

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
DECEMBER 12, 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)	Kevin Bellows
Brian LeClerc	Richard Moore
Nancy Walsh	Lee DeFusco
Vincent Lipinski	Kenneth Martin
Michael Trivisano	

Also, Stuart McCarthy, Director of Parks and Recreation

Guests: Jay Allen, 14 Cranbury Drive, Trumbull Babe Ruth
Mark Fritz, 133 Fernwood Road, Trumbull Babe Ruth President

Public Comments:

Jay Allen and Mark Fritz, Trumbull Babe Ruth:

Presenting a request to hold a Regional U14 Tournament in July, 2017, honored to host this tournament as we did two years ago. Main objective is to get before you requesting use of the fields earlier rather than later. We are working with Sr. City and American Legion leagues to make sure that there's no conflicts with the fields at that time. The Tournament is July 21 through Friday July 28th. Following the same format as two years ago. Comprises all the New England States. They secure hotel rooms so that once those teams from each state are selected they have a place to stay. We have a dinner the night before it starts. With 300/325 adults and youth from New England planned for Vazzy's Four Seasons, who are also the Food Vendor for the Tournament. Normally don't have it two years in a row, approached us, impressed with our THS fields, High School Varsity and JV Field with Unity as backup.

Chairman noted that normally the Commission doesn't hear a request a year in advance of season in fairness to other users. Director thought it important to bring before the Commission, and we will hear your request tonight.

Mr. Fritz explained that there is a lot to put this together and they have spoken to those who would be using the fields in the summer time to alert them.

Response to Commissioners' questions:

- High School Varsity (primary games), the JV (backup field), Unity (in case of inclement weather and as a practice facility). They need the larger facility at the High School with the fences, better to keep everyone in one place.
- Vazzy's – Food brought in by Truck.
- This is 14 year olds this year, 15 year olds last time.

Chairman thanked them for their presentation.

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

Election of Officers:

MOTION by Mrs. Walsh, second by Mr. Martin, unanimously passed nominating Robert Ferrigno to continue as Chairman.

MOTION by Dr. Martin, seconds by Dr. Travissano and Atty. DeFusco, unanimously passed nominating Kevin Bellows as Vice Chairman.

Setting Meeting Dates for 2017

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrs. Walsh, to adopt the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. as the regular meeting dates for the Parks and Recreation Commission for 2017, with meetings being held the third Monday of the month, or a date to be determined, if the regular meeting date falls on a holiday or must necessarily be rescheduled.

Discussion:

Mr. Lipinski questioned if we should consider skipping the month of August as some boards do as this is a typical vacation time with light attendance at meetings.

Chairman explained that this has been discussed in the past and decided that there could be a facilities or sports involved issue which may need to be discussed during the summer season, and we should continue our monthly meetings to accommodate immediate needs.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

MOTION by Mrs. Walsh, second Dr. Bellows, and passed (Mr. Lipinski abstained) to accept the Minutes of the November 14, 2016 Minutes as distributed.

Babe Ruth Tournament Request:

Discussion:

- We should review previous tournament request to determine what was proposed and approved.
- Responsibility for grading and lining the field needs to be paid by Babe Ruth Vendor outside of the normal THS field contract.
 - Director noted:
 - The regular contract for the Vendor who works on the High School Field (whoever that is at the time of the tournament) will not cover the tournament and, Babe Ruth would be subject to additional service charges for the tournament. They will pay to have ‘on-call services’ there to manicure the field between the games, have a rain delay tarp put on the field, groom the field, etc. This will be a part of the arrangements.
 - THS Athletic Director, American Legion and Sr. City Leagues have been made aware of this tournament request. We need to make sure this doesn’t ‘displace’ them.
- July is tournament time for American Legion and that could be important to them.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mrs. Walsh, that we accept the request from Trumbull Babe Ruth to host the 14 year old Regional Tournament from Friday, July 21, 2017 through Friday, July 28, 2017 based on the current at the time of tournament contracted grounds company expense for field maintenance be covered by the Babe Ruth League with coordination and planning with other field users necessary to be overseen by the Parks and Recreation Director.

Discussion on motion:

- Take this request up in January because it is setting a precedent for any other group that comes in early before the new season's request. Policy is that we only take up for the current season.
- Babe Ruth applied in September two years ago, in advance of season request, which sets a precedent for special events which take time to plan.
- This is a special event outside our normal cycle of groups coming-in for annual field scheduling in February.
- American Legion League would, as well, be putting a tournament together at that time on their home field at THS.
- Approve Babe Ruth request subject to a contingency in place confirming that this approval does not adversely affect American Legion and Sr. City Leagues.

MOTION withdrawn by Mr. Lipinski and Mrs. Walsh.

MOTION by Atty. DeFusco, second by Dr. Bellows, approving Babe Ruth request, in advance of current season based on past policy, to host next season's 14 year old Regional Tournament from Friday, July 21, 2017 through Friday, July 28, 2017 subject to Recreation Director's confirmation that this request does not adversely affect American Legion or Sr. City leagues and requiring that the grounds crew for the tournament be the contracted grounds company at the time of the tournament at Babe Ruth's expense as well as any other expense incurred in connection with the event to be overseen by the Parks and Recreation Director.

