

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
JUNE 9, 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)	Kevin Bellows
Richard Moore	Nancy Walsh
Marie Petitti	Michael Travisano
Lee DeFusco	Vin Lipinski

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

Guests:
Karen Hayes, 27 Glenarden Road, concerning TDOG Organization
Suzanne Testani, 50 Cranbury Drive, Vice Chm Tr. Town Council
Ray Bailey, 32 Clark Road, concerning TDOG Organization
Adam Patzuk, 243 Broadway, concerning TDOG Organization
Nancy Moore, 2157 Huntington Tpke, Trumbull Farmers Market
Jen Liebowitz, 5 Koger Road, Eagle Lacrosse
Tim Grant, 17 Smith Drive, Make A Wish Foundation Girls Lacrosse
Ted Chase, 27 Francis Street, President of the Trumbull Youth Lacrosse
Mike Basso, 226 Bradley Street, Bpt. (Whitehurst)

Public Comments:

Karen Hayes, Concerning TDOG Organization: She represented a group of Trumbull dog owners who wish to keep the Trumbull Dog Park open. They only became aware that the Town was considering closing the Park at the end of last week. They have people willing to serve as officers of the non-profit organization and will file a 501c3 with the State of Connecticut and will assume all original motions responsibilities for the Dog Park. This group, has been keeping the Dog Park in good physical condition during the winter and spring and would like to know what they need to do to keep the Dog Park Open.

She has been in contact with Louise Nestor who was on the Board. Ms. Nestor said she will continue to be on the Board and that the corporation has not as yet been dissolved. All they need to do is present the names and addresses of the new officers and submit appropriate papers and payment to the State of Connecticut. They now have volunteers who are willing to assume responsibilities of the Dog Park. Upon question she said the new officers of the 501c3

Upon question she stated that the new officers will assume the same responsibilities, liabilities, etc. as the original 501c3.

Chairman stated that the original motion was that the Town would cover the insurance unless some extreme event took place, at that time TDOG would pick-up any additional insurance.

Karen Hayes said they will maintain that position.

Chairman asked for any other follow-up comments.

Suzanne Testani, Vice Chm Tr. Town Council Vice Chairman:

Stated her husband, Jack Testani, who was also present has been frequenting the Dog Park for several years. She believes the Dog Park to be a vital interest to the town of Trumbull. She is very proud of our town's dog park and has been to other dog parks and they pale in comparison. They don't have fences, they don't have chips, they don't have the seats. She is amazed by the people who utilize the Dog Park...special needs children, interacting parents and children as well as interacting animals. She is extremely impressed and would hate to see this asset of the town of Trumbull go south simply because we don't have an active committee. She noted that the Town resurrected the Trumbull Day Commission... brought Trumbull Day back. She understands there is a concern about things like liability; but, other towns and municipalities have dog parks. We have children playing on sporting fields. She noted there is always a risk for liability. She felt sure there's a way to make it workable for the town. Thank you for your time Mr. Chairman.

Chairman stated that the Commission side would like to see the Dog Park maintained as in the past. The TDOG group takes full responsibility with no impact to the Town of Trumbull as far as taxes etc. If this current group is willing to take over that full responsibility to maintain it and agree to the original permitting motion which is in place, he feels the Parks and Recreation Commission is more than willing to work with the new 501c3 to sustain it.

Upon question the Chairman stated that the Commission would be making a decision on extend the July 1st closing date.

Chairman questioned what is their anticipated time to assume responsibility?

Upon question by the Chairman on their anticipated time to assume responsibility, Ms. Hayes suggested 90 days and indicated they will maintain the Dog Park in the interim. They have funds for the maintenance service, area is being mowed and fence is repaired.

Ray Bailey, TDOG Organization:

This group that here today maintains the park in all aspects. We spread the chips, we cut the grass, we remove the weeds. Commented that last year when a lot of clean-up was accomplished, the Park Rangers opened the gates to get his truck in and asked permission from the Ranger to put it in the compost area but was denied and told to place it over the fence to be picked-up. Once he explained this, the Town removed the debris from outside the fence. He would need special permission from the Superintendent to dump from that truck.

The chain of command for them going forward will be to the Ranger who reports to our Superintendent, Dmitri Paris, who will be their point person on maintenance going forward.

Adam Patzuk, 243 Broadway:

Questioned if BMX provides an insurance certificate.

Chairman stated that every group who uses Park facilities has to provide an insurance certificate annually. There's a check list of many things they have to do and that's just one of them. The Town provides insurance for the Dog Park; however, if something serious happens and there's an increase in insurance at that point in time their 501c3 would have to cover it.

