

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MAY 12, 2014

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)
Marie Petitti
Richard Moore

Kevin Bellows
Nicholas Bragano
Michael Trivisano (7:10 p.m.)

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

Guest:
Martin McCann, 63 Teeter Rock Road, Trumbull Rotary Club

Public Comments:

Martin McCann, Trumbull Rotary Club Member:

Requesting permission to host Trumbull Rotary's 14th annual 5K Sunset Run at Twin Brooks Park on Friday, July 15, 2014. Twin Brooks Park is the race venue begin and end location approximately 3:00 p.m. until dusk, with morning set-up. They expect 380 participants. All planning is the same as past years. Mr. McCann is the point person for this year's event. Phone (203) 377-1202 Cell (203) 610-3115.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrs. Petitti, unanimously passed to close Public Comments portion of the meeting.

MOTION by Mr. Bragano, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2014 meeting as distributed.

Correspondence:

Letter from Louise Nestor, **TDOG Corporation** indicating that **they have dissolved**. They have been unsuccessful in recruiting the regular attendees of the dog park for help and willingness to be active members. Their Doggie Doo service is paid in full until June 30, 2014.

Chairman stated they are a 501c3 organization who assumed all the responsibilities at the Leash-Free Dog Park located at Indian Ledge Park at no cost to the Town, carry-out all maintenance and clean-up including garbage pick-up as well as animal behavior control within the fenced designated area.

Dr. Bellows commented that dissolution by non-profit 501c3 organizations after several years of activity and utilizing public space has been an expressed concern of the Park Commission for many years.

MOTION by Mr. Moore, second by Mrs. Petitti, unanimously passed that unless another group comes forward to assume all original motion responsibilities of the TDOG organization by July 1, 2014 that the park be closed with a notification sign to be posted immediately and will be disassembled and the area returned to its natural woodland due to the dissolution of the TDOG Corporation.

Superintendent will post a sign indicating the dissolution of the TDOG Corporation and the closure of the Dog Park.

Email from Connecticut Yankee Dachshund Club

Requesting use of Old Mine Park on August 16, 2014 for its annual fun day. They are a small dachshund breed club and request the lower pavilion and meadow area. There will be less than 50 people in attendance with their dogs.

MOTION by Mr. Bragano, second by Mrs. Petitti, unanimously passed to allow the CT. Yankee Dachshund Club use of lower level pavilion and meadow area at Old Mine Park for the dog club Fun Day on August 16, 2014 with permit through the Recreation Department.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Moore unanimously passed approving Rotary Club requested use of Twin Brook Park, Friday, July 25, 2014, to conduct their 14th annual 5K Run with set-up beginning 3:30 p.m. until dusk with permit through the Recreation Department and oversight by the Park Superintendent and Park Rangers.

Old Business:

Stickers – To date, 2800 sold.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Mr. Bragano:

- Kaechel Complex looks good.
(Superintendent commented that his department will be re-grading the back end of field #4. Water settling and doesn't work its way out. To be a summer project.)

Mr. Moore:

- Twin Brooks looks great. Daffodils spectacular this year.
(Superintendent noted that the Fallen Heroes Foundation have planted a Dogwood Tree at Twin Brooks just beyond the Vietnam bridge near the playground and are planning a ceremony honoring soldier Cheyenne Seymour at 1:30 on May 17th.)

Dr. Bellows:

- Unity. Little League fields looking good. Hasn't looked at Babe Ruth Field yet.

(Superintendent noted:

- We have had huge vandalism (graffiti) problems at both Unity and Old Mine parks.
- Tree-work (\$6,000) entering Unity Park following spring storm was accomplished. If more needs to be done, this will be fall work. Will address Babe Ruth left field-line trimming if needed because of a safety issue at that time.)

Dr. Bellows:

- THS and Hillcrest is best in years. Crews are working every morning at 7:30 a.m. Last Thursday, it rained all day and no water on field at end of day.
(Superintendent noted: The additional irrigation request for the J.V. to Field Hockey field was rejected. We need to get this area up-to-speed and will pursue funding for the project again next year.)

Dr. Bellows:

- Island Brook. Dead trees taken down at front entrance.

Mrs. Petitti:

- Tashua tennis nets need to be adjusted, set too low.
- Broken curbing from winter snow removal need to be removed.

(Superintendent explained the black gravel near the pool area is asphalt milling used as a base to get into the pool area when we were bringing in the new slide and doing repairs.)

Mr. Moore:

- Beach Pool has been filled with water.
(Superintendent noted: The Safety Pad at the base of the Beach Pool slide was torn. While pool was down and dry, we installed a new safety pad which is now water tight.)

General Comments:

- Island Brook fields being used by THS.
- Historic Barn project slow moving long-range project.
- Questions on why we don't put out trash barrels. Bags chained to some lavatories for pick-up; but, the policy is that users bring out what they bring into the parks system.

Superintendent Reported:

- Graffiti being removed as quickly as possible.
- Department currently down two/three crew members with health or family-health issues.
- Turf removed from the football fields was stockpiled at THS and needs to be relocated. Some was to be placed at the cross-country trail. It needs to be properly set-in to grow. We will make an effort to assist BOE Plant Engineering with this project as time allows.
- Superintendent reported on Unity Babe Ruth field and League concerns:
 - Last fall during field maintenance, the field contractor did not complete the cleaning of the edges of Babe Ruth field. Materials remained on top at spring and was further exacerbated by the wet weather conditions. Contractor informed Babe Ruth that they needed the additional pressure of the irrigation system to properly clean the accumulated clay along edges. This specific need was not brought to the attention of the Superintendent.
 - When a request came in to the Superintendent *without explanation* to have the irrigation turned on, because testing of the nozzle heads hadn't yet begun, they were asked to use the hoses stored at the site to water the field until such time as the irrigation could be checked for broken heads and turned on.
 - *Not until it was explained that they needed the additional water pressure from the irrigation system to clear the clay from the turf*, did the Superintendent fully understand their request and reassigned crews to accommodate their need.
 - Superintendent explained that the Parks Department provides services to countless numbers of all user groups on a priority system according to manpower availability, weather, health and safety conditions. Spring opening and fall closing both very, very busy times for the Parks Department.

Recreation Director reported:

- Busy with program signups and sticker distribution.
- Playgrounds offer 240 hours for \$100, with second child at \$50.
- Because of budget cut to Director's overtime amount, Director is back to using compensation time to cover her overtime hours.

Chairman reported that a resident with a serious health issue needing a grandparent to care for four children needed a pass to parks for the grandparent and reported that our Recreation Office was most helpful in accommodating their need during this most stressful time for them.

MOTION to adjourn at 8:03 by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Moore, and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe,
Clerical Administrative Asst.

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MOTIONS

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