

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 10, 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)	Nicholas Bragano
Marie Petitti	Nancy Walsh
Anthony Chmielewski	Kevin Bellows
Richard Moore	Vincent Lipinski

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

Guests: Kevin Higgs, 29 Gorham Place, BMX Track
Stuart Needleman, 16 Squire Court, Pisces Swim Association
Doug Imri, 32 Ridgeview Avenue, Trumbull Babe Ruth League
Mike Curley, 49 Parkway Drive, Trumbull Babe Ruth League

Public Comments:

Kevin Higgs, BMX TRACK:

Present at the request of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Chairman said that some issues have developed concerning the BMX Track. He explained that it is required that facilities users come before the Commission to request all scheduling changes they plan. If a user wants to use a facility, the sponsoring group must come to this commission for permission. This is something that BMX TRACK organization is not currently doing. The Commission has been advised that they conducted a three-day event without permission and there has been some electrical changes at the track.

Mr. Higgs said that they are the new officers and were not fully aware of all the requirements.

Chairman provided them with sections of the Town Charter and Ordinances pertaining to use of parks and recreation facilities.

Chairman noted that an electrical concern was brought forward by the Building Department.

Mr. Higgs said they have now met with the Electrical Inspector. They changed two light poles. Changed from five small lights on a pole to one light each, which is more efficient and safer. At the time of the change they were not aware they needed a permit to make the change. He did come to Town Hall for our August meeting, but the meeting was in session when he arrived, and he didn't come in.

Commissioner Lipinski noted that they were before the Commission several months ago when they requested permission to reconstruct the track and should have realized that this is the procedure.

Mr. Higgs said they would like permission to hold a planned Picnic for the end of the season. He questioned if water could be left on at the lavatories. (Superintendent noted we shut down lavatories by mid to late October.) Mr. Higgs said the Rangers have requested for their upcoming Nationals Event that they install a snow fence along the parking lot wall area to prevent youngsters from jumping off wall, which they will do.

Chairman said they must provide pertinent information in the form of a picnic request through the Recreation Department for the picnic...date, time, events planned, anticipated attendance numbers.

Mr. Higgs said the Rangers have been great help to them. They are new officers and will cooperate fully with our requirements. Their track is considered the East Coast premier track. The Connecticut Tourism Council is giving them nation-wide press. They are very proud of the Track.

Stu Needleman, Pisces Swim Association:

They now have 120 swimmers in the program, up 40 swimmers. Hillcrest Pool is still down and once back on line, they need more lane time to accommodate this number of swimmers. They share the pool with THS, St. Joseph High and Recreation Programs. They currently are scheduled for three hours a day; but, they need four hours a day.

Recreation Director noted that the pool is scheduled for a soft opening October 1 and full opening October 15. Pool will be scheduled to accommodate all users including residents swim time and swim lessons. She said that they may be able to get scheduling on Sunday mornings but they must pay for custodian time.

Recreation Director noted that our basketball program has a maximum number to play...this is not cuts, it is on a first come/first serve basis...Pisces may need to go to a maximum number because their request for pool time cannot be accommodated.

Commissioner Moore noted there seems to be pool lanes available at Fitness 4000 on Park Avenue. Perhaps, they should pick-up some membership times at that facility.

Chairman thanked them for their attendance and noted they will be scheduled for as much time as we can work in once Hillcrest is reopened.

Doug Imri and Mike Curley, Trumbull Babe Ruth League:

Subsequent to August's meeting, they met with the Parks Superintendent and Chairman to re-address the Commission's concerns with their Babe Ruth Field renovations proposal because they really wanted to get the project done this fall. He presented an updated scope of the Babe Ruth Baseball Infield Re-Construction specifications. The Recreation Director has scheduled them to other fields and Unity Babe Ruth field is now shut down. With this Commission's approval, work will begin immediately and be completed by mid- October, early November.

Chairman noted that he and the Superintendent met with them not endorsing the project going forward but to discuss the details of a revised request the Commission to reconsider the project going forward this fall if all conditions are met.

Superintendent said he was fine with their going forward so long as they acclimate sod prior to irrigation shut-down. The new drainage swale and holding tank plan meet with his approval.

Mike Curley said they will start immediately and within two weeks get sod in, other work will continue to October 15th.

Chairman qualified with them that if the field is not 'playable' at the beginning of the spring season, they will be required to gate-off the field and schedule on other fields until such time as the field is playable.

Mr. Imri noted Trumbull Little League Chairman Jeff Blueweiss' passing and his family's request that donations to Trumbull Little League be made in his name. Little League will come before this Commission once a project in Jeff's name is determined for required permission to commence.

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mrs. Walsh, unanimously passed to close Guest Portion of the Agenda and return to the order of the Agenda.

MOTION by Mr. Bragano, second by Mr. Moore, unanimously passed to approve the minutes of August 13, 2012 meeting.

Pisces Swim Team discussion:

Recreation Director said swim time scheduling is an on-going problem. At one pool we schedule Trumbull High School, St. Joseph High School, Pisces, Resident Swim Programs, Swim Lessons. We will schedule the Pisces Swim Team as much time as possible. We did agree to keep Tashua Pool open beyond the closing date to give them extra time, but after transporting chemicals to the pool from Beach Pool they decided not to use Tashua Pool.

BMX Track discussion:

Organization must come before this Commission for all facilities use requests. Any changes to their scheduling effect Rangers assignments.

Babe Ruth League request for Infield Re-Construction:

Consensus was that if Babe Ruth League meets the requirements of the Parks Superintendent and begin and end dates for renovations, reconsideration request to begin immediately rather than in the spring can be approved.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed approving Trumbull Babe Ruth League's request to accomplish Unity Park Babe Ruth Baseball Field Renovations as per specifications of Bid #0912 with construction to begin September 15, 2012 and completed by October 15, 2012 under the direct supervision by the Parks Superintendent in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Commission with gated closure of the field in the spring until such time as the field is determined playable with scheduling of another field by the Recreation Director.

Superintendent's Report:

- At point in season for closing-down pools.
 - There are pump issues with both pools which need to be addressed as a budget request. Three pumps this season between the two pools. Department to rebuild the pumps with a fully-removable system of connections.
 - UI has now determined a cause for the burn-outs of the pumps at Beach Pool was from changing 'legs' on the UI side of the transmitter system over the years. Once funds in this account deplete, we will make a request for a special appropriation to take us to the end of the year.
- Trumbull United Soccer's \$2,000 donation for fields maintenance at Kaechele has been accepted.
- At Kaechele Complex, we will rotate irrigation boxes to accommodate a rotation of field play.
- We have cut brush, weeds, grass and applied herbicides on the Rail/Trail north of Whitney Avenue.
- Events coming up: Town's Annual Concert, BMX Nationals, Annual Arts Festival and Senior Picnic both on Town Hall Green.
- Began to dismantle the barn on White Plains Road. Everything being stored at the Abraham Nichols Park barn.
- Upon question on 'carry-over' bridge at Mischa Brook Park it was described as simply a boardwalk across wetland area on the Booth Hill side of the path. Natural plantings still to happen.
- Remediation project to remove invasive species at the lower meadow and transform back into a stable meadow at Twin Brooks Park to begin this fall.

Recreation Director's Report:

- Began sign-ups for fall programs. Brochure on line and at the Recreation Office.
- Hillcrest Pool Project short approximately \$100,000 in funding to do finish work (ceiling painting, power-wash and grouting). State Senator and Representative have been approached to support State funding to cover this shortfall.

MOTION at 8:25 p.m. by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Bragano, unanimously passed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Administrative Asst.

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MOTIONS

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