Commissioner DeFusco noted that Ray Bailey is his neighbor, known him for years, military background, upstanding, man who can be taken at his word when he says something I think the Commission should take it very seriously.

Nancy Moore, Trumbull Farmers Market:

Market Master of the Trumbull Farmers Market. Here to ask permission to use the Long Hill Green for the Trumbull Farmers Market. All the farmers carry liability insurance, one million each occurrence and two million in the aggregate. These are guidelines as set forth by the Conn. Dept of Agriculture . They follow all their guidelines and their market is one of the oldest in the state. They will be running the Market Thursdays beginning the 19th of June from 2:00 to 6:00 each week until Thursday, the 9th of October.

Commissioner Walsh questioned if all items sold are grown by the farmers.

Ms. Moore said yes. She said they have requests from crafters and other people but they have kept it a true farmers market. They would like to keep the Trumbull market that way.

Jen Liebowitz , Eagle Lacrosse:

Here to present the Eagle Lacrosse team for the third year. They are a 2017 team, in their freshman year of high school. They have been playing together for about three years in the summer program where they just get together. They do three tournaments. They ask for nine practices. All the boys are covered under US Lacrosse and have a certificate of liability insurance for the group. 14 freshman played on Freshman Lacrosse Team at Trumbull High School. They have two boys joining from St. Jos's and one boy who is a Fairfield Prep student. The whole idea of the team is to have them playing a little bit together to develop more skills .

They are 100 percent Trumbull residents. Fee is \$400 for each player. (One on scholarship.) Pay for uniforms because these boys have turned to men over the summer so they need new uniforms this year. Pay for field space. Tournaments at high school level are \$1,500 each for one day of play. Coaches all through Trumbull Youth Lacrosse; might bring a student up from Trumbull High School. They have 17 players, 14 THS, 2 St. Jos, 1 Prep.

Proposed schedule. Usually used space behind the baseball field at THS. Just a grassed field. Not lined. Would be great to use the Turf field, majority of them are high school players and this is where they practiced and played during the season.

Tim Grant, 17 Smith Drive, Make A Wish Foundation Girls Lacrosse:

Summer request for scheduling for the Make A Wish Foundation Girls Lacrosse Team consisting of 20 girls. No cost to play, each raise money a minimum \$500 requirement through donations or fund raisers, Of the 20 girls on the team right now they've already raised over \$14,000 . This program started as a boys program with three boys teams, now there are seven boys teams and they are starting this girls' team. All of the children are insured by US Lacrosse with background checks for coaches. Not for profit. All donations go to Make A Wish Foundation. Would like to keep them here in town if they could beginning next week and play until the third week in July. Play two days a week, Monday and Wednesday. Would like to schedule the Girls Lacrosse Field because it's already lined and with goals. He commented that this is a wonderful organization. The Make-A-Wish lacrosse teams have raised almost \$140,000 between the boys and girls. Insurance covered under US Lacrosse.

Ted Chase , President of the Trumbull Youth Lacrosse:

He confirmed, on behalf of Jen Liebowitz and Tim Grant, that the background checks and insurance have been done because that's through TYL. Part of the file Recreation Director has for TYL.

Request fields space for summer pick-up league, Sunday evenings for Girls and Thursday nights for the boys. Open to all Trumbull residents. If not a current TYL member, need to get USTYL membership so that they are properly insured. Coaches, the same. Last year had Indian Ledge from 7:00 to 8:30 with lights half way through. We reimbursed for use of the lights. This year, they are expanding the time from 6:00 to 9:00 on Sundays (adding additional groups) . Continue 7:00 to 8:30 on Thursday.

Mr. Chase took this opportunity to address something that he brought up in the Spring at my spring request which was weather related issues. Use of all-weather fields, specifically at Indian Ledge, there is an impact on them specifically as it relates to other organizations that use the same facility. Trumbull Youth Lacrosse is a 100 percent Trumbull resident program. Players, coaches, board members, everybody lives in town. They are not-for-profit and all are volunteers.

They work with the Recreation Director and Athletic Director to get field space at Trumbull High which they share with the High School teams and Indian Ledge Monday and Tuesday nights only which they share with Soccer Leagues. The problem becomes when there are weather related issues (and, there were quite a few this year between the late winter fields weren't quite ready as well as just rain-outs where grass fields were being closed.) Their season runs from April to ending essentially this week. So when they get rained out, that's it for then.

Spring is their only season. And Mr. Chase's issue specifically is that the all-weather field is being used by other organizations that have already had access to that field in a season that is technically their season as defined by the CIAC.

