

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 26, 2013

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

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)	Kevin Bellows
Vin Lipinski	Ken Martin
Anthony Chmielewski	Nicholas Bragano
Richard Moore	Nancy Walsh
Marie Petitti	

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

Guests:

Erick Haakonsen, 4574 Madison Avenue, Indian Ledge Radio Control Club  
Jim Fracker, 50 Harborside Drive, Milford, AYSO  
Donald Cote, 1 Jennifer Way, Bethel, Trumbull TRACK Director  
Lori Lewis, Columbine Drive, Trumbull United Soccer  
Pam Georgas, 117 Broadway Road, Nature Commission  
Robby Barhpage, 460 Edison Road, Cheetah Cricket League  
John Egan, 585 White Plains Road, Dir. of Athletics Christian Heritage School  
Ted Chase, 27 Frances Street, Trumbull Youth Lacrosse  
Glenn Schutz, 74 Pinewood Trail, Trumbull Youth Lacrosse  
Anthony Vinci, 40 Long Meadow Road, American Legion Post 141 Baseball  
Greg Pavona, 67 Old Hollow Road, Pickleball Request  
Diane Sullivan, 10 Nob Hill, Milford, Regional Pickleball Assoc.  
Doug Imri, 32 Ridgeview Avenue, Babe Ruth League  
Mark Fritz, 133 Fernwood Road, Trumbull Little League  
Paul Waldek, Pastor Christ Redeemer Church, 2975 Nichols Avenue

Public Comments:

Irik Haakonsen, Indian Ledge Radio Control Club:

Mentioned 35 years flying in Trumbull. Thanked Superintendent, Recreation Director and Commission for past assistance. This year's request is same as previous years. Use open Indian Ledge Field weekday mornings to 11:00 a.m., and Saturday and Sundays when available. They have four events through the season, fun flies... day events and a Freeze Fly, March 24th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. which requires holding fields #1 and #2 because of flying over the artificial turn field. Twenty five members.

Jim Fracker, American Youth Soccer Org.:

Distributed copies of his presented season request indicating number of players, teams for each age group, times for proposed field plays. 1125 players last fall; will be 1150 this spring. They use Kaechele Saturday's, 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m....all three quads (#4 will be wet). Indian Ledge artificial turf field, 5 games starting at 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m....out by 2:00 p.m.

Donald Cote, 1 Jennifer Way, Bethel, Trumbull TRACK director:

Submitted TRACK Statistic and Schedule for 2013. Thanked Commission for allowing them to do a lot of work on the Track last year. They utilized local and regional contributions and labor. They had over 5,000 volunteer hours and donations from a major bike manufacturer. They plan to offer free membership to all Newtown, CT youth as a result of the Sandy Hook School tragedy. They had a few bumps last year, first year with a new governing board. They have met with the Health Department on their septic system (dry well), which is used for their water system. They are required to install a new septic system which they cannot budget-in this season. In the interim they will not prepare food at the concession but sell package and bottle items. They are required to replace lighting fixtures on their poles; this will be done prior to season opening. He noted the damaged entrance sign following their National's last season. Even though they met with the Park Ranger, there were no tracks or any way to identify who did the damage. They race Tuesday nights, practice Monday nights, one Redline Cup race (June 9<sup>th</sup>) (upon question – Friday practice, Saturday State Double Point Race 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., Sunday, Redline Cup), one Race For Life with \$5 going to cancer research, one scholarship race with \$5 going toward the scholarship. They normally race to 9:00/9:30 p.m. but up to 11:00 when lights go off on race nights. Their Camp – three days \$150 includes lunch they have Olympic speakers, local officials teach from ages two years and up. Racing fee is \$6.

Lori Lewis, Columbine Drive, Trumbull United Soccer:

Their season last week of March to second week of June. They use Old Mine meadow field, Kaechele and Indian Ledge. Games at Kaechels Noon to 5:00 p.m. They work with AYSO to adjust schedules. Indian Ledge Turf Tues and Fri nights from 4:00 to 9:00/10:00 p.m. Top Soccer (special needs) continues on Saturday afternoons for two hours at Kaechele. They have 900/1000 younger players, 1200/1300 older players for the entire year. Fall through Spring. All Trumbull residents. Rosters, schedules, background checks and insurance documents submitted to Recreation Director.

Pam Georgas, Trumbull Nature Commission:

- Presented their Hike Request for June 1<sup>st</sup> , 10:00 a.m., leaving from Indian Ledge on the Rail Trail, rain date is June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The second request is from a junior at Ridgefield High School, she was selected as the Connecticut Youth Ambassador by Youth Service America looking to do a Hike Series. Doesn't have the dates yet. It will be 3 or 4 hikes starting at Old Mine Park or Twin Brook's...perhaps 35 youngsters.

