

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
JUNE 13, 2016

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)	Vincent Lipinski
Kevin Bellows	Nancy Walsh
Michael Travisano	Richard Moore
Lee DeFusco	Brian LeClerc
Kenneth Martin	

Also,
Stuart McCarthy, Parks and Recreation Director
Robert Hawley, Retiring Chief Park Ranger

Guests:
Kevin Chamberlain, 43 Coral Drive, Trumbull Little League
Steve Finger, 21 Brookhedge Road, Trumbull Little League
Martin McCann, 63 Teeter Rock Road, Trumbull Rotary Club

Kevin Chamberlain and Steve Finger, Trumbull Little League:

League wishes to build a press box on Unity Park Field 2. They have discussed this with the Commission in the past and have more developed plans tailored to the wishes of the Commission as far as appearance and blending in with other buildings in the park. Distributed copies of plans. In attendance to talk about the project and answer any questions Commission might have. They have verified they can get the exact same brick as Unity 1 for dugout and building. Won't start building until next spring or fall.

Chairman stated that the key issue was that it be aesthetically matching with the Unity 1 building brick facade.

Mr. Lipinski questioned if they have a plot plan with dimensions.

Response: From edge of pavement, 5' feet to the corner and 12 feet at the other corner because of the way the existing driveway angles. Two feet off the backstop to allow for cleaning-out of alley-way.

Mr. Lipinski stated that he has spoken with policemen, zoning folks and others and expressed great concern for:

- The closeness to the street and the blind spot this building is going to make.
- Always kids coming from dugout to cross the street.
- Cars coming from the opposite way, the closeness to the building.
- Cement pylons protects the building but not the people.
- Town zoning requires 10 feet or more from the road, this is at 5 feet.

Questioned:

- Can fence be pushing back to the building by eliminating the 2 foot maintenance buffer?
 - (Response: Buffer needed for cleaning our papers and debris.)
- Can building be smaller in size to fix the line-of-sight?
 - (Response: Unity 1 stairs on outside of building. For safety concerns moving the stairs on this building to the inside.)

Chairman noted that the questions posed are by one Commissioner, not on behalf of the Commission itself.

Mr. Lipinski explained he doesn't want to add to hazardous areas by doing something that puts a blind spot into it and thought to suggest a speed bump right there. He has been wanting this press box for five years, just wants it to be safe.

Director commented:

- Little League has an engineer working on the drawings,
- Issues regarding a traveled public roadway do not apply to park roadways.
- Bollards serve to protect both buildings and kids.
- He will check with Superintendent about installing a speed bump at that location. There's a parking lot there which gives drivers ability to go around a speed bump; but, with metal pylons on each end this would not happen. We can certainly take a look at it as well as pushing the grass area out.

Chief Park Ranger Robert Hawley in attendance said it would be better and should help if area at the building were wider with a speed bump as well as re-doing the older speed bump.

Chairman reiterated that the Director will look at options to make it safer around that corner. He thanked the Little League representatives for their attendance.

Martin McCann, Trumbull Rotary Club:

Formally requested permission to hold the Rotary Club's 16th Annual Sunset Run at Twin Brooks Park for their 16th Annual Sunset Run July 22, 2016, from 3:00 p.m. to dusk. Same as in past years. EMS, Police, Rangers, Police Explorers, concessions and port-a-lets. Last year's attendance was 285.

Chief Ranger Hawley stated that the Run pays for Rangers to do set-up and parking every year. They park on the grass from Brock Street to the area of the pavilion. The area is hardpan. They block off areas to provide exits so no one gets blocked in Five Rangers for parking; Explorers plug in, Police for roadways.

Mr. McCann said Rotary is willing to provide Ranger and Police service as in the past and accept the charge. They generate - \$28 per ticket X 300 tickets...approximately \$6,000/\$7,000. From that Rotary provides water, Italian Ice food, trophies, tee shirts, timers and make approximately \$4,000 which is rolled back to the town.

Chairman thanked him and stated we appreciate his attendance.

