

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
AUGUST 10, 2015

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
Matthew Caron	Marie Petitti
Michael Travisano	Richard Moore
Lee DeFusco	Nancy Walsh

Also,
Stuart McCarthy, Parks and Recreation Director

Guests:
Bob Stoppel, 55 Quail Trail, TDOG
Dennis Riccardi, 58 Laurel Street, TDOG
Bill Urban, 49 Midland Road, TDOG
Karen Hayes, Glenarden Road, TDOG
Elizabeth Raccuia, 74 Puritan Road, Youth Field Hockey
Byron Campbell, 49 Woodlawn Dr., Regional Commissioner AYSO
Gene Cellini, 55 Gatehouse Road, Pop Warner

Bob Stoppel, TDOG (Trumbull Dog Owners Group)

They use and maintain the Dog Park at Indian Ledge. A year ago they came to this Commission when the Town was about to close the Dog Park. They stepped forward and asked that we leave it open; and, they would take care of maintenance. They formed a new Board of Directors, have work parties every other week to mow, weed, spread wood chips. When they took over the park they had \$22 in the treasury. They are in partnership with PetValue in Trumbull having fund raisers and dog walks and are starting to raise some money. They now have a modest treasury and would like to spend it.

They would like conceptual approval for them to plan for:

- An additional gate at the top part which is actually in the blocked off area for small dogs so trucks can come in.
- Put up some kind of shade structure like a pavilion or gazebo, No floor, no walls, just a shade structure.
- Installing agility structures in there for the dogs...hoops, ramp-type. Only have plastic pipes there now.

Chairman noted he, the Director and Superintendent looked at area. They passed their recommendations for consideration to TDOG as:

- Two 7 foot gates could be added to the current 5 foot gates, providing a 12 foot gates on the outer and inner perimeter without too much cost to the TDOG organization.
- As far as the gazebo, any structure would need to be approved by the Building Department and meet all the Building Codes.
- The agility equipment is not a problem. They would assume all maintenance on this equipment providing safety for the dogs and the residents.

Dennis Riccardi indicated that they accepted these recommendations and have contacted two fence companies for quotes.

Noted there is one area in the fence where a dead tree fell at the far end of the park and put a wrinkle into the fence. The Town will try to take care of some of the dead branches.

Chairman said that there are trees with dead branches on the East and North sides. Superintendent will try to provide dollars for that project after the added gates are installed and we can get a cherry-picker truck into that area.

Mr. Moore questioned how big a shade structure they are proposing. (Response was possibly 10' x 12'. Cost estimated at \$5,000. They are attempting to get a favorable price.)

Mr. Moore suggested as an option temporary pop-up tents...less than \$200 for top quality. Strong for the whole season.

Karen Hayes, TDOG,

Questioned:

- How much space for dogs to run around tents and stakes? (Response was that stakes are usually placed deep at the footing of the structure.)
- If, after they install gate, would the Town to consider mowing the Dog Park as it is quite a burden for them to do it with lawn mowers? (Chairman referred to the Agreement with TDOG that it is the responsibility of the organization to maintain the dog park with no burden on the taxpayers. They would have to have a private contractor do the mowing.)

Bill Urban: Questioned if the Town could place huge boulders in the Park for dogs to jump on. (Director stated that we are aware of this request and we will keep a look out for boulders as construction is going on and will drop a couple there.

Elizabeth Raccuia, 74 Puritan Road, Trumbull Youth Field Hockey:

Submitted paper work for the Fall Season covering Grades 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th. Three teams...5/6, 7 and 8. Play on the grass field behind Hillcrest. This will be their 6th season in Trumbull. In the past they have only had two days per week of practice on the grass field for 70 girls which is totally inadequate. They are requesting the grass field for five days, so they can breakup teams for safety reasons and skill development. They begin the first week in September and end first weekend in November. One game every weekend as a part of the Fairfield Field Hockey Association. This year, 57 players and will end up with 60. They would like to host half of the eight games per team per season (four games for each team) on our home turf. Presented copies of Team Rosters, Insurance, Application Request for both practice and turf/field games, names of coaches, parent volunteers with Background Checks. The Director took possession of the information submitted.

She noted that beginning October 13th, Daylight Savings Time begins with sunset beginning at 6:15 that week. Every week it gets shorter and shorter so they request practice time under the lights. They need to present schedule to Fairfield Field Hockey Association in two weeks and questioned if they could have approved schedule by that time. Director felt that would be possible.

