

PARK COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 11, 2008

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

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)
Louann Riccio
Tracy Vonick

Kevin Bellows
John Scippa
Joseph DeSabia

Also,
Park Superintendent Dmitri Paris
Rec. Director Mary Markham

Guests,
Robert Wright, Trumbull United Soccer
Jeff Topolski, BMX Track
Rick Bushnell, AYSO
Steve Chille, Trumbull Babe Ruth
Mike and Dana Paoletto, Bee Keepers
Ralph Ciocci, 72 Shawnee Road, Gereman Shepherd Dog Club

Public Comments:

Chairman invited presentations by guests.

Robert Wright, 78 Red Barn Road, for Trumbull United Soccer:

Received copies of our adopted policies. Submitted their schedule request for the upcoming season, noting they will work cooperatively with AYSO on scheduling needs. Questioned if we are requiring State Police Background reports or FBI reports. He was referred to Liz Smith, the First Selectman's Administrative Assistant, who set-up the program with our Police Department.

Jeff Topolski, 79 Stonehouse Road, with
Todd Zeigher, 30 Heavenly Lane for BMX Track:

Jeff noted that he will be stepping down as point person for BMX this coming season. He introduced Todd Zeigher who will now be involved with the racing group. He submitted their racing schedule for 2008, noting that there will not be a National Race request this year. Trumbull does have racers who will be racing in the Olympics this year. They are very proud of being selected as second in the country three years in a row for local race track accomplishments. Once their financials are completed, they will submit them for review.

Chairman noted that the request for financial statements is to accomplish fiscal transparency of groups using municipal facilities.

Rick Bushnell, 29 Camelot Drive, AYSO:

Received our policies. Indicated that they do not do tax returns locally, these are done nationally by the soccer association. They did submit a copy of their budget for the new season to the Recreation Director. Financial person: Sharon Pelloquin, Tower View Road, 268-3186. AYSO National performs background checks for them. Names submitted to California and they may be a little more strict than we are locally. Their field request is once again for Saturday mornings, Trumbull United is scheduled for Saturday afternoons and Sundays. They coordinate scheduling together.

Chairman noted that we have a second request to the Fire Marshal on the status of the flooring damage to the building at Kaechele Field. Mr. Bushnell commented that they have gotten a moisture report on the flooring material...5 gallons of water did not impact on the strength of the flooring. Ceiling still needs to be replaced. Once entry is reinstated, 2nd floor needs to be remediated before they get occupancy. Superintendent will follow-up with Fire Marshal.

Ralph Ciocci, 72 Shawnee Road, for Linda Ciocci – German Shepherd Dog Club of Gr. New Haven, Inc.:

The Club requests permission to hold its Annual events at Old Mine Park as in the past, August 10, 2008 upper level pavilion and picnic area for the Club Picnic, Sunday August 31, 2008 and Saturday, October 11, 2008 lower level Pavilion and field for their Match/AKC Dog Shows.

Chairman commented that this is their third/fourth year and we have not had any problems in the past.

Steve Chilli, 11 Thomas Street, for Trumbull Babe Ruth League:

Submitted a proposal from M&M Fence & Wire Works for the installation to furnish and install one 10 foot high #9 gage galvanized chain link batting cage 16 ft wide by 80 feet long, including a chain link roof. This includes one swing gate, 4 feet wide by 7 feet high. K All corner and gate posts to be 2 ½" O.D. SS-40 pipe and all other posts 2 ½" O.D. SS-40 pipe. All fence to have 1 5/8" O.D. top and bottom rail and a truss type top brace between line posts for roof. Grading of area to be done by others. He did check the THS cage to make his determinations of needs. Feels that perhaps 80 feet long is too long, but that they might need the cage to be deeper. Superintendent will meet with Mr. Chilli and stake out the size desired so the Commissioners can get a better understanding of its size and location. Some issues to be addressed would include specifications for:

- 1) curtain drain
- 2) pole depths
- 3) stone dust base,
type of material to hold stone dust in place.

Superintendent also commented on the retaining wall. It doesn't need to be highly decorative, just structurally sound. They will need a curtain drain beneath.

Chairman noted we will run the proposal, once finalized, by our Engineering Department for a stamp of approval. He said that there is a prescribed depth for the posts.

He also submitted a Certificate of Insurance for Babe Ruth noting that their coverage is a National Coverage of \$1,000,000/\$2,000,000 rather than our requested \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000. He questioned if these amounts need to be increased to meet our policy requirements? (We will check with the Town Attorney if the \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000 is firm.)

Babe Ruth is anxious to bring water into its concession stand. The tank is not excessive in cost, hooking up more a job...need a hole dug and hook-up.

Babe Ruth requests permission to hold a "one-day camp" during April vacation, Unity or Madison. Would like the artificial field but feel it might be already scheduled for soccer. Superintendent and Recreation Director told him to give the date and time along with his season fields request and something will be worked in for them.