Robby Barhpaga, Cheetah Cricket League:

Submitted all information to Recreation Director. They established a cricket pitch at the Madison Avenue field last year. They provided the materials to build their "pitch" (strip within a ball field). Their schedule this year is from mid-May through September. They would like to play 12/15 games, 6/8 in Trumbull. Sunday afternoons from Noon to 5:00 p.m. and practice any time in the evening during the week when available. Last year they were scheduled on Thursdays. Don't think there will be any repair work necessary on their track area. Once snow clears they will check with Superintendent to determine if additional material is needed.

John Egan, Dir. Of Athletics, Christian Heritage School:

Indicated appreciation for town's cooperation with their Athletic Department and facility needs. They look forward to a continued partnership with us. Submitted and reviewed schedule for field use.

Mr. Lipinski reminded him that there will be no practice at Unity this coming season because of the field rehabilitation.

Recreation Director said that she works their schedule into the full schedule wherever and whenever we can. They reciprocate by scheduling their gym as we have a need. Used two nights a week October through March for basketball and then again a few weeks in the summer; THS Marching Band practices at their gym. Babe Ruth holds try-outs at their gym.

Ted Chase, Trumbull Youth Lacrosse:

Gave their packet to Recreation Director. One coach just completed his background check today and that will be coming in. He distributed copies of their 2013 field request including their program overview, 100 percent Trumbull residents, 350+ in K-8 this spring season, 15 boys travel teams, 7 girls travel teams, 12 week season March 25<sup>th</sup> through June 16<sup>th</sup>, need 2-3 practices per week, 1 house game per week, and 1-2 travel games per week. He mentioned that CONNY season begins April 1<sup>st</sup>. They would like to begin earlier this season March 25<sup>th</sup> rather than April 1<sup>st</sup> to keep up with other towns. They have tournaments second week in June and June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned that their number of girl players are growing. Girls 105 and boys 200 plus. They need to provide more time now for girls. They also have the little Eagles, K-1<sup>st</sup> grades, for boys. They want to add this age group for the girls. Their request includes Indian Ledge Turf Field, THS Turf Field, THS "Pit:", THS girls Grass field (behind tennis courts), THS Practice field A (behind softball field), and THS Practice Field B "Path" field.

Glenn Schutz, 74 Pinewood Trail commented that they have used the JV field and the Pit 2-3 times a week after school to from 6:00 to dark and Saturdays and Sundays for games as available. They may lose these to THS scholastic play.

Anthony Vince, American Legion Post 141 Baseball:

They presented their binder to the Recreation Director. Still need Rosters and this year's Tax Statement. Last year's scheduling worked well for them. They need regulation size field at THS for months of May through August 1. It is anticipated they will need approximately 34 game dates THS Varsity and Jr. Varsity fields. They will also need practice times for all teams. They have two teams, 36 layers. This year's fee is \$1,325 down from last year (\$1,450). Great coordination of fields last year with no problems or conflicts.

Greg Pavona and Diane Sullivan, Pickleball Request:

Mr. Pavona noted that the sport is a fairly new one...25 years, played in the Pacific North West and in Florida. It is now an organized sport. Appears to be similar to tennis, hard paddle and a polymer wiffle ball. Uses one-third of a tennis court. An area is marked-off (tape/paint) on a tennis court. They would need access to a couple tennis courts dedicated to pickle ball. They thought, perhaps, Nothnagle and Tashua (two sides of town). Color striping marks off the court, 44' x 20'. Game is easier on the body, great for children and seniors. They did a testing and determined that there are immediately 30/40 interested residents. There are currently courts in Ridgefield and Greenwich. Thought we should test with a few courts and give residents the opportunity to play. Many people can play by rotating those who are on the court. Nets don't have to be changed, although pickleball is 34" and tennis 36". There are rubber strips or tape which is easily removed which can be used to test the sport rather than paint the strips. Gopher Tape pulls off after the summer. During discussion it was stated that yes the new and different sound may distract a nearby tennis player until they are accustomed to the sound.

Doug Imri, Babe Ruth League/Little League:

Commented that field renovation is done. There will be no practice on grass fields at Unity. Practice will be at Jane Ryan or Madison. They have contracted with Tarrantino for maintenance. They are 100 percent Trumbull residents, 90 teams. They play at fields at Unity, 4 at Island Brook, Board of Education Long Hill, Tashua, Madison and Nothnagle. Background Checks are completed. The travel program works well, consistent with rules players must be members of Babe Ruth and Little League teams.

Mr. Lipinski mentioned that parents park on grass in rain to watch games. Mr. Imri said he would get the word out that there is no parking on the grass and try to police this violation.

