

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was convened at Town Hall at 7:0 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)	Kevin Bellows
Michael Travisano	Lee DeFusco
Nancy Walsh	Marie Petitti

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

Guests:
Byron Campbell, 49 Woodlawn Drive, AYSO Regional Commissioner
Mike Curley, 49 Parkway Drive, BOE Fields Maintenance Contractor representative.

Public Comments:

Byron Campbell, AYSO Trumbull Regional Commissioner:

Have 1101 kids already registered, still registering, doing well and growing in every age division. Gave at least 20 scholarships, some partial some full for both seasons, and make sure they have uniforms and things like that. Packet presented has break-downs by ages. New U4 pilot program. Became Platnum AYSO Club, top 1 percent of all of AYSO. Qualifies for the training of volunteers, board members, kids, safety, how they conduct business, budgets are in line. Lot of new people coming in, 300 volunteers and coaches. Also meeting with the new AD to find a way that they can help their soccer team and see how we can support them as an AYSO community. Some of the boys who play soccer are coaches. Some AYSO boys and girls will be 'ball boys'. We are also looking to do scholarships for a high school senior boy and girl. Last year, did a food drive, a coat drive. This year breast cancer awareness. Might have the mammography van come one Saturday morning to talk with people or go through it. All volunteers also trying to teach the kids to give back to community.

Some board members are not Trumbull residents; three long-time members moved and still involved. All kids are Trumbull residents. About the background checks. Everyone is fully background checked and board members are identified by the 'collar' shirts, coaches have no-collar shirts Trying to impart they are a part of the community.

Field Use request is for THS and IL. Little kick-off this weekend; bu,t the 20th is the big kick-off

Mike Curley, BOE Field Maintenance Rep: Met with Michael King the BOE Athletic Director on having a one-day event in October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and agreed on October 24th. Last year, the maintenance contractor (Tarrantino) painted pink ribbons on the 25 yard lines of the ball field and gave out to every person who walked in to a football game in October a long white or black tee shirt and pink wrist bands. On October 25th, THS is hosting a soccer event so any leftover T's or wrist bands will be given out then.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second Atty DeFusco and Mrs. Petitti, unanimously passed to close meeting to guests.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Atty. DeFusco unanimously passed to approve the Minutes of the August 11, 2014 meeting with two typo changes on Page One indicating guest as Beth Johnson be corrected to Beth Johnston.

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Correspondence:

From Director Health acknowledgement of our correspondence concerning the closure of the Farmers Market at Long Hill Green. Our request will be presented and reviewed with the Board of Health, September 9th at 7:30 p.m. at their office on Corporate Drive, with a response to follow. Chairman may attend.

Old Business:

Tashua Pool Slide – Changes made worked out well. Never had to close the gates at Beach Pool once this summer. Residents had options with an additional type of slide at another pool.

Superintendent reported he met with two Council members addressing their questions and concerns about the installation of the Tashua Pool Slide suggesting greater over-sight on future projects. Only other request was if we could find a way to insulate some of the sound from the pump that feeds the slide water. Superintendent will try to re-direct the sound towards the hill to tone-down the pump sound.

Chmielewski Memorial Stone Plate: Atty. DeFusco reported he expects to receive the plate this week. Will bring to our next meeting.

Dr. Bellows:

- Questioned who is responsible for cleaning the lavatories at THS baseball field right field? (The High School maintenance staff.)
- Men's room a poor reflection of the Town, people from out-of-town use it. Open all the time, which is great.
- Superintendent will voice our concern to the Facilities Manager. Should be cleaned at least before games. Mike Curley interjected that he has cleaned it a number of times. They are currently 'short-handed' and are in the hiring process. Will be winterize October 1st.

Non-Residency Policy:

- Dr. Bellows reported that he had a call from an All-Star coach for a Bridgeport Little League Team concerned because apparently there is a Little League rule that if you go to a school in a certain town you can play Little League in that town even if you don't live in that town. This individual is coaching 11 year olds All Star Team, and complained that the coaches of our Trumbull All-Star Team are trying to pilfer their out-standing all-star players who go to a private school in Bridgeport, by indicating that if they transfer to a Trumbull school, they can then play Little League in Trumbull and be on that All-Star Team.
- We have a 100 percent residency rule which supersedes what Little Leagues rule is.
- Dr. Bellows expressed concern for a child who may change schools and then be told he could not play.

- Mike Curley noted that the Little League District Commissioner would have to authorize the Waiver. And, would investigate the move to a Trumbull school before approving. This is a Little League rule that *could apply*, not one that can just be done.
- Superintendent suggested sending a notification to Trumbull Little League that it has been brought to our attention that there may have been a rule at the Williamsport level to allow non-resident play if enrolled in a Trumbull school; however, 100 percent residency rules are still the standing requirement.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second Dr. Travisano, unanimously passed a letter be sent to all field users reiterating our residency policy.

