town additional insured to be provided and clean-up of field area following clinic.

Trumbull Babe Ruth League:

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mrs. Petitti, passed with Dr. Bellows and Mr. Martin abstaining To approve Trumbull Babe Ruth League hosting a 13 Year Old Tournament on June 29 through July 3rd at Unity Park.

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Moore, passed (Dr. Bellows, Mrs. Walsh abstained) to **DENY** request by Trumbull Babe Ruth League to have the banner policy waived for their 12 week season to allow them to post laminate signs with corporate logos and colors.

Recreation Director:

- Issue with Softball League concerning softball fees under the Facilities Use Policy resolved with letter of explanation sent to all softball players.
- All training for Lifeguards and playground workers completed.
- Hillcrest will be available for a while longer. Arrangements made with Stratford to utilize Flood pool once Hillcrest closes for renovations.
- No Ice Cream Trucks allowed in parks.

Superintendent's Report:

- Core aeration on fields completed.
- Beach Pool coming on line soon. Repairs made to fence and deck slabs.
- Diving Board for Tashua being installed soon, pumps being repaired, shade canopys in bad structural shape.
- Herbicide used on outer perimeter of Community Gardens at Abraham Nichols Park. Had some complaints. Product was to keep ticks away. Won't be used in the future.
- Twin Brooks Pond aerators working, waiting for paving on parking lot in conjunction with Rail/Trail paving., new play set installed.
- Joan Estates play equipment completed with new impact material added.
- All playground equipment had annual inspections and in compliance.
- Indian Ledge water park up and working, play lot equipment repaired.
- Old Mine Park Rivers Edge landscape project completed. Involved much work for the department.
- Church Hill/Tait Road Project to renovate building for Welcome Center in progress.
- Gave assistance to BOE in repairing Hillcrest Pool water leaks as a stop-gap measure. Pool now open until renovation work begins.

MOTION to adjourn at 10:35 p.m. by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Moore, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Administrative Assistant

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Page 2

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