Vote: Approval, eight in favor (one no vote by Mr. Martin preferring to wait for confirmation of awareness by other user leagues).

Economic Development Conference

- Mr. Martin reported that it was really well attended and a good forum conducted by Rina Bakalar, Economic Dev. Dir, with the promotion of business in general its focus.
- Parks are an asset not only to the town but residents outside the town.
- Enhance the idea of opening businesses here in the corporate parks.
- Mentioned extending access to Rail Trail beyond Long Hill Green by bringing a sidewalk from the new Long Hill Green area down to the Trail entry (Large cost; further sidewalk grants possible). Very challenging, but could be done.
- Cultural and historic aspects of the town ie. Old Mine Park mines, Abraham Nichols Park, Kaatz Pond, etc.

New Office Manager:

- Beginning this week, Gretchen Schular coming from the Human Resources Department.
- Familiar with the Town, working in Personnel Management.
- She will manage the Office, Personnel, Payroll, Purchasing, Interfacing with IT, as well as supervision the Office-interaction with the public, Revenue Streams and Accounting.
- A Columbia University graduate with Masters Degree.
- Will be assigned Office to left of entrance. Upstairs Conference Room being converted for Program Staff.
- One employee will be assigned to the counter area. Because we are now computerized, residents can be served from all stations in the building, not necessarily at the counter.

Budget:

- Working with staff on general concepts, putting numbers to it.
- Barn at Nichols Park just about completed some interior work still to be done.
- Thought we might hold our May meeting there to showcase the barn.
 - Mr. Martin noted that the historic barn is so beautiful...it's truly a piece of art. Thought about having an opening to the public announcing the barn facility that can be used for different events, functions, picnics, weddings, art show, etc. People need to be aware of this asset. Think the public should know about it, not just by driving by.
 - Chairman gave a brief history on the background of the trust fund funding utilized for the historic barn as: With Route 25 construction, the Town was offered land exchange or funds from the State. We indicated we wanted land exchange and received two houses contiguous with Indian Ledge Park which were deeded to us, put in condition and sold and with the proceeds a capitol trust fund was established from which we created the original Indian Ledge field area, tents at Tashua Pool and other projects as well as the final funds devoted to the historic barn restoration. A small balance could remain from current work which will be used up with finishing work. Erosion problem to the left of the barn will be corrected with the final landscaping, ground cover on bank.

Capitol Plan items:

- Indian Ledge Turf rehabilitation approved. Drainage is good. We will utilize air chunks cushion, turf surface then coconut fiber (replacing rubber which use is controversial). We are only replacing the carpet and will install in July or August so as not to interrupt spring season.
- Drainage and parking lot at Indian Ledge and drainage at Twin Brooks approved.
 - Engineering handling details. All approved in phases engineering, drainage, paving...over period of time.
- First year of four year plan to rehabilitation restroom facilities approved. Plan to improve interiors, roofs, fixtures, lighting, urinals, more energy efficient, easier maintenance.
- The additional artificial turf for THS Varsity Field request was denied with a possibility to re-visit this project once questions concerning the Field Use Policy are reviewed. The Board of Education Athletic Director, Parks and Recreation Director, Parks and Recreation Chairman will review and update the Policy with the Internal Auditor and Matrix take into consideration our relationship with the two private schools use of facilities and reciprocal agreements in writing, review of fee schedule, how to utilize our multiple artificial turf fields when not in demand by the local users so we can generate funds to off-set costs of maintaining and replacing. Drafted revisions and recommendations will be brought to the Commission for their review and final approval. Suggested to present side-by-side with current policy for easier review. On-line Field Use Policy will be removed at this time.

Cooper Surgical – spoke with representative and passed along information on access to Old Mine Park from Corporate Drive.

High School Track worn spot update last meeting – vendor being contacted.

Indian Ledge Playground:

- Old play equipment gone.
- Drainage is being successfully completed. Discovered no drainage whatsoever, standing water uncovered with a plugged drain. Once opened, drainage problem cleared. Doing site work now with early spring installation.

Winter Programs in full swing –

- 900 signed up for basketball.
- Open gyms, karate, kids programs.

Just beginning summer programming.

- Looking at and will be recommending moving all of the swimming programs to Tashua Pool in the mornings with pool closed to the public while instruction taking place. Concurrent with public swim is not conducive to good swim instruction program, too many distractions. Adults will not be allowed on deck during lessons. Kiddy Pool will be incorporated into swim lessons for younger kids. Get comfortable in water, get face wet, then graduate to larger pool. Open pool to public around 11:30 a.m. Very few adults at Tashua Pool in the mornings.

(Mrs. Walsh noted that swimming lessons at the end of day has been very popular, a recent addition to program in the past five years. Director said they are working on how to accommodate that, understand the value from timing standpoint. By consolidating to one location we have the ability to hire solely swim instruction staff.

Sprinkler Park at Beach Park repaired. Authorized purchase of a new pump which was part of our issues.

MOTION to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. by Mr. Moore, second by Atty. DeFusco, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Adm. Asst.

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