Mr. Imri presented two sets of blue prints of the proposed Press Box for Unity #2 to be dedicated in memory of Jeff Blueweiss, past president now deceased of Trumbull Little League. The building is designed consistent with Unity #3.

Mark Fritz, Trumbull Little League and architect, was present to answer any questions concerning the plans. It's a two-story building with storage below, inside stairs, second floor air conditioning. Working with Marvin to have windows donated. They will replicate the corrugated- block facade of the building on Unity #3/#4 which is low maintenance vinyl or other new product. Brick is more labor and is perhaps an additional \$4 per sq. foot. The score board will be located close to available electrical line. Will not interfere with the irrigation system. Once this Commission approves the plans, they will bring them to the Building Official for approval.

He noted that Jane Ryan field needs work. Both organizations will work together utilizing Tarrantino to accomplish needed work. The old trailer at that location will be removed. All practice will be on BOE fields.

Paul Waldek, Pastor Christ Redeemer Church:

Last summer this Commission approved their use of Nothnagle Field for a summer baseball camp during the week of July 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a successful program and they are considering expanding their camp to include softball as well as baseball and expanding participation age from 9-14 to 5-14. They would need two fields, one week to accomplish this. They request two fields July 15-19. They are flexible for the date forward or backward by a week or so. Time: 8-1:15 for older children, 8:30-11:00 for younger children. Camp will target primarily Trumbull residents. Hope to have 60-70 participants. Fee to cover expenses only. Insurance certificate, background checks, and payment for fields will be provided.

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously approved to close guest portion of the meeting and return to the order of the Agenda following a ten minute recess.

Recreation Director noted that the following contacted here on their presentations for field scheduling:

- Mike Fedele submitted Sr. City's request today. Brother in hospital and could not attend tonight.
- Jim Blose, Titans, emailed his request indicating they are no longer 100 percent Trumbull residents and is aware there will be a charge for field use. He will come in to the March meeting.
- Gene Cellini, Pop Warner, will bring his request in closer to their fall season.

**MOTION** Mr. Bragano, second by Mrs. Petitti, unanimously passed approving the minutes of the December 10, 2012 meeting.

**Old Business:**

It has come to our attention over the past several months that the newly organized Trumbull Day Commission is moving forward with planning for Trumbull Day, June 18 or 29, 2013, at the Hillcrest Middle School complex. The Parks Superintendent has been invited to meet with that Commission the evening of February 28<sup>th</sup>. It was decided that we should alert the Trumbull Day Commission to our serious concerns for the impact of an event such as Trumbull Day on the condition of the field areas at the THS/Hillcrest Complex. The Trumbull sports organizations season is in full force in June through November; and the only quick recovery for a field area comprising approximately seven acres is re-sodding the damaged areas, which is extremely costly. We will

request they consider the possibility of securing an amount to be included in their budget planning for anticipated fields recovery.

**MOTION** by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed that a letter be sent along with the Parks Superintendent to the February 28, 2013 meeting of the Trumbull Day Commission indicating that we have serious concerns about the grounds of the THS/Hillcrest Complex, the programs we schedule on those fields, the cost to repair potential damage and request they consider securing an amount to be included in their budget for anticipated fields recovery.

Correspondence:

Letter from First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst noting the events of December 14, 2012 when 6 educators and 20 children were brutally and tragically killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in our neighboring town of Newtown, Connecticut. Trumbull lost one of its residents, Mary Sherlach, a school psychologist who heroically sacrificed her life in the defense of the children. Our Town Attorney, Edward Walsh, a Newtown resident tragically lost his sister-in-law, Ann Marie Murphy, a paraprofessional in the school. He has been contacted by numerous Trumbullites inquiring as to whether the Town of Trumbull will create a memorial for the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. He believes that the Town should honor the memories of the victims in some way and that a tribute in our parks system is ideal and appropriate. He has had conversations with Paricia Pavia and Mildren Krisak, formerly of the Beautification Commission who have expressed an interest in working on the project. He has also had offers from private contractors who have offered supplies, services and labor to help construct such a memorial. He spoke with our Park Superintendent about this proposal. He recommends that Trumbull's Aldo Park be considered for this memorial. Its picturesque and secluded setting is appropriate. It also presents the Town with the opportunity to enhance and improve a Town park that has been underutilized and neglected for a considerable time.

The consensus of those present is one of approval of the concept of a memorial within the Trumbull parks system. There was discussion on Aldo Parks location as isolated, inaccessible, in need of an access bridge requiring Inland Wetlands approval and need for parking within a neighborhood area. The Viet Nam Memorial's visibility on White Plains Road was noted. The consensus was that other location should be considered as well. One thought was that the Parlor Rock area would be a good location for such a Memorial. One can walk in from the Rail Trail to view it. We have begun to repair the historic fountain at that location and this would be another enhancement to complete that site.