Bob Hawley, Chief Park Ranger: He is retiring as of June 30th.

Chairman thanked him for his many, many years of quality service. Hope he enjoy his retirement. On behalf of the town, he wished retiring Chief Park Ranger Hawley the very best going forward.

Chief Ranger was questioned on his retirement plans and his favorite and least favorite parks. He stated, travel is his plan...just back from Safari in Africa with his three kids, his retirement present. His favorite parks are Beach Memorial and Town Brooks stating all of our parks have their own special thing. He expressed his thanks for his 36 years working for and with the Commission to keep our parks safe wishing the Commission success in its future endeavors.

Commission thanked him tremendously for his services extending a hardy hand of applause.

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

MOTION by Atty. LeClerc, second by Att. DeFusco and unanimously passed to accept the Minutes of the May 9, 2016 meeting as distributed.

Rotary Sunset Run:

Discussion:

Is there an issue with parking on the grass, should organization be responsible for damage.

- No, grass along the river is hard packed. Event over in a very few hours. No history of significant damage following this event. Rangers supervise parking.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Ken Martin and unanimously passed to approve Trumbull Rotary requests to hold its Annual 5-K Sunset Run, July 22, 2016 at Unity Park with the understanding they will pay for Police and Rangers covering the event.

Little League Press Box:

Discussion:

Director noted:

Not an ideal location but doesn't think it's unsafe.

Recommends approval of press box; but,

- Work on the traffic pattern.
- Get additional information on the parking at that location.
- Once the cars are parked nosed-in on the opposite side of the street, they don't have a lot of extra room; perhaps that area can be pushed out a foot or more.
- Installation of the bollards all around the corner and the back of the facility will serve to protect in that area.
- We will determine if appropriate place for speed bumps.

Mr. Lipinski:

Has a fear, if we vote to do this and we can't come up with a plan to fix it; we can't go back and say shrink it or move it.

Chairman questioned if others had questions.

Mrs. Walsh:

Questioned if we could go to one-way traffic.

- Traffic into that Residential area would be poorly received.

Atty DeFusco questioned if a speed bump can be installed.

- Can't be stopped. Get some more information before we do that.

Mr. Lipinski:

They are not going to build until spring or fall, why not give Director time to look into this. If he comes back without a resolution, we think about something else.

Mr. Martin:

Press Box can't be moved. Build first then decide what has to be done with the pavement or set-backs at that point.

Dr. Trivisano:

Vote, caveat to be providing a traffic review.

Atty. DeFusco:

A Speed Bump solves the problem.

Mr. Moore:

Not familiar enough about the traffic patterns there on weekends. Built to code by Engineering standards, work out the roadway jog a little. Approve and we'll work out the problem.

Director:

Repaving of Unity is part of the Town's Capitol Plan (in design, drainage first with first phase funded) probably a year off as this building is. There is opportune time to review the traffic and parking in the parks. Approve the building, direct the staff to review the traffic and possible striping delineating appropriate parking spaces can be done.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrs. Walsh, and passed with one no (Mr. Lipinski) that the Parks and Recreation Commission authorizes Trumbull Little League to construct a press box for Unity Park Field #2 with the following conditions:

- Trumbull Little League responsible for all permits and approvals
- Trumbull Little League will have exclusive use of the Press Box
- Trumbull Little League responsible for maintenance of the Press Box Facility.
- Construction to commence by Nov.1 2017 or the approval expires.
- Brick and roofing materials will be reviewed and verified as being consistent with the design by the Parks Superintendent upon delivery to the site.

Old Business:

Walk for Kenya:

A permit was issued by our Office to the Crossroads Community Church in Trumbull. Application was accurate.

Mr. Lipinski questioned the fact that the Historical Society had an event the same day. Neither event was referred to the Commission for approval.. He questioned if in the future we would we get notification and have both come to the Commission.

Director explained:

Kenya Run, yes. The Kenya Run was issued improperly and the Department will resolve that. Would we approve those types of events for the same day depends on what the anticipated attendance is and encourage one of them to change its date.