Trumbull High plays soccer in the fall, soccer organizations have use of all-weather facilities in the fall and they also get the same facilities in the spring, at Lacrosse's expense. This manifests itself specifically in a lot of work that goes on for people like himself who have jobs and trying to volunteer and run an organization and do the right thing here for the kids. They charge between \$100 and \$250 depending upon the level, versus organization that charge over \$1,000 who get free use of the same fields, have coaches that are being paid, basically being subsidized by the town; and, these people are making money. Organizations like theirs manage rescheduling issues that literally take a day to get done, if not longer, there's referees to get contacted, other towns have to be contacted, coaches have to be contacted, junior officials might have to be contacted...anyone of those people can't facilitate a change...you're back to the drawing board again. With multiple teams it gets compounded.

He said in the Town's Use Policy, the park and group I designated team as Trumbull United has a definition as 100 percent town residents (and I know that's not true). He question why an organization like Lacrosse is being penalized relative to an organization like there's. He has nothing against soccer...but they've already had use of that facility. This is impacting...it will cost Lacrosse money because of the time to deal with re-scheduling issues that had we been on Indian Ledge would never been an issue. So I look at it and say, 100 percent residents ...there are coaches that are not residents, there are coaches that are being paid, that are getting priority access to those fields on our tax dollars and not compensating us back.

He said he raised this at the spring meeting, he has reviewed minutes of our meetings since then and seen no discussion on it. He went to the First Selectman and raised the question, had several conversations with the Chief of Staff. He's hoping to get some answers to the questions that he raised here.

Commissioner DeFusco said that he never asked us.

Mr. Chase said there's reference to it in the meeting minutes of February.

Commissioner DeFusco said if he has a specific request or question asking us to reconsider a rule it should be made. He did not recall any request that we reconsider a rule or a policy and if you do make that request, we will be happy to consider it.

Mr. Chase said he spoke on it for a while ... what was captured in the minutes is not as extensive as what I spoke to. It's referenced there. The request was that we needed more time on Indian Ledge.

Commissioner DeFusco commented that there a lot of organizations need that time.

Commissioner Bellows noted it appears the concern is with another organization playing in the spring Lacrosse season.

Chairman questioned where the competition for the field was taking place... is it AYSO soccer, scholastic soccer, is it a combination.

Mr. Chase said he thought the Recreation Director could answer that question. From the schedules, it's AYSO and Trumbull United. Trumbull United in particular seems to be the larger user. That's more of a travel type organization, charges a lot more, pays their coaches, etc.

Superintendent noted Mr. Chase was focusing on aspects of how the group is constructed saying the coaches may not be residents; but, the participants are; and, I think the point here is that nobody has an issue with Lacrosse. The way that the Field Use Policy was created, was strictly by the numbers of participants, the number of games, and trying to make that comparable ... that was the basis for equality for people. Trumbull United and Trumbull Youth Lacrosse by numbers are fairly equal in terms of its participants, not necessarily how they're constructed organizations. the participants, that's what the Commission looked at in the creation of the Policy. To be fair, you're taking issue with the way that the Field Use Policy is interpreted and implemented... is that correct?

Mr. Chase said he is taking issue with the priority which organizations are given. He said he defines that by all-weather fields is a higher priority and more-desirable facility because of weather issues. The Trumbull High Field the Indian Ledge Field are priority fields.

Superintendent said they get equal time on priority fields and questioned the disparity. Both groups, get ten games here and ten games there....and both organizations have 400 participants...how are we to fairly access each of the groups.

Commissioner Bellows said that by listening to this he thinks the main point; and, correctly so, is, if spring is Lacrosse season and fall is soccer season, soccer seems to be getting the turf field more ...during lacrosse primary season. I think that's his main point and seems to be correctly made.

Commissioner Lipinski said a good comparison is the Madison baseball field. In the fall, football gets it, in the spring baseball gets it. Because the primary season gets the field so I would think in the spring the primary sport would get the turf and the secondary would get the 'left over' time.

Recreation Director said that when scheduling was set by the Athletic Director, there was to be no soccer on the high school grounds in the spring... wanted all of the soccer on the park-side...at Indian Ledge. Two years ago, Lacrosse requested Indian Ledge every day of the week and THS every day of the week. When

schedules were requested, they wanted Indian Ledge to hold in case of rain, which would have meant that soccer would have no place to play because of the hold on the field. We can't do that. Trumbull United does not play on Kaechele at all, they only play on Indian Ledge, half a day on Saturday and half a day on Sunday. AYSO has Indian Ledge in the morning.