**MOTION** by Mr. Martin, second Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed that we respond to the First Selectman's letter suggesting Aldo Memorial Park as a location for a memorial which honors those who lost their lives on December 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Connecticut indicating that the Parks and Recreation Commission is in favor of a memorial within the parks system as indicated but would like to explore all park locations possibly with more visibility and accessibility.

Student Film Production Request:

Email request received from a film student at Southern CT State University. She is working on her senior film project with a small group. They want to film a scene in Twin Brooks Park. She can provide authentication of her student status and class requirements. The scene would take a few hours to film. She is looking to film in early March.

We shall respond that it is necessary to come in to a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to present her request. Our next meeting will be March 11, 2013. She must provide required insurance coverage to the Town and responsibility to cover Park Department personnel, ranger and/or police fees if any, as well as abiding by all state and local rules, regulations and laws.

Facilities Use Requests:

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second Mr. Moore, unanimously passed approving the Nature Commission request to hold a Rail Trail Hike leaving from Indian Ledge on June 1, 2013, 10:00 a.m., with rain date is June 2, 2013.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will await formal request from the Ridgefield High School student and Youth Ambassador looking to do a Hike Series starting at Old Mine Park or Twin Brook's with perhaps 35 youngsters once she has her dates for such an event.

Pickle Ball Request: Superintendent will check on our courts overlay and warranty requirements and report back on whether we can add to the overlay and recommend one court where Pickleball may be tried out. The consensus was that we would like to provide this sport for youth and seniors if at all possible.

**MOTION** by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed to approve Christ Redeemer Church request for field scheduling for two fields, one week to conduct their summer camp including softball as well as baseball for one week, July 15-19, subject to field availability and Facilities Use Policy requirements being met.

**MOTION** by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. Martin, unanimously passed to approve AYSO request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Facilities Use Policy requirements being met.

**MOTION** by Mr. Moore, second by Mrs. Walsh, unanimously passed to approve Trumbull United Soccer request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Facilities Use Policy requirements being met.

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed to approve Trumbull Babe Ruth request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Facilities Use Policy requirements being met.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Walsh second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve Trumbull Youth Lacrosse request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Facilities Use Policy requirements being met.

**MOTION** by Mr. Bragano, second by Mrs. Petitti, unanimously passed to approve American Legion request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Facilities Use Policy requirements being met.

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

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed to approve Christian Heritage School request for field scheduling , subject to field availability and Facilities Use Policy requirements being met.

Recreation Director will provide a listing of Christian Heritage reciprocal items for Commission review.

**MOTION** by Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Martin, unanimously passed to approve Cheetah Cricket request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Facilities Use Policy requirements being met and Superintendent's review for necessary repair materials possibly needed prior to the new season which the club will provide.

**MOTION** by Mr. Moore, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve BMX Track request for track scheduling, subject to field availability and Facilities Use Policy requirements being met and subject to electrical permit and inspection of new pole lights being made by the Town's Building Department.

Discussion on Little League building plans submitted for a press box at Unity Park #3 field. The consensus is that this field is in a high visibility area and should be aesthetically pleasing and match the brick facade of the Unity #1 press box and bricked dugouts.

**MOTION** by Mr . Martin, second by Mr. Bragano, unanimously passed to approve plans submitted by Trumbull Little League for a press box at Unity Park #3 with change of façade material to brick consistent with architectural brick details of Unity #1 press box with project oversight by the Parks Superintendent.

The following leagues will be notified of their need to attend an upcoming Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to present their request for scheduling:

- Sr. City League
- Trumbull Titans
- St. Joseph High School
- Pop Warner

Mr. Lipinski reported that there are six dates during the Recreation Basketball Season when he will be volunteering to referee games.

Superintendent's Report:

Snow Removal and budget preparation.

Recreation Director's Report:

Stickers designed. Order about to be placed.

**MOTION** to adjourn at 10:50 p.m. by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. Bragano, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe  
Clerical Adm. Assistant

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**FEBRUARY 26, 2013**  
**MOTIONS**

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**MOTION** by Mr. Moore, second by Mrs. Walsh, unanimously passed to approve Trumbull United Soccer request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Facilities Use Policy requirements being met.

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed to approve Trumbull Babe Ruth request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Facilities Use Policy requirements being met.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Walsh second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve Trumbull Youth Lacrosse request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Facilities Use Policy requirements being met.

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed to approve Christian Heritage School request for field scheduling, subject to field availability and Facilities Use Policy requirements being met.

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**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

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**MOTIONS**

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

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed to approve Christian Heritage School request for field scheduling , subject to field availability and Facilities Use Policy requirements being met.

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