Status of Beach Pool:

- Still under construction, we have an opening date scheduled for Thursday, June 16th, which we are not going to make, hoping to open by June 18th - 20th.
- Felt liner under the vinyl liner – As soon as that gets wet, all the work stops so as soon as it starts raining they stop working and have to dry it out before they can get working. Added to that in the last couple days, heavy wind - 200 pound piece of vinyl flapping in the wind.
- Tomorrow morning we will get an update and trying to nail-down a firm opening date.
- Hopeful of beginning to put water in the pool tomorrow. Made substantial progress today.
- This company our preferred vendor, they have done all of our pool work never had a problem.

Beach Pool Sprinkler Park:

- Had some problems a similar issue with needing to close the sprinkler park on a day-to-day basis.
- Mechanical failure requires us to get contractors in there, call plumber, specialized.
- Had issues last year, have a small leak in the return line loosing pressure in the system re-circulating. Right now running and we will correct in the fall.

Opening Bids on Indian Ledge Playground next Wednesday.

New Concessionaire for Pools, put in a full cooking facility at Tashua Pool and open.

Mr. Lipinski questioned the status of the Field Maintenance Contract.

Director stated that it expires at end of June. Town is working with the contractor to extend that contract to November to get into a cycle where that contract expires at end of the season instead of the Fiscal Year.,July 1st.

Atty. DeFusco: Unity Babe Ruth has a , minor problem after a rain in the dugout area, at homeplate.. From the dugout exit toward the on deck circle at end of fence...after rain we get an oval pond. There was that situation similar at the high school JV Field on the first base side and they solved the problem with stone. Stone would solve this problem.

Mr. Moore, Twin Brooks shrubbery on the turn getting out into the travel lane more and more.

Director to get word out to Superintendent to trim up a little. The reason for those shrubs is to keep people away from the missing shoulder of the road. That project has been funded for drainage repairs.

Vandalism at Island Brook Park:

We had significant, repeated vandalism(starting fires, graffiti on the building). Policed finally able to apprehend the three neighborhood boys involved. Two of the three have paid the restitution (time and one half and double time to repair), we did not press charges, the third still due...we got \$1,500 back to cover the costs.

Dr. Bellows noted at Trumbull Track: Track is three years old, there is a three by three foot spot right down to the ground as you come in at the two main gates. When they put the track in for the first two years they had turf across the track so when the band, cleats, etc, came in across the track there was no damage to the track...they since took that off and track gets damaged. Director will pass photo and direct the issue to BOE Athletic Director.

Mr. Martin regarding Retiring Chief Park Ranger Hawley: Suggestion to think about putting something in Ranger Hawley's favorite park...Beach Park/Twin Brook acknowledging him for his 36 years of service to the parks system; either a plaque or engraved stone like Park Superintendent Gil Standley's at the Orchard at Abraham Nichols Park. Plaques get vandalized, taken away. Could do benches. Director will check with the Parks Superintendent as to benches or other type of recognition

Accident at Kaechele field during AYSO soccer.

On May 16th, the Director made the Commission aware of an incident that took place on Saturday morning at Kaechele Fields during AYSO events and the follow up. A utility vehicle operated by one of the AYSO board members was carrying several children when the vehicle tipped over resulting in injuries. The AYSO Regional Coordinator assured us that procedures for the use of the utility vehicle were being reviewed and that additional safety guidelines have been put in place to prevent a reoccurrence of this event. The vehicle is owned by AYSO and AYSO insurance is in place and up to date. This is an AYSO issue but the Parks and Recreation Department will continue to monitor the policies and adherence to those policies to assure that activities taking place on Town property are conducted in a safe manner.

Director has received from both AYSO and Trumbull Little League copies of their policies on utility vehicles. Little League's is more encompassing and he will share that with AYSO so they can add to their policy.

Atty. LeClerc noted that at Old Mine Park lower Gazebo area a sizeable 8 foot branch fell. Director to have Superintendent check the trees in that area.

MOTION to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. by Mr. Lipinski, second Mr. Moore, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Adm. Asst.

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MOTIONS

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