

PARK COMMISSION
MAY 19, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the Park Commission was held at 7:30 in the Town Hall with the following present:

Robert Ferrigno, Presiding	Joseph DeSabia
Kevin Bellows	Tracey Vonick
Anthony Chmielewski	Louann Riccio
Gene Cellini	

Also,
Park Superintendent Dmitri Paris
Recreation Director Mary Markham

Guests,
Joseph Lorenti, 30 Meadowview Drive, Archery Request
Donna Watson, 16 Valley View Road, Trumbull Lacrosse
Barbara Jenkins, 63 Skyview Drive, Trumbull Animal Group
Steve Chilli, 11 Thomas Street, Trumbull Babe Ruth
Chris Bowden, 38 Regina Street, Trumbull Babe Ruth

Chairman opened meeting for Public Comments.

MOTION by Mr. DeSabia, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to add request of Joseph Lorenti to the Agenda.

Joseph Lorenti, 30 Meadowview Drive, on behalf of his two daughters Brittany and Allison, who are champion archers, using park facilities, primarily at Indian Ledge Park, for archery practice since 2004:

Mr. Lorenti is requesting for continued use of a specific field at Indian Ledge Park (I.L. 4, lower level) as an archery practice field for the two girls. He reviewed their several championship titles and the fact that they are currently practicing for this summers competitions. They would like to practice 7 days a week at random hours. They are highly skilled, shoot in an isolated area away from pedestrian traffic in the park. He distributed copies of Archer Spotlight magazine with an article focused on Allison and Brittany who are champion archers preparing for summer competitions.

Chairman referred to the Commission's 2004 approval to use a designated location at the Compost Area of Indian Ledge for practice with a designated time period of approximately two hours four days per week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. during the months of April, May and June.

Mr. Lorenti said the compost area was high and with too much wind for the practice. The area at the base of the hill is more protected. They also practiced at the Nature Center for a period of time before it became more active. He indicated that as always all safety precautions will be taken and all activity stopped if there is an approach by anyone for any direction. He feels that having this practice availability has added to their perfecting their skill for these elite competitions. Since using our facilities they have earned 11 championships and world titles. They never miss their target. They are currently preparing to represent the United States at the Olympics and world championships.

Chairman asked for times and dates of planned practice.

Mr. Lorenti said they would like flex time for at least two hours a day. Both shoot concurrently, not at separate times. They never leave any litter or gates open. Both he and his wife are level 2 instructors, and one parent will always be present.

Chairman thanked him for his presentation.

Donna Watson, 16 Valley View Road, for Youth Lacross:

They have arranged for a picnic at Unity Park, June 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They would like to provide a "Rock Wall" unit from Read Amusements and, perhaps, a Dunk Tank. They have provided their Insurance Certificate and Read Amusement would provide their \$1 million policy additionally listing Trumbull Youth Lacrosse and Town of Trumbull. The wall is 24 feet high. Two attendants stay with the wall at all times. TYL will have a food caterer with nothing for sale.

Superintendent questioned how they would get water to the tank and where would it be discharged. In discussing this issue, she said they hadn't committed to the idea of the dunk tank and felt they would withdraw that portion of the request.

Barbara Jenkins, 63 Skyview Drive, Trumbull Animal Group:

MOTION by Mr. DeSabia, second by Mr. Vonick, unanimously passed to add request of Trumbull Animal Group to the Agenda.

The Trumbull Animal Group was contacted by Best Friends in Norwalk, a large Kennel, Grooming and Day Care Facility to offer help with an adoption event. TAG is requesting use of Twin Brooks Park, July 19, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cats would be in cages, dogs would be up to date on shots and each would have a handler. Trumbull Animal Group has insurance for such events. They would like to sell hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, water and soda as a fund raiser. Funds raised would go toward medical expenses of the Trumbull Animal Shelter.

Mr. Vonick questioned if Best Friends would be bringing in animals too. She answered, "No".

Commission suggested use of Old Mine Park as it has two pavilions and a much larger parking area for staging as well as a large open field area. Chairman explained that we have limited use of the pavilion facilities at Twin Brooks resulting from an earlier commitment with the neighbors of the park. He said a Health Permit will be required for selling food.

Barbara Jenkins mentioned one other issue, that of our getting up signs mentioning our requirement to pick-up after dogs and the fine of \$90 for not obeying that ordinance. There are many off-leash dogs in the parks as well. She felt we should also consider plastic bags and containers for depositing animal droppings.

Steve Chille and Chris Bowden, Trumbull Babe Ruth League:

Submitted their Tax Information and Certificate of Insurance as required. He indicated that they have completed background checks which will be kept in a confidential location.

Concession Stand: Found that they were not up-to-code. They will be making the necessary upgrades over a period of time.

Their first need is to bring water into the facility. They have identified the water line (behind home plate) and will be attempting to get the line connected to the concession stand from the field area and then repair the field within the next to weeks to meet their opening date. They need to open a wall to take a three-sink stainless steel unit and a mop sink inside the stand. The Health Director will give them a temporary permit once they get the water and sinks in to get through the season. As long as they have water, they can grill outside the building. They will complete the suppression system (\$8,000) after the season in the fall. They are working with the Fire Marshal to meet requirements in this regard.

The second phase will be connecting to the sewer line (300') to remove the gray water. This is being arranged through the Public Works/Sewer Department now.

Superintendent suggested they decide exactly what work is to be done in each phase, who's doing the work, getting the plans for code compliance completed defining scope of work and cost. He said they should consider their options...selling pre-packaged foods if they are not ready for grilling.

Mr. Chmielewski reiterated, they should take one phase at a time, complete it and move on to the next.

