

PARK COMMISSION
AUGUST 10, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)
Louann Riccio

Kevin Bellows
Joseph DeSabia

Also,
Recreation Director Mary Markham

Guests:
Joan Dosky, Trumbull United Soccer
Steve Chille, Babe Ruth League
Anthony Vinci, American Legion League
Greg Avery, American Legion League
Paula Passaro, Donna Festa Tournament
Jeff Blueweiss, Little League
Scout Scott Shafer, Troop 67, 5 Friar Lane

As there was not a quorum, Chairman indicated all actions would be by consensus to be ratified at a future meeting.

Joan Dosky, 20 Quaker Lane, President, Trumbull United Soccer:

Presented their fall schedule summary as:

Old Mine	Mondays-Fridays	3:00 to dusk	Practices
Indian Ledge 4	Mondays – Fridays	3:00 to dusk	Practices
Indian Ledge 2 turf	Mondays – Fridays	3:00 to dusk	Practices
Kaechele	Saturdays	2:00 to dusk	Games/Top Soccer
Kaechele	Sundays	All Day	8v8 Games
Indian Ledge 2 turf	Saturdays	12:00 to dusk	Games
Indian Ledge 2 turf	Sundays	10:00 to dusk	Games
1 other large field	Sundays	12:00 to dusk	Games

- They will have approximately 400 soccer players, male and female, this fall...from August to late November.
- This fall they will have 9 teams of boys and girls, ages nine through eleven, who will be playing eight versus eight.
- In older ages, 12 to 14, they have 7 teams.
- They will be continuing the TOP Soccer Program on Saturday afternoons which was begun this past spring. This program offers soccer to children with special needs in Trumbull. They had 30 participants and anticipate having the same number or higher in the fall.

Joan Dosky noted that the league bought and presented benches for Indian Ledge which are now permanently installed. They now lock the goal posts to the fence at end of games so they are not dragged across the field.

Chairman thanked her for her league's good work on behalf of community.

CONSENSUS to hear Steve Chille, 8 Thomas Street, President Trumbull Babe Ruth League:

Requested use of the Unity Park Babe Ruth field, Jane Ryan field and Trumbull High School fields for their fall season. (Noted that use of schools is through the THS Athletic Director) The season begins in September and runs through the end of October. They anticipate a similar registration to last year with approximately 7 teams. They charge \$120 and accommodate all residents between the ages of 13-18 who wish to play.

Mr. Chille went on to express his concern with the new American Legion "Little Legion" travel program which was begun in the spring for ages 9-12 because they are expanding the ages of participants which will pull ages 15/16 better players from the core of the Babe Ruth Program.

There was discussion noting that the Little Legion expansion is the result of parents wanting their children to play in the more competitive games which a travel team provides. It was felt that traditionally Little League and Babe Ruth are recreational form of play and the American Legion teams provided pre-college play.

There is a policy in place between Little League and Little Legion requiring Little League membership in order to register with Little Legion. It was suggested this policy should be instituted with Babe Ruth registration as well for Little Legion play. One of the concerns is that the youngsters only have just so much time to play.

Mr. Chille went on to state that when you have two competing organizations, it doesn't work. Town, Park Commission, Recreation Board have always been fair in their decisions and work together with the user groups.

Mr. Chille stated that he doesn't think it is prudent for Joseph DeSabia (who sits on the American Legion Board) to sit on the Park Commission and is asking him to resign from the Park Commission as he has a gigantic conflict of interest. He questioned if American Legion provides insurance certificate and financials as other leagues do.

Anthony Vinci, Long Meadow Road, American Legion, in attendance was invited to address this concern.

He reviewed the beginning of the Little Legion Travel Team from last spring. They had requests from parents for a more competitive program. They worked closely with Little League and arrived at a policy to require membership on Little League in order to register for Little Legion.

They are once again requesting use of the Long Hill Adm. Field and perhaps the Spring Hill Field as well as Trumbull High School (which is scheduled through Mr. Herbst). They will have 12 teams for the fall program. They will have 70/80 players. They think their travel program is best because the "for profit" teams would otherwise pull the players from Trumbull. Little Legion keeps the players in town.

Chairman asked Mr. Chille if we can arrive at a compromise to registering players for both leagues, much like Little League's arrangement...mesh the programs to avoid conflicts.

All nodded agreement to make an effort. Strength of the leagues are the quality of players...with only so many to go around. Scheduling the older players is more difficult because they are continually playing...Babe Ruth, High School and Travel Teams.

Chairman asked Jeff Blueweiss, Little League Chairman, who was in attendance, to assist in resolving the issues being raised. It was agreed that a meeting with up to three representatives each from Little League, Babe Ruth League and American Legion League be set to work on a compromise to the problem of team registrations.

CONSENSUS to hear Scout Scott Shafer, Troop 67, 5 Friar Lane, Eagle Project, Beach Park Scout Land:

Scott appeared at the April meeting to explained his proposed Eagle Project to re-build the chapel at Scout Land. The chapel was built by his troop 15 years ago and is pretty destroyed. His plans include log seating and podium at the front. Materials needed would be logs and wood. At that time the Superintendent suggested he come back with a more-detailed plan and scope of the project because it is a pretty big undertaking with material needs. He came with a detailed proposal to complete his project.