Byron Campbell, AYSO:

Presented Update on changes to their fall request. Doing the U7/U8 Program, need time on Sunday and one other day during the week, tentatively either Thursdays or Fridays, to do foot skills and development work.

Chairman requested a short synopsis of the recent Soccer Meeting. He will prepare that information for the Commission.

Gene Cellini, Pop Warner:

- Delivered information to the Recreation Office.
- Seven football teams and four cheerleader teams.
- Program provides value, structure, scholastics requirement (greater than C average).
- Teachers from the school system involved as coordinators of the scholastic program.
- Highly regulated environment, adhere to National Pop Warner rules.
- Each child, each team, has a three-ring binder with information on registration, stamped medical record, copy of scholastic record, photo of child, parents code of conduct. Each Head Coach has these three-ring binders available, before each game binders are presented to the opposing coach (age and weight schematic), highly regulated and scrutinized.
- All towns gather together to review books. Information gets inputted into a national data base and becomes a certified roster.
- Adopted Heads-Up Football which is making the game safer for tackle football.
- As a players' safety coach he sits seminars on concussion. heat exhaustion, sudden cardiac arrest, how to do heads-up tackling/blocking and brings back and demonstrates that information to our coaches.
- Coaches take and pass three on-line courses, attend three clinics at Madison and a class at the Helen Plumb Building, and one whole Southern CT Clinic at West Haven. They go through a lot of training.
- Have two people, First Aid Certified/CPR and a paid EMT at each game.
- Field use request is for Madison Middle School baseball and football field.
 - (Three little teams 7/8/9 year olds, go in the middle field)
 - (Two 9/10 year old teams, on ends of both sides)
 - (The baseball field is angled and put two of the older teams in opposite directions)
 - One team in right field toward the woods)
 - (One on the south end of the field.)

Begin August 1st through November. Hours 10:00 to 6:00 Mondays and Fridays. Post Labor Day, six hour practice. Games are Saturdays and Sundays. Seven teams, trying to get it down to six. To fit seven teams, they play on a Sunday, four games 9:00, 11:00, 1:00 and 3:00. On Saturday it's 9:00 and 11:00. And if need 7th, they play at 1:00.

- Because they are sharing facility with soccer, they try to front load the schedule. If they have two football games on a Saturday along with Soccer, halfway between the two football games at 10:00 a.m. the guest team for the 11:00 a.m. game arrives (an hour before game to go through checking of the books) which results in heavy traffic...they hire police for traffic and work with the soccer groups.

MOTION by Mr. Moore, second Dr. Trivisano, unanimously passed to close Public Comments.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrs. Petitti, unanimously passed to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2015 meeting as distributed.

Old Business:

Director reported:

Beach Pool Closures:

- Made changes to signage around the pool reminding people to take a break.
- More frequent and specific announcements lifeguards to patrons.
- Additional emphasis on cleanliness of the restrooms. Use floor driers which have made a big difference in those facilities.
- We added an afternoon maintenance run on way back to the shop at end of the day.
- Seen results, we did have one closure since our last meeting.

Historic Barn – Visited site. About \$30,000 left in the funding. First floor of the barn nearly complete, Sikorsky exhibit being presented by the Historical Society on the September 24, prior to that they will button the project up. Post and beams up on the second floor, second story to be completed by this time next year. Moving forward, funds available; but, very much a long term project.

Audit Update – Met representatives of Matrix last week with an update on where they are and the issues they are focusing on. Draft report in about four weeks. Many of the items that are contained will have already been addressed by the time the report is presented because they are largely things that he recognized initially for immediate attention...cash handling, addressing urgent issues that need to be dealt with.

Hansen Parcel Donation - On behalf of family, Spath-Bjorklun has requested the Town Council to include the parcel with Mischee Brook Park rather than as open space.

Track damage at THS. Damage was from a Fund Raising Event there. They are making restitution . The maintenance of the Track is the responsibility of the BOE and Athletic Director is aware of the damage.

Dog Park:

Discussion:

- TDOG quite a success story.
- Stated funds available is modest.
- A year down the road, membership and interest may drop-off.
- A permanent structure needs Building Code Approvals.
- Gates and Agility Equipment could be approved.

MOTION by Mr. Moore, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to accept the proposal to add two additional seven foot (7') gates to be added to the two existing five foot (5') gates to allow 12 foot openings at the Dog Park to be installed by a contract fencing company at locations designated by the Director and Superintendent; approval of the agility structures; and, endorsement of the concept of a permanent Building Official approved shade structure for installation within the Dog Park with future submission of specifications and location for final approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Dr. Travisano, unanimously passed to approve the Trumbull Field Hockey fall request to schedule field space at the High School subject to the requirements of the Facilities Use Policy with financial information provided and scheduling by the Recreation Manager depending upon availability of facilities.

