

PARK COMMISSION

March 17, 2008

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

Robert Ferrigno, Presiding	Louann Riccio
Kevin Bellows	Anthony Chmielewski
John Scippa	Joseph DeSabia

Also,
Park Superintendent Dmitri Paris
Recreation Director Mary Markham

Guests:

Suzanne Testani, 50 Cranbury Drive

Ken Martin, 1676 Huntington Tpke with Scout Umang Gangwar

Monica Leggett, 50 Mohegan Road, Shelton, on behalf of Trumbull Community Women's Club

Kevin Prior, Facility Manager, United Healthcare, 48 Monroe Turnpike, Trumbull

Mark Gagnon, French Town Fathers' Club

Public Comments:

Suzanne Testani, 50 Cranbury Drive:

Explained that she recently had occasion to speak with retired Park Superintendent Gilbert Standley who reminisced about his many years with the Park Department. He indicated that the Commission had previously discussed placing a plaque in his honor at the Abraham Nichols Park orchard which he had developed and was particularly fond but which has not as yet taken place. She came on his behalf to request that the Commission proceed to place the plaque as discussed. The Commission did discuss placing such a sign or plaque within the park system and the orchard was one consideration. The most appropriate location for such an honor was never settled upon.

Mr. Ferrigno indicated that the Commission would take her reminder request into consideration.

Ken Martin, 1676 Huntington Tpke with Scout Umang Gangwar:

Mr. Martin introduced Scout Umang Gangwar indicating that he and his troop completed a restoration of the NIA Gazebo and he now wished to complete his Eagle Scout project at the Abraham Nichols Park. Umang proposed renovations to the grounds cottage which is in need of painting and exterior repairs to the windows (screens with metal cages). The whole troop works on the project under the direction of the Eagle candidate. He is age 16. Boy Scout insurance is provided.

Superintendent indicated that, in fact, windows had been vandalized and boarded over. He and Chief Park Ranger Hawley will be pleased to meet with him at the site to determine the details for an Eagle Scout project at that location.

Monica Leggett, 50 Mohegan Road, Shelton, on behalf of Trumbull Community Women's Club:

They are planning their Annual Tidy Up Trumbull events for the week of April 20-26 and wish to organize projects in some of the parks. She will be meeting with the Superintendent to develop the areas to be worked. They will have as many as 50 volunteers throughout the week including scouts, and now District 7 representatives have expressed an interest to join with them. They will reserve the Gazebo at Twin Brooks Park for their celebration at the end of the week.

Kevin Prior, Facility Manager, United Healthcare, 48 Monroe Turnpike, Trumbull:

United Healthcare is considering enhancing their current property by adding a walking/jogging trail through its property. They would like as well to determine the feasibility of creating an access way through the connecting properties to Old Mine Park entrance roadway. He provided a map designating the proposed walk trail down from their building to the beginning of Old Mine Park Road. He has met with the Town Engineer to determine the ownership of the roadway buffer property, whether theirs, the State's or the Town's. They are looking to achieve preliminary approval from the Town of Trumbull with the understanding that United Healthcare will provide all relevant data received from such above entities before engaging in any formal permits to begin. Their 1100 employees are encouraged to exercise and many regularly walk/jog during their break times through Old Mine Park. They currently access the park roadway by going down Route 111. This path would give them a safer entrance to the park.

Mark Gagnon, French Town Fathers' Club:

They would like to conduct a catch and release Fishing Derby at preferably Twin Brooks Park this spring, perhaps April 26th 27th in the afternoon. They are aware that the scouts have made a similar request and Kaatz Pond was recommended. The Commission reiterated that during the Fishing Season opening weeks, Twin Brooks is very active and Kaatz would be better suited to a Fishing Derby event. They questioned if they could access the fishing area prior to season opening. This was not felt to be something that could be done for one group and fishing season is determined by the State of their stocked areas. On the recommendation of the Commission, they will check Kaatz Pond and take out the appropriate permit with the Recreation Department for the most suitable date and time. They will return with a request to conduct a Walk-A-Thon later in the season.

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to close public comments.