Mike and Dana Paoletto, Bee Keepers, 34 Candlewood Road:

They are residents of Trumbull and are hobby bee keepers for over 3 years. They currently manage four hives, two in Trumbull and two in Woodbridge. They would be interested in moving the two from Woodbridge closer to home and inquired about placing them at Woods Estate near the orchard. He mentioned that there is currently a blight attacking the bees and they are very beneficial to pollinating. Their idea is to start with two hives, evaluate at the end of the season, and then determine if more hives are needed or wanted. They would be fully responsible for the management of their hives, would post signs and fence around them, with two gates. They would also be willing to work with the Park Ranger in conjunction with their environmental programs he would like to conduct. It would be also nice to have an observation hive for children to view. He mentioned they eat sumac berries and if approved could they be harvested from park areas? Superintendent thought, in the event of approval, this could be arranged.

Superintendent and several Commissioners all expressed a positive feeling about the value of having controlled bee hives in the area of the orchard. Some concern was expressed about the fact that we have community garden plots in that location as well, with residents out there caring for their gardens. He said that honey bees rarely attack people, unless approached, they are busy going about their work. Honey Bees know once they sting, they die. They are not like wasp or hornets.

We do have some neighborhood children who could cross through the park, and there was some questions asked about the safety of the hives. The Paoletto's were thinking of a low fence which they would be willing to install; the Park Superintendent thought we would need a higher page-type fence (he has used fencing material available). Chairman questioned if they would provide liability insurance. He indicated it was not their intention to provide insurance or a hold harmless agreement. Theirs' is a hobby, not a business. They felt there is no way to know if a bee sting comes from their bees or another. He provided a copy of a Standard Bee Contract for our information. The Town Attorney advised in considering requests for permission to use facilities, the Commission should be consistent with past decisions.

MOTION by Mr. Scippa, second Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to have the Chairman discuss with the Town Attorney the implications of this Commission giving permission to a Town Resident to keep honey bee hives within the park system and what liability would incur for the Town and the Commission if approved. Request to be considered following Town Attorney's recommendation.

MOTION BY Mr. Scippa, second by Mr. Vonick, unanimously passed to close Public Comments.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrs. Riccio, unanimously passed to accept the minutes of the January meeting as distributed.

MOTION by Mrs. Riccio, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed approving use of Old Mine Park by the German Shepherd_Dog Club of Gr. New Haven, Inc for its Annual events, August 10, 2008 upper level pavilion and picnic area for the Club Picnic, Sunday August 31, 2008 and Saturday, October 11, 2008 lower level Pavilion and field for their Match/AKC Dog Shows, with scheduling through the Recreation Department.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Chairman indicated that he and the Superintendent will attend the Board of Finance meeting scheduled for February 13th in support of our request for a Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$5,500 to cover the cost to purchase 2-Year Vehicle Identification Stickers and distribution. \$4,000 for stickers, \$1,500 for part-time labor distribution.
- Classic Turf request for payment. Upon the recommendation of the Town Attorney, we should not release balance of payment due until remediation of the project is completed.

MOTION by Mrs. Riccio, second by Mr. DeSabia, unanimously passed to hold balance due Classic Turf Company until such time as remediation of the tennis courts has taken place.

BUDGET REVIEW:

The First Selectman's recommendation to the Board of Finance includes one vehicle but removes the 2 positions requested. Chairman and Superintendent will suggest that if we can't fund the technical assistant position as requested, we fund at a much lesser rate into a current position to cover the need for technical assistance within the Park Department.

Mr. Scippa suggested we prepare a Position Statement to be submitted to the Board of Finance to support our budget request.

Twin Brooks Park:

Dr. Bellows requested several signs be posted instructing dog owners to pick-up after their dogs.

Superintendent's Report:

- Met with Donald Watson, a neighbor to Twin Brooks Park, as the Department was cleaning up the pond buffer of brush and rambling bittersweet vines.
- Equipment being repaired during the cold spell.
- Fabricated an old plow to fit our Bob Cat which will now be utilized for sidewalk clearing.

CONSENSUS to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Administrative Asst.

**PARK COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 11, 2008
MOTIONS**

MOTION by Mr. Scippa, second Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to have the Chairman discuss with the Town Attorney the implications of this Commission giving permission to a Town Resident to keep honey bee hives within the park system and what liability would incur for the Town and the Commission if approved. Request to be considered following Town Attorney's recommendation.

MOTION BY Mr. Scippa, second by Mr. Vonick, unanimously passed to close Public Comments.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrs. Riccio, unanimously passed to accept the minutes of the January meeting as distributed.

MOTION by Mrs. Riccio, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed approving use of Old Mine Park by the German Shepherd_Dog Club of Gr. New Haven, Inc for its Annual events, August 10, 2008 upper level pavilion and picnic area for the Club Picnic, Sunday August 31, 2008 and Saturday, October 11, 2008 lower level Pavilion and field for their Match/AKC Dog Shows, with scheduling through the Recreation Department.

MOTION by Mrs. Riccio, second by Mr. DeSabia, unanimously passed to hold balance due Classic Turf Company until such time as remediation of the tennis courts has taken place.

CONSENSUS to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.