Commissioner Lipinski said it sounds like a spring/fall issue and Lacrosse's season ends one week away. Next spring when they come and ask for fields they should remind us of this June conversation ... Our primary season is the spring, can we please get primary consideration over sports that are played in the fall.

Commissioner Travinio questioned if we can we make it so soccer has primary in the fall and lacrosse has primary in the spring?

Superintendent stated that it's not that simple because we filter requests through a third party, the Athletic Director, who can veto use at the High School. Though we have the responsibility, we do not have unilateral authority.

Mr. Chase is here now about acquiring field time out of their season. Not begrudging field time in the summer but this is the 'new world order' ...everybody plays 'all the time'. Don't even see the traditional season anymore. In a bad season is exceptionally difficult. I understand, lacrosse season is exceptionally early, exceptionally short and right when weather conditions are at their absolute worst ...it's a difficult situation. We don't have full control.

Commissioner DeFusco: What would be the best way to get the people together to address this person's request? Because that didn't happen at the last meeting, so going forward how could we best address the request that's being made now.

Superintendent: The question is what do you want to impact. Who get's impacted first? What happens to the scholastic field under the scholastic program they have their own 'bubble'. And, there are the recreational programs, and all need maximum consideration.

Ted Chase, couple comments. One, thank you, the point has been made. Recreation Director mentioned we only had one game. That's a reflection of when scheduling takes place. In the league that we play in, we have teams from other towns that are starting their scheduling in October for a spring season, we didn't get our permits one year until late March...if we wait until then, we would never get enough games in. So there's a sequencing of events doesn't always match up well for us. We would have moved off of some of the grass fields ... while we're making a field request here this is a Season, a few hours which is completely different than a ten/twelve games season with practices which other organizations run. When you look at what we do in the fall...we request the Pit, the grass field, one day a week when no one else using, and we run a clinic for one hour a week for each group, and we say kids, if you're playing soccer, if you're playing hockey, playing whatever, that's your priority. You make a commitment to that team. That's what you need to do. It becomes, to Dmitri's point, that everything is becoming year-round. We are trying to maintain some of that seasonality of our sport. And we promote multi-sport participation with lacrosse.

(On summer request)This to me is not running a season and if we didn't have the fields, we'd live, t's not our season...just some of the kids who want to get together Sunday night and throw the ball around and we want to have a permit for it.

He said it's actually in the Policy... within specific seasons...priority of fields...just asking that you go by your own Policy and look at protecting the season of each sport. Please take into consideration that scheduling of soccer organizations are opening up registration and they do year-round registration.

Superintendent said others may be wishing that they are scheduled for what they ask, but don't actually get the fields requested.

Mr. Chase said they're going to have to start doing the same. They had to spend over \$6,000 this year to rent space because they lost access to fields; that's not money that's easy to come by for them.

Superintendent said that what they are asking us as managers on this side of the table is figure out an equation, redistribute, resources. The Town doesn't have the resources to give exactly what you're looking for ...I wish there were more people like you who believed in adhering to a strict schedule ...overall cost to the town in managing field space would be diminished...but, it's not and the Town is committed to all of these groups. We do need more artificial fields especially with the type of springs we've been having.

Mr. Chase asked if they came in the fall and requested Indian Ledge, would they be given as much use as soccer? They don't ask for any other time except the spring, which is their season, and it seems as soccer gets as much fairness in the fall as in the spring.

Recreation Director clarified that in the fall they the Soccer leagues don't get very much time because the high school is using it, Christian Heritage uses it, there's a lot of other organizations that get plugged in in the fall. Field hockey using it too. It might seem like they get a lot more, but they don't get as much as you think because they don't get the weekdays at all in the fall.

Ted Chase: Here's a specific ask...when it comes to the spring, we come in with our schedule and we say this is what we need. We won't take up all of Indian Ledge all the time. But, we should have priority to it. Soccer is running a second season. The issue to me isn't needing more fields, it's needing ...having the Town control the use of those wanting to continue to play out of their seasons.

Chairman: What was your request for field use for spring this year going back to February?

Ted Chase: Trumbull High artificial turf field Monday through Friday after 7:00 to 8:30 p.m so now incurring light charges; access to the grass fields, the Girls Varsity (during weekdays, weekends); access to the grass fields, and the Pit, Monday through Friday. Indian Ledge, Monday and Tuesday nights. 5:30 to 8:30.

Recreation Director said, but you could have used that earlier and later on Monday and Tuesdays. You just asked for 5:30.

Response: The problem again, a lot of our coaches have trouble getting there earlier. Indian Ledge, again we played a lot of games there on Monday and Tuesday nights. Ran practices there when we could.

