

PARK COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 14, 2009

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

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)  
Joseph DeSabia

Kevin Bellows  
Louann Riccio

Also,  
Mary Markham, Recreation Director

Guests:

Joe Forren, 6 Scott Lane, Trumbull Little Legion  
Steve Chille, 11 Thomas Street, Trumbull Babe Ruth President

As there was not a quorum present, Chairman stated that all actions will be by consensus vote.

Public Comments:

Joe Forren, on behalf of Trumbull Little Legion:

He stated that Little Legion are not part of Trumbull Little League but are supported by and working in association with Little League to ensure there are no conflicts with practices and games for those players playing in both programs.

He noted he has requested use of the regulation size baseball field at Trumbull High School during the months of May through August, 2010 for their summer season.

He is requesting use of the parks system Little League / Softball fields during the months of March through July for their Spring/Summer season. Specifically, they would like use of Spring Hill 7 days a week and the use of Indian Ledge field Friday nights, Saturdays all day and Sundays after 1:00 p.m. Since they start play earlier than Little League, they need to provide their schedules by February 15<sup>th</sup> for their three younger teams on those two fields.

They anticipate practice two to three times a week before regular season games and two times a week once season starts. They expect approximately 10 home games will be played per team (30). If possible they would also like to request some of the games be played with the use of lights. All three teams comprise Trumbull residents between the ages of 9 and 12 years old.

In addition, they would like use of both regulation size baseball fields and Little League/Softball fields for their fall season.

Upon question he stated they would submit their financial statement and provide the necessary insurance certificate.

Chairman questioned if they had resolved their problems involving players with the Babe Ruth League. He said they have met with Little League and Babe Ruth representatives, but have not resolved all the issues. The younger players are required to play with Little League as well as Little Legion. They have more difficulty scheduling the older players compatibly. There was discussion on the possibility of Babe Ruth League giving up one team.

Chairman indicated that they need to resolve their issues before we move forward with scheduling field space. All the groups should get together once again. All groups who want to utilize facilities must come to this Commission for permission to have the Recreation Department schedule their play.

Mr. Forren said that his League would be happy to take Jane Ryan field, which is in bad condition, and utilize that location for practices.

Steve Chille, on behalf of Trumbull Babe Ruth:

Mr. Chille presented Babe Ruth's spring scheduling proposal as well as Financial Information. Babe Ruth runs a no-cut program for all Trumbull male residents ages 13-18. This program has been in existence for over 50 years. They register approximately 210 players, 5 teams in 13 year old division, 7 teams in 14/15 division and 3 teams in 16-18 division. Registration fee is \$265 for this program. The fee for the Travel Program is \$500.

He indicated that they met several times with representatives from Little League and Little Legion, but following discussions, deliberations fell apart, and Babe Ruth decided to stay as the League has been from its beginning.

They utilize Unity, Madison Middle, Jane Ryan and Trumbull High School. They have worked out their schedule to have very little conflicts between the recreation league and the travel and all-star programs. They are asking for fields early so they can ensure that they have the same flexibility as in the past.

They are planning to install the batting cage discussed in the past this season.

Chairman thanked both league representatives for their attendance indicating that once all league requests are received, approvals and scheduling will take place. We will request all other leagues get their information in to us as quickly as possible to facilitate this process.

CONSENSUS to return to the order of the Agenda.

CONSENSUS to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2009 meeting as distributed.

Election of Officers and Setting of 2010 meeting dates:

As there was not a quorum present the Election of Officers and setting of meeting dates was deferred to the January, 2010, meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

- Fully winterized restrooms and irrigation systems throughout the Park system.
- Brought in trees and decorated Gazebo for Town Hall Green Holiday Lighting Ceremony.
- Drainage material all in-ground installed, tied-in and trenches back-filled at Indian Ledge I.
- Final grading and seeding in the spring once ground settles over the winter months.

- Continuing to reduce labor assignments in season by establishing “no-mow” zones with bulb plantings.
- Areas completed: Twin Brooks Heron Pond, Twin Brooks Play Scape Area, Memorial Walkway, Island Brook Park moved cherry trees to an area behind the pond due to drainage issued and re-established with bulb plantings. These planting areas will save labor, trimming and mowing assignments.
- Leaf Collection completed throughout the parks system including ball fields, play fields, etc. Town-wide collection continues through the winter season into March. We release 20 percent of our work-crew to Highway during the leaf collection months which takes labor away from capitol projects.
- We have experienced heavy dumping at the end of Manor Drive (25 connector side of Island Brook Park). Tried multiple ways to discourage the dumping. We now have a full crew in there dredging and transporting the debris out of the park. A permanent gate will be installed to close-off the access.
- We will have an increase in Pay Phone service from \$50 each to \$100 each. We have five (5) pay-phones throughout the system:
  - Two (2) at Beach Park,
  - One (1) at Island Brook,
  - One (1) at Twin Brooks; and
  - One (1) at Indian Ledge Park.
- Need for pay-phones to be discussed.
- Budget: Concerned that we protect our labor force numbers. A “true” zero-base budget will reduce labor force unless we can conserve through other concessions.
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- Budget: Noted that it is critical to park system operations that we maintain our current labor force without which basic responsibilities will be curtailed. Aggressive labor negotiations may be required if a zero-budget is mandated.

Commissioners questioned whether pay-phones are in working condition. If so, a budget increase from \$250 to \$500 is not great when emergency need is taken into consideration. There are still times when an individual may not have a cell phone available for use.

Chairman indicated we will get a letter out to field users asking they get their detailed requests for field use in as quickly as possible, even though they may not have all their final registration numbers available, in order to facilitate initial scheduling of fields as early as possible.

CONSENSUS to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe  
Clerical Administrative Assistant

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ACTIONS

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