MOTION by Mr. Caron, second by Atty. DeFusco and Mrs. Walsh, unanimously passed to approve Trumbull Pop Warner request for fall field scheduling subject to the requirements of the Facilities Use Policy and scheduling by the Recreation Manager depending upon availability of facilities.

Director's Report:

- Hansen Property Parcel Donation – On behalf of the Hansen Family, Spath-Bjorklund Associates notified the Trumbull Town Council that the intent of the Hansen Family is that the property which is contiguous with Mischee Brook Park be incorporated into the park property. Director provided a map of the property and reported a physical audit was done by he, the Chairman, the Superintendent and the Town Engineer with a representative of Spath-Bjorklund and the parcel is consistent with the park property there are no structures on the property bringing costs to us and clearly the piece is desirable with a direct access to roadway.

MOTION by Mrs. Walsh, second by Mrs. Petitti, unanimously passed that the Parks and Recreation Commission will indicate to the Town Council the Commission's desire to have the Hansen Parcel dedicated as parkland incorporated into the Mischee Brook Park property.

- Same challenges as in the past with Life Guard availability at the end of the season exacerbated by the fact that Labor Day is very late this year. In the process of identifying available staff; almost certain that we are going to close Tashua Pool sometime in late August.
- Process of putting together the fall programs. Program registration begins on September 8th. Staff working on content and efficiencies in the registration process. Big changes won't come until the spring registrations.
- Summer programs winding down.
- Recreation Manager accomplished a fairly smooth summer given the number of Board of Education facilities closed and moving around of programs. We presented the programs with minimum amount of interruptions.
- We added a Flag Football Program which was very successful.
- The Fall Field Scheduling letter to all Fall User Groups went out today asking them to get all their submissions in and staff will start sorting those submissions and we will take a fresh look at requests and we will confirm field assignments within a few weeks.
- The Hillcrest Pool was closed for most of the summer, work wrapping up and we are hoping to re-open around August 20th.
- To date we have issued over 12,000 park vehicle stickers.

In parks...

- Crew working on a drainage project at Tashua parking lot to be completed by September 1st.
- Historic Barn work is on-going.
- Hope to have bids out in the next couple weeks for the pool liner repair at Beach Park. Superintendent not optimistic about the budget for that project. Concern about the sub-surface under the liner in the pool. Brought in a structural engineer to develop the specifications, get the prices and determine how to proceed. Hope to get a bid out as soon as possible.
- Irrigation Bids to be out by September 1st with work being done toward the end of the season. We have alerted Babe Ruth and Little League about altering the field scheduling late in the season to allow us access to facilities.
- Trumbull High School softball field area will have a relocation project to swap the wet area softball field with the throwing area; funded through education with our Superintendent overseeing the project.
- The AYSO building at Kaechele Complex has an irrigation issue and mold was found in the building related to a leaking toilet on second floor. They have a contractor coming in to repair.
- Working administratively on park permit applications, moving everything into one information sheet. Hope to have these up on line in time for spring requests. New format will be brought to the Commission for comment and approval.
- Dealing with significant issues with trash and dumping on Quarry Road, southern end of the Rail Trail. Met at site with the Superintendent and Chairman and had a conversation with Deputy Police Chief about that area. A number of issues in regard to jurisdiction and regulations need to be addressed and he will come back to the Commission with a recommendation on these. Trash clearly an issue at that area. . This Commission has a Carry In/Carry Out policy and Director stated he is a huge proponent of that policy, it is the right policy to have, but it does require management and requires picking up litter when

it is there. Not free of costs because you do need to patrol it. Working with the parks staff and rangers on identification and removal of litter; but, noted that suggestions to put trash containers out I would be a very expensive solution...staffing, containers, bag liners, truck etc. Introducing some signage because it's a new facility. Working with the Police Department on the parking arrangements there as well. Issue with swimming at that location as well as open fires (which is enforceable)...rangers or police to be called with intensive scrutiny of this new trail opening.

- Working with the First Selectman's office for the Trumbull Fall Festival September 12th at THS.
- New Health Department renovations on White Plains Road - Parks Department doing the outside work (sidewalks, landscaping, tree removal, additional landscaping coming). Public Works doing the inside physical work.

MOTION to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. by Mrs. Petitti, second by Attorney DeFusco, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Adm. Assistant

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MOTIONS

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