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed approving the minutes of the February meeting.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Scippa, unanimously passed to give preliminary approval to United Healthcare to access Old Mine Park from their property to facilitate employees wishing to walk/jog to the park during break times with access right-of-way to be determined by the Town Engineering Department.

MOTION by Mr. DeSabia, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve request by the A.V. Napolitano Veterans Post 141 for permission to sponsor a Fishing Derby for young boys and girls ages 12 years and under (rain or shine) on Saturday, May 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MOTION by Jr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Scippa, unanimously passed to add Frenchtown Fathers' Club request to the Agenda.

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Scippa, unanimously passed to approve request by the Frenchtown Fathers' Club to hold a Fishing Derby event at the Kaatz Pond with date and time to be determined and scheduled through the Recreation Department.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. DeSabia, unanimously approving the Trumbull Women's Club request to conduct their Annual Tidy-Up Trumbull event for the week of April 20-26 in conjunction with advice of the Park Superintendent.

MOTION by Mrs. Riccio, second by Mr. Scippa, unanimously passed to add Eagle Scout Request to Agenda.

MOTION by Mr. DeSabia, second by Mr. Scippa, unanimously approved to allow Scout Umang Gangwar conduct his Eagle Scout project at the Abraham Nichols Park by accomplishing renovations to the grounds cottage which is in need of painting and exterior repairs to the windows (screens with metal cages) to be determined by the Superintendent with oversight by Chief Park Ranger.

MOTION by Mr. Riccio, second by Dr. Bellows and unanimously approved to agree in principle with placing a sign or plaque at the Abraham Nichols Park orchard in honor of retired Park Superintendent Gilbert Standley, with Superintendent and Clerk to determine an appropriate narrative and cost to be considered by the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman and Superintendent attended the Board of Finance Meeting on the Park Commission Budget request. The Budget Request has been cut by \$40,884; however, because of contractual, utilities and supplies increases the decrease has a greater impact. All Town departments are responding to the current economic climate and increased tax implications. The Superintendent will review his program to determine those reductions in service which will have the least impact to the residents.

Mr. Scippa noted that at the Public Hearing on the Budget, residents voiced great concerns including whether we have considered charging for recreational facilities. We have not; however, it was agreed that we must enforce our policies so that we do not take any funding out of our working departmental budget to provide for outside events.

Chairman and Superintendent will contact the new Little League Board to determine the upcoming season facilities and fields needs. They are a new board and what responsibilities they are undertaking must be determined. Our department will initially prepare fields as in the past. In the past, they have supplied the clay and turface replacement, daily grooming and maintenance before games throughout the season. We need a procedure in place for field maintenance. Mr. Scippa will contact the new President in this regard.

Irish Festival:

There was a meeting with Feile, the First Selectman, EMS, Police, Fire and Parks on this coming Irish Festival being planned for June, 2008. Feile is of the opinion that this is the third year of our previous determination to allow them a three-year understanding of approval to host their event at Indian Ledge Park.

The consensus of those present was that community events are great family occasions but its concern is that to achieve outside events it is necessary for the Park Department to take time from regular maintenance duties and shoulder silent subsidies. The new fee system was agreed upon taking these departmental costs into consideration. The intent is that outside non-town sponsored events should be completely self-funded.

MOTION by Mr. Scippa, second by Mr. DeSabia and Mrs. Riccio, unanimously passed that we need an acceptable formula to make the Feile event, as well as any other event, proposal work and that due to fiscal restraints we face as a community, we need to ensure that every event pays for itself, ie. post season ball league tournaments as well as large regional events and that we want our established fees in place for all events.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Department now back working on fields.
- Finishing up current rail trail project.
- Currently repairing Gazebo planter, bringing in new plants.

Dr. Bellows noted that someone mentioned there is a brown foam near the Heron pond. Superintendent will check condition.

Chairman heard from Town Attorney and Insurance Carrier on our consideration of giving permission for a resident to install and care for two Bee Boxes at Abraham Nichols Park. The proposal was checked and they do not recommend approval.

Dr. Bellows questioned...Must residents belong to the Radio Control Club in order to fly motorized model plans? Response, that is the current policy.

MOTION to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. by Mr. DeSabia, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Administrative Asst.

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