Chairman asked Rec Director what happens on the turf field after Monday and Tuesday. She said, Soccer, in the spring.

Commissioner Lipinski reiterated, lacrosse has two nights and soccer has three.

Recreation Director: Weekends, Saturday, AYSO takes the morning shift and Trumbull United takes Saturday afternoons, Sunday mornings soccerSunday night open most of the time. Quite a few days on the schedule, Saturday afternoons were wide open. Mr. Chase offered Indian Ledge Saturday afternoons a couple times. If they need to move the games because it's raining, it is available some times. The schedule is posted all the time.

Chairman: All right Ted, we'll take your request into consideration.

Ted Chase: Thank you.

Mike Basso, 226 Bradley Street, Bpt. (Whitehurst): Owner of Lake Zor Drive-In in Monroe:

Dmitri and I had a phone conversation. I recently purchased Whitehurst Food Service, LLC from Ben Walsh to run the concession stands at Beaches and Tashua, and I was given a letter as to some question as to how the transfer came about. Basically it was a seamless purchase, everything will stay as Whitehurst...the insurances, the contract that was in force will be adhered to, fees that are due to the Town for the season I am fully aware of what it is and plan on adhering to it, opened up at Beach's already and have had a few weeks in operation, went through the policy of obviously contacting the Health Dept getting inspected, getting our permit. The next course of action would be, to the best of my knowledge, would be the 21st would be the opening for Tashua Pool. And we'll do the same thing with the Health Dept. I have already been in contact with the Monroe, Trumbull Health Dept. to come and inspect that location and give us the green light there too.

Chairman: Asked the Superintendent for an update on the legal question.

Superintendent: We weren't given the opportunity to know that Whitehurst essentially changed over. So that came as a shock, so the first thing was who are you, etc.

Mr. Basso: I was't aware that no contact was made.

Superintendent: Checked with legal as to what our options were as there appeared to be an unpaid amount that should have been issued to the Town from the previous owner and there were some conditions that needed to be met moving forward. Legal gave us the direction to get a letter off to you, we spoke on the phone, it was so close to the opening day there was no way that as long as he had met his health responsibilities as far as the Health Dist was concerned, we had time to work through this problem without causing disruption to either the users or Mr. Basso's expectations. I encouraged him to come to this meeting and introduce himself to the Commission and we will resolve all these issues before the end of this season.

Mr. Basso stated that to the best of his knowledge, payment was made last year, there is a cancelled check or a receipt that was in Ben Walsh's possession to prove that that payment was made. It was brought to the Finance Department.

Commissioner Lipinski questioned if Contract with Whitehurst allowed them to sell or does that go back to the Town.

Superintendent indicated that's for legal interpretation.

Mr. Basso said he has two full weekends in, certainly seen a great memorial day weekend weather wise so Monday well attended, this past weekend Saturday and Sunday great weather, pool was well attended and we're being well received and we're intending on providing a good service for the Town of Trumbull and people.

Chairman: Long contract created by the Town, paid for a lot of the kitchen...fee to the town was in the form of facility upgrades. He renovated it. A great many years to pay it off...consideration given for that. Went from 2006 to 2012, where there were no fees involved. In 2013, fee of \$2,109, 2014, \$2,151, (last year was first payment) and 2015, \$2,190. Started 2013, 2014, and 2015.

Mr. Basso: One thing to clarify, special events and things that happen at the pools.

Recreation Director to give him their whole schedule for the season, May 16th there is a school picnic (Middlebrook) Tuesday, Daniels Farm School going in the afternoon, a two-hour swim. The only night special at Beach Pool would be Monday Night at 8:00 to 10:00 for special needs families. Beach Pool and Tashua open every night. Tashua pool, Wednesday nights is Teen Night. we do a DJ or band 8:00 to 10:00. New slide, at Tashua. Think we're going to be super, super busy there. Starting Monday June 23, Tashua pool will open, 10:00 to 8:00 Fri, Sat. Weekdays Monday through Thursday, 10:00 to 10 :00. Should sign up for our email Blast... Trumbull Web site, Stay Connected, join mailing list. If we have to close a pool, which we do on a regular basis, we send out a Blast and you'll know the pool is closed and you'll probably want to shut down that day.

Upon question, Recreation Director said a special parking permit for his employees who are not residents can be arranged through the Recreation Department.

Mr. Basso has seen other locations who do some sort of entertainment with their stands. He questioned if there are any restrictions regarding a guitar player or doing a theme night.

Chairman suggested he collect his thoughts and come before the Commission.

MOTION by Mr. DeFusco, second by Mrs. Walsh, unanimously passed to close Public Comments portion of the meeting.