Superintendent's Report:

- The historic barn renovation work is being closed down for winter. We have installed both an underground gas line and electrical line from the main barn to the historic barn. Set to go in the spring.
- Had to do some electrical reorganization in the parking lot with light poles that got damaged by a vehicle. In the process, we were required to do some excavation around the retention pond. It will look better, reduce overall maintenance and reduce hazards of the drop-off.
- Bill Property ready to be seeded.
- We have gone through a third bid process for the Beach Pool Filter House. Sadly, the overall costs associated with doing the work were higher than we have budgeted money. We had committed to dismantling the building prior to the quote coming in. We're going to have to off-set any and all costs, all the interior plumbing, electrical, all footing work. We will contract out the block work which we will have sufficient funds to do. Other than the block work proper, we will be doing all of the work.
- We have encountered a host of problems at Unity Park, mostly irrigation issues. Started Labor Day and we have been down there every day since addressing one thing or another...broken or fractured feed lines, celluloid valves, clocks hit by lightning. This past weekend, another rupture off the backside of the third base line of the Babe Ruth field. Man hours were spent with the three breaks thus far calculated at 96 hours. Problem is old age...Oldest irrigation in town. Patched and twisted and manipulated to fit the ever-changing configurations of Unity. It's weak and it's failing. Scrapping the existing irrigation system entirely and starting over would be between \$80,000/\$100,000 project between three fields.
- Noted that the Chairman, Doug Imri (Vice president of LL) and Superintendent walked Unity complex to view a number of concerns he had about what the Town could do to improve the over-all condition of the field. Parks Superintendent and Chairman agreed to commit to: 1) Herbicide applications on infields of Little League #1, Little League #2 and Babe Ruth fields; 2) Core aerate and over-seed the infields; 3) Fertilizing Little League #1, Little League #2 and Babe Ruth fields; 4) There will be a change in the configuration of the areas right out-side the dugouts. We have cut-out the area thus far; and, will add stone dust in front of the dugout.
- Asked Mike Curley to elaborate on that because in conjunction with the work that we had committed to, there is still some work that Tarrantino has outstanding and committed to on the drainage.

- Mike Curley stated that for the past three years, manifolds that were installed have broken and now that they're dug up they will be repairing the drain and manifolds on the first base side and the third base side of the Babe Ruth Field. Quoted repairing the sod between that area to the base line (which are just really worn areas). At the Trumbull High School field they cut a circle of turf (deck circle). They want to do that at Unity Babe Ruth, so that it will minimize the big bare area outside the dugout. On top of the stone dust, there will be a round piece of turf, for an on-deck circle. Definite worn areas in front of the mound and in front of third base. He stated that these are the topics of issues he has with the leagues all the time. The damage is repercussion of two or three years of playing on it and wearing it out. Excessive wear areas. He oversees 43 baseball fields in the different towns they maintain; and, it's the same on every single baseball field. In front of the mound, in front of third base, outside the dugouts.

Chairman asked the Superintendent to explain the process and procedure done earlier in the season at no expense to the Babe Ruth League? Superintendent said concerns were expressed about the over-all turf density. We did aggressive core aeration, application of gypsum, seeding, and fertilization of those areas. It worked well in the areas where there were no foot traffic, we did the application all the way around the perimeter and the infield. In the high wear zones, we wasted all our efforts. It's just as barren as it ever was. In the areas where there was less foot traffic, the turf density improved dramatically. The rationale now is to eliminate grass in any areas that are uncontrollable as much as possible. Simply nothing you are going to do to correct it other than reduce the time people are on it.

Atty DeFusco commented that the big picture is...that field is 'beautiful'. Every manager from visiting towns came up to me as home team coach to tell him just how much they love our field. Big picture, that's a beautiful field. And, when talking about improving, you are turning from an A to an A+ in his opinion.

Chairman questioned maintenance level at Island Brook with the all clay infields versus the natural turf field, how does that compare as far as maintenance and playability? Not saying we should have it or not, just comparing grass versus clay.

- Superintendent indicated there is no comparison. Subject annoys all baseball players. Clay field will always play more and be less costly. Island Brook has been in operation six years without complaints.
- It was noted at Island Brook we have younger players and mostly girls versus bigger kids on other fields.
- Superintendent said there are a number of factors why Unity fields take the beating that they do. It is the demographic, irrigation issues with 30/40 broken heads at a cost of \$75 each (\$150 installed) on an annual basis in the Unity complex alone because they damage the sprinkler heads by jumping up and down on them. The number of games that take place on Unity fields is always increasing. We could manage a clay field for less money, and it's more playable.

Recreation Director's Report:

- Started sign-up for the fall.
- Still doing Park Stickers. Up around 10,000.
- New program so we are going to be able to do on-line registration in the next two days.
- Everything going well for us.
- Every time we get fields scheduled, someone makes a change and everything needs to be rescheduled...domino effect and Rangers need to know where everyone is scheduled.
- Rogue group moving lacrosse goals around.

Superintendent noted that the PIT at the High School was taken off line and will be fully rehabilitated, ground-down to zero and properly crowned.

MOTION to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. by Dr. Bellows, second by Attorney DeFusco, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Adm. Asst.

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