Chairman questioned if he would have adult scout leaders or parents to assist with the project in a more-leadership role than in the past as the Park Department is unable to take on this additional supervision for the many eagle projects within the park system. He indicated that his father as a 15 year scout leader, as well as other troop parents, would be involved in the project.

Paula Passero, 47 Quail Trail, on behalf of the Donna Festa Softball Tournament Fundraiser with Jeff Blueweiss, Trumbull Little League President:

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This is a Trumbull Little League sponsored event. They request permission to host the Second Annual Fundraiser in memory of Donna Festa beginning Friday evening, September 4th, at Indian Ledge Field with two games and Unity 2 & 4, and on Saturday, September 5th at Unity #1,2,3,4,5 all day for girls softball. They request no changes to the mounds or fields except for the grass to be cut. They will groom and line fields after every game. They will pick-up all trash and provide a dumpster in the parking lot at the end of Unity #4, near Unity #2. They will provide paper supplies for the lavatories as well as hand soap. Lavatories will be cleaned and re-stocked. Funds raised will be dedicated for a Little League project. If Little League is unable to operate the concession stands, they will contract for food vending. Use of the lower level picnic area is requested.

Mr. Blueweiss indicated that Trumbull Little League have voted to sponsor the Donna Festa Softball Tournament. He commented on their great staffing. The Unity Field Complex was immaculate following their event last year. He suggested they have a Ranger on duty that day because the event will be bringing a large number of out-of-towners who may not be familiar with the traffic pattern of the park. (Ranger shifts would be 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday at Unity Park to be funded by the Donna Festa Tournament) He indicated there would be a good presence from the Little League Board at the event.

Chairman questioned the charge per team. \$400 and Insurance Certificates provided in order to play.

Further discussion on the resolution of the issues raised between Babe Ruth and Legion Leagues:

Chairman felt we should sit down with representatives from all three leagues...some will be a little happy and some a little unhappy. If every one does what is best for the kids, it can work. Everyone will have to give a bit.

Mr. Blueweiss said with Little League the effort was there, they communicated and cooperated better after they got together.

Mr. DeSabia commented that he has worked with these groups for many years. The problem has been that parents want a better program and better coaches. They don't want a recreation league...they want a better competition program. If you don't have a fall program, you won't get the players in the spring. The current registration has taken 15 players out of 102 who play Babe Ruth. American Legion is one of the oldest amateur programs committed to getting kids into college ball. The for-profit travel programs will take players from the town leagues. Little Legion will keep them in town.

Dr. Bellows commented that Mr. DeSabia has always recused himself when a vote concerning the American Legion League was taken.

Chairman indicated we must be responsible to the residents of the community, look at the long-range picture, compromise with what is best for the town. Getting together is the way to resolve this issue, and he encourages the meeting be set.

Jeff Blueweiss commented on Saturday, August 8th, Reunion of the Little League World Champions which took place at Unity Park as being a terrific event. They had 14 of the 15 original players...now 32 years old. The event benefited the Challenger Program. They involved current Little League players in the events. Unity Park looked like "little Yankee Stadium". Chris Drury, most famous of the players, was there and gave many, many signatures.

Chairman thanked Little League for their time and effort to host this reunion event.

Mr. DeSabia commented that the American Legion Teams for the most part play at Trumbull High School. They train 15 and 16 year olds to get into college play. They play 26/30 games in 5 weeks with American Legion, April through August, then again in the fall. It's \$450 to play with Little Legion. Insurance Certificate and financials are available and up-to-date for town review. At Trumbull High School there is a \$25 fee for Try Out and \$100 to play.

Recreation Director noted that with regard to Little Legion's request for use of the Spring Hill field, that field is currently set-up and scheduled for Lacrosse play.

CONSENSUS to approve the minutes of the July meeting as distributed with ratification at a future meeting.

CONSENSUS to approve Trumbull United Soccer's fall schedule.

CONSENSUS to approve Scout Scott Shafer's Eagle Project, to re-build the chapel at Scout Land in Beach Memorial Park conditioned upon assist with supervision from adult scout leaders and parents as he and Troop 67 complete the project.

CONSENSUS to approve the Trumbull Little League sponsored Donna Festa Softball Tournament September 4, 5, 6 with play at Indian Ledge Ball Field and Unity 2 & 4 Friday night, September 5th and full use of Unity fields 1,2,3,4 & 5 on Saturday and Sunday and conditioned upon having a Ranger on duty at Unity Park all day Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for traffic control to be paid by the Donna Festa Softball Tournament.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Greater Bpt. Regional Planning Agency – Rail Trail Status Report

Joseph Pleva – Skate Board Park request.

Darlene Ference – Early-Morning Noise Complaint BMX Nationals. (BMX Board to be placed on copy indicating Noise Ordinance requirements for Saturdays and Sundays.)

Eagle Scout Projects:

Clerk spoke with John Ralbousky of the CT Yankee Boy Scout Council with regard to having more Troop adult supervision for Eagle Scout Projects within the park system. He indicated to her that they are aware of this need and will get a message out to the troops through the Boy Scout Council.

CONSENSUS to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Adm. Asst.

**PARK COMMISSION
ACTIONS
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