MOTION by Mr. Moore, second by Dr. Bellows, passed, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2014 meeting as distributed. Mr. Lipinski recused himself as he did not attend.

Old Business:

Commissioner DeFusco reported that we have an Order pending at Greco Industries in Danbury for the Chmielewski plate for the memorial stone at Twin Brooks Park. They're busy, Mr. Greco passed away in March, they're working on it and as soon as it is ready they will mail it and contact us.

Commissioner Bellows: Tony Chmielewski's daughter inquired about tree planting for her parents. We reported that a tree will be planted and plate will be installed on the Memorial Stone at Twin Brooks.

Commissioner Lipinski: I wasn't here in May and know that Little League and Babe Ruth sent an email mailed May 5th. Before the May meeting, an email sent from Doug Imri, my understanding is that we haven't responded to him.

Chairman: It's going to be addressed under the Superintendent's Report. All the questions that were asked will be answered.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Kaechele Complex, Mr. Lipinski: Looks great.

Twin Brooks, Mr. Moore: Looks good. Nothing out of the ordinary. Lot of people enjoying the park.

Unity, Dr. Bellows: At a game Friday night and noticed the Babe Ruth infield looks all chopped and reseeded.

(Chairman and Superintendent were there on Monday and will report under Superintendent's Report.)

Mr. Lipinski reported that contiguous section of parking area owned by the Funeral Home but not ours was repaved yesterday. We have a Reciprocal Agreement with them to utilize that parking area.

High School and Hillcrest, Dr. Bellows: Everything looking good, except for the BOE bleachers which collapsed.

Island Brook – Dr. Bellows: Everything all right.

Tashua, Mrs. Petitti – No report.

(Questioned if a parking sticker is needed at the Helen Plumb Building lot?)

Chairman replied, No...that's State DEEP controlled. Public Parking there.)

Beach Pool, Mr. Moore: There on Friday, looks great, there wasn't a sole there. Life guards on duty.

Long Hill Administration field, Atty. DeFusco: Field is back in play.

Jane Ryan Little League/Softball infield a little rocky. Little League brings in clay, contractor spreads it. It erodes down.

New Business

Dog Park:

Following review discussion:

MOTION by Mr. Moore, seconds by Dr. Bellows and Mr. Lipinski, and unanimously passed to allow the reorganized TDOG Corporation a 90 day extension from the July 1, 2014 dog park closing date to reform the TDOG corporation to meet the requirements of the Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission; and, contingent upon their bringing a Status Update to the next regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting scheduled for July 14, 2014 for continued dialogue and update.

Trumbull Farmers' Market:

MOTION by Mrs. Walsh, second by Dr. Bellows, and passed (Richard Moore abstained) approving use of Long Hill Green by the Trumbull Farmers' Market for their Summer Season, Thursdays from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., June 19, 2014 through October 9, 2014.

Eagles Lacrosse:

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Dr. Travisano, and unanimously passed to approve field scheduling for Eagles Lacrosse summer program in compliance with the rules of the Facilities Use Policy and scheduling by the Recreation Director.

Make A Wish Foundation Girls Lacrosse:

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Dr. Travisano, and unanimously passed to approve field scheduling for Make A Wish Foundation Girls Lacrosse Team summer program in compliance with the rules of the Facilities Use Policy and scheduling by the Recreation Director.

Trumbull Youth Lacrosse:

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, seconds by Dr. Bellows and Atty. DeFusco, and unanimously passed to approve field scheduling for Trumbull Youth Lacrosse summer program, June 30 to August 25, 2014 in compliance with the rules of the Facilities Use Policy and scheduling by the Recreation Director.

Notice from Mike Mastroni that the Connecticut Fallen Heroes Foundation will not be having its annual event this September at Indian Ledge Park as they are going to a biennial event.

Trumbull Youth Lacrosse Discussion:

Superintendent commented that what they're doing is attempting to come up with an assurance that they can fit their true season in without massive destruction. Our issues are how to facilitate them. The AD's view of 'his campus' and how he manages the scholastic programs trumps all else. If we have the ability to get the new Athletic Director to look at things a little bit differently, we will obviously pursue that because it's in our best interest...I can't guarantee that.

Mrs. Walsh: There does seem to be some merit in what he says about the disparity with soccer. Is there a way we could address this.

Superintendent: There are windows we can give them the artificial field, but they can't get coaches. We have always looked at the participants. 400 players and 400 players share the same amount of field time. Soccer organizations decades longer participating in our programs. If a new a new group comes up and has the same number of participants, they're worked-into the scheduling. That's what happened.