They have discussed putting in a batting cage (\$13,000). They will hold-off until the concession stand upgrades are completed. Still not certain where to locate a cage. Superintendent suggested an area which they will look at (near the stone wall, slightly wooded area...need 20' x 75'.

Chairman thanked him for his visit.

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Vonick, unanimously passed to close the Public Comments portion of the meeting.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed accepting the minutes of the April meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

TDog Organization

Director of Finance has placed us on copies of correspondence indicating that the organization has dissolved its LLC status and has requested a Special Agency account be set-up through the town to accept funds for ongoing maintenance of the dog park. The understanding of the Commission was that the TDog organization would be treated as any other group utilizing town parks which raise funds, pay their contracts and utilize town facilities by granted permission. The TDog organization is not a subsidiary of the Park Department. The original agreement proposal required they maintain the dog park, the town would clear the site and allow the installation of a fence once funding was accomplished.

MOTION by Mr. DeSabia, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed that the TDog Organization, utilizing a designated site at Indian Ledge Park, reestablish itself as a separate entity under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 c 3 Tax Exempt Status and assume all the responsibilities of the original Park Commission motion including re-establishing a separate account not affiliated with the Town of Trumbull to pay all maintenance and contracted responsibilities.

Archery Practice Request:

Chairman will have the request reviewed by the Town Attorney and Insurance carrier.

If approved, they must schedule practice times with a permit and appropriate insurance certificate through the Recreation Department most probably in the early morning between 7:00 and 8:30 a.m. as there will be a summer youth camp at Indian Ledge Park beginning June 23 through August 15 as well as current soccer league scheduling on Indian Ledge 4 through the season.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Cellini, unanimously passed approving the Trumbull Lacrosse request to have a climbing wall at their picnic at Unity Park, June 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m with scheduling, permit and insurance certificate through the Recreation Department and appropriate insurance certificate provided by Read Amusement.

MOTION by Mr. Cellini, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed approving use of Old Mine Park for The Trumbull Animal Group with Best Friends of Norwalk, to hold an adoption event on July 19, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with scheduling, permit and insurance certificate through the Recreation Department.

MOTION by Mr. DeSabia, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed approving the Babe Ruth League remediation phase plans to bring their concession stand up to code by bringing in the water line from the field area to the concession stand, connect to the sewer easement line for discharge of gray water, and remediation of the athletic field and any disturbed outline areas of the park with signed releases from the Board of Health, Fire Marshal and Building Departments submitted in writing to the Park Commission that all compliance codes have been fulfilled by Babe Ruth along with as-builts.

Recreation Director reported that the Festa Family have decided to use Old Mine Park and Rail Trail for their fall fundraiser.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Cellini, unanimously approving the Daniels Farm Fathers Club request to hold its Annual Campout at Old Mine Park, Friday June 13th through Saturday June 14 by noon.

MOTION by Mr. DeSabia, second by Mrs. Riccio, unanimously passed to DENY REQUEST by Pet Degree Dog Training Center to use the Dog Park at Indian Ledge Park for a get together as our ordinances do not allow for commercial/business use of park facilities.

Island Brook Park Petition:

Superintendent indicated that residents spoke to him about these concerns and he suggested they put them in writing. They offered to help install our new playground equipment; however, he said these type activities are coordinated by companies but we do not have the specialists to coordinate this type project but that the equipment will be installed in the near future once the field preparation work is completed.

Letter received from Donna Katz, Whitney Avenue sent to Superintendent was distributed concerning the Rail Trail. She requests we put up signage with opening and closing times as there is a great deal of after-hours activity now on the Trail. We will contact the Engineering Department which is working closely with the DEP on the Trail Project to perhaps get some signs at the beginning of the trail area, suggesting Dawn to Dusk as the time period. Also, additional Pedestrian Crossing Signs are needed for the Whitney Avenue crossing further up the roadway both directions to alert drivers to pedestrian crossing ahead.

Letter Cc: Daniel F. Cronin Letter sent to Trumbull Community Women – Litter along Hedgehog Road. Accepted.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Two pools filled. First chemical purchase for the season.
- Getting greens ready for Memorial Day.
- Little League and Babe Ruth leagues need to finalize their programs for League professional game time maintenance.
- Program of accelerated mowing to help keep fields in shape. Shorter grass cuts get done faster.
- Lavatories opened. Twin Brooks and Old Mine painted.
- We are experiencing some vandalism again at the lavatories...new soap dispensers installed, *lasted two weeks.*
- Island Brook field renovation is in process. Had a water line burst as well as some base-field damage from equipment following a heavy rain. We need to get a sand base in to accept the sod.
- Irish Festival is being planned for weekend June 13, 14, 15. To keep their costs down, Rangers will be on site for compliance issues only. Parking will be handled by Feile volunteers.
- Town Concert is planned for Thursday evening, August 7th. Groups are Styx and REO Speed Wagon.
- We will request Public Works to get the portable speed bumps back into the park because active season has now begun.
- Rangers alerted the Superintendent and Chairman of a major septic system leak at the Tashua Knolls Clubhouse/Restaurant. Public Works looking into remediation. Health Department will be contacted to take measures to have the problem immediately addressed and corrected by the Concessionaire as quickly as possible because of the proximity to our Playground and Swimming Pool. Any encroachment plans on park land must be submitted to the Commission and Superintendent for review and then submitted to other Town agencies for code compliance review approval. After completed by these Town agencies, review and final approval will be determined by the Commission. Chairman commented that there still remains 8 evergreens which need replacement at that location.

CONSENSUS to adjourn at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Administrative Assistant

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