Recreation Director: This Commission approved Trumbull United every spring since I have been Rec Director since 1998. Lacrosse is the last 5/6 years.

Chairman: Said he is getting a read from the Commission that we should review the scheduling seasons and suggested that the Superintendent and Recreation Director take a look at this and perhaps rethink that issue as far as the expressed concern on allocation of field scheduling.

Recreation Director felt this could happen if soccer could be scheduled at the High School Complex.

Chairman suggested inviting the new Athletic Director to our meeting to introduce ourselves and at a point have this type conversation. We'll invite him in July 12th.

Mr. Lipinski: The first time we heard that was tonight. And we voted the standard motion we vote all the time. We did twice already tonight based on Mary scheduling in the facilities.

Superintendent noted that we have the two most unbiased individuals distributing athletic fields you will ever get, he and the Recreation Director. It is a function... numbers, participants, it's just an equation. If we hit an obstacle if we can work around it we try to make it equitable because we do what is required.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent commented that the communication that he had with Doug Imri on behalf of Trumbull Little League and Trumbull Babe Ruth League, before a letter was emailed to him with the list of questions, was on-going with many of these topics discussed in a casual format and phone calls. He viewed that letter as somewhat concerning because he had ongoing conversations with Doug addressing some of these issues and I told Doug that I would be bringing this to your attention. That's why he submitted it to the Commission; because it was reporting that somebody he represents and gives service to was dissatisfied. So, it was alerting the Commission that, as their agent, there was a problem.

Questions posed to the Superintendent by Doug Imri on behalf of Trumbull Babe Ruth and Trumbull Little League are addressed as follows:

1. There's graffiti on the Babe Ruth press box and transformer down left field line of Babe Ruth.
 - The graffiti has been color matched on the building and has been painted over and has not on the transformer.
2. Leaves inside fields against fences.
 - I honestly can't tell you what he's talking about.
3. Trimming of branches where necessary obstructing lights and in play area (Trumbull Babe Ruth)
 - As it turns out, coincidentally, and I need to stress coincidentally, Warren Jacques, our Tree Warden, had extra money left over, not a lot but he made a mistake in his calculations thought he had none left with regular tree services, he told our contractor that he was concluded doing any more work until July. I always check our accounts on a regular basis and I just thought that there was still some money left over there, I contacted the tree contractor and sent their climber up the first base side of the Babe Ruth Field. The only way that could be. It was a day and a half work. It was hand work, to work on those trees without doing damage. It was cleared at least 30 feet above ground with all the overhangs and anything that would be considered an obstruction.
4. Fixing low spots and adding clay where necessary, especially Unity 4 and 5.
 - Those spots at Unity 4 and 5 are directly associated with Tarrantino ...it would be a direct contract job. It would not be anything that the Town would ever be involved in.

5. Ground drains at Trumbull Babe Ruth with no caps.

- The Trumbull Babe Ruth ground drains are part of the manifold drain that was installed along the 3rd base side against the hill. Because of the basic wear and tear on that field immediately after that installation that area is settling irregularly causing the chimneys, the manifold, to be sticking up above the ground. The ground is sinking around them. I have had Tarrantino brought out, they're the ones who did the installation, I had them cut the manifold so in doing an assessment along that area indicates that it still functions but it's lower than it was when it was originally installed. They cut them down and put the caps back.

5. Repair of lips on edges, mostly on base paths.

6. Infield and foul territory grass is very thin and has already had sod replacements.

7. Timing of fertilization. Did it occur, if not when and what is the program.

8. Timing for irrigation to be turned on.

Chairman explained that timing for irrigation to be turned on is weather-dependent and any needed repair of winter damage to irrigation system and that initial spring fertilization is variable and weather dependent and was applied to turf plus application just completed with organic fertilizer. Repair of lips on the turf edges is the responsibility of the service contractor and as of now have been addressed. He and Superintendent visited the field complex to do a visual and physical site appraisal of the Babe Ruth Field on Monday. As a result of their visit, again from the agronomics side we are both professionals in this area, we felt a couple things were needed and D went and did these things to the field to enhance the field condition to improve the conditions there at no cost to Trumbull Babe Ruth.

Superintendent's review:

Field conditions on the infield of the Babe Ruth Field were not attractive. The turf is horrendously compacted, data taken with a compaction meter. It's like cement in various areas. Wear patterns in a lot of areas. The turf is ground-in beyond the core. Once you're past the crowns, it's over. It's not going to grow anymore. And, large areas are just worn away. Superintendent's opinion was that nothing was a practical investment to improve this because it will continue to be played and managed in a way that will continually cause this problem.

Chairman said do something, to try to make the effort on their behalf. We decided to do deep-core shatter-aeration, that's like upwards of a foot, to try to get some of that 'cement' loosened. We would follow up on top of that with a hollow-core aeration to try to get even greater amounts of oxygen in the soil without spending money for any type of sod going that route, we would seed it with turf-type fescue, use an organic based nitrogen starter and gypsum to try to relieve some of the compaction.

It was deep cored, hollow cored, seeded, had a gypsum application, and it was fertilized. Now, that's what I did...it's not going to change things at all, you may see some areas in the outer un-played or less played areas start to germinate to better turn and that will look good. One thing you may have noticed that aggravated some of the participants, I know, you saw some of these green stripes...through the field. When they laid the sod the

year prior, any of the areas where they had open seams what they did was seed to pull things tight and what they used was the seed I had there which is the turf fescue...not the same as the sod...a good thing because all the fescue is virtually indestructible, it's very hard and surviving in conditions down there...Long and short is that we put the effort there, some of the areas will improve overall I don't think that you are going to see the net return for the infield areas of the Babe Ruth Field.

Chairman, they came to us with a problem. They felt that the money that was spent maybe could have been spent better or they weren't getting the results from the money that was spent. And basically what we see from an agronomics point of view is that there is excessive use there and it's not going to really change the conditions that are there, so this is an approach we had, it's a quick fix, something that didn't cost them anything, it's the best thing that they can do, we can do as a town, or a professional to enhance that field condition. Again, deep coring, the gypsum, the seeding, and the application of an organic slow release fertilizer, and that what we did and to try to pacify them that the Town, the Commission is trying to make this thing work for them to improve their field conditions. This was a good effort from the Commission as well as the Superintendent to go out and do this.

That level of compaction is not from lawnmowers. It's from constant pounding-in conditions that are conducive to de-oxidation of the soil...it's wet enough and the top is pounded and you're effectively making concrete out of soil. And, then, everything else starts to fail

Chairman said that we have approached Babe Ruth to hold-off on fall ball and possibly reduce their summer play and...they continue to say no. Without fall ball years ago, the Town would have gone in and done that work on a regular basis. Wouldn't been done all in one year but two, three, four, five years non-fall ball, the field wouldn't be in the condition it's in now, so it's a decision that their administrators did at the time, the precedent that the board made at that time. The Commission, the Superintendent, offered our abilities, our resources, to go in and do this on a regular basis in late fall, and they continually said no, we want to play... which led to this condition.

Recreation Director's Report:

- Stickers distribution high with, 250/300 stickers a day. Takes a long time to input every one of them.
- We are very busy with spring sign-ups.
- There is no special Senior Citizen Sticker, same for seniors as others.

Superintendent noted that the entire sticker program is going to be reviewed for all of its elements by late fall.

MOTION to adjourn 9:15 p.m. by Attorney DeFusco, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe, Clerical Administrative Assistant

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

JUNE 9, 2014

MOTIONS

MOTION by Mr. DeFusco, second by Mrs. Walsh, unanimously passed to close Public Comments portion of the meeting.

MOTION by Mr. Moore, second by Dr. Bellows, passed, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2014 meeting as distributed. Mr. Lipinski recused himself as he did not attend.

MOTION by Mr. Moore, seconds by Dr. Bellows and Mr. Lipinski, and unanimously passed to allow the reorganized TDOG Corporation a 90 day extension from the July 1, 2014 dog park closing date to reform the TDOG corporation to meet the requirements of the Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission; and, contingent upon their bringing a Status Update to the next regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting scheduled for July 14, 2014 for continued dialogue and update.

MOTION by Mrs. Walsh, second by Dr. Bellows, and passed (Richard Moore abstained) approving use of Long Hill Green by the Trumbull Farmers' Market for their Summer Season, Thursdays from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., June 19, 2014 through October 9, 2014.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Dr. Travisano, and unanimously passed to approve field scheduling for Eagles Lacrosse summer program in compliance with the rules of the Facilities Use Policy and scheduling by the Recreation Director.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Dr. Travisano, and unanimously passed to approve field scheduling for Make A Wish Foundation Girls Lacrosse Team summer program in compliance with the rules of the Facilities Use Policy and scheduling by the Recreation Director.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, seconds by Dr. Bellows and Atty. DeFusco, and unanimously passed to approve field scheduling for Trumbull Youth Lacrosse summer program, June 30 to August 25, 2014 in compliance with the rules of the Facilities Use Policy and scheduling by the Recreation Director.

MOTION to adjourn 9:15 p.m. by Attorney DeFusco, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed.