

PARK COMMISSION
AUGUST 9, 2010

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
Diane Mayo
Tony Chmielewski

John Scippa
Ken Martin

Also,
Dmitri Paris, park superintendent
Mary Markham, Recreation Director

Guests:

Rick Bushnell, 19 Camelot Drive, AYSO
Sharon Lomnitzer, 42 Peaceful Valley Road, Trumbull United Soccer
Dawn Wood, 711 Booth Hill Road, Tr. Early Childhood Ed. Center
Daniel Cronin, 172 Hedgehog Circle
Pam Georgas, Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

Public Comments:

Rick Bushnell, AYSO:

Submitted AYSO's Fall Schedule request. Numbers will be about 1,100 players.

- U5, U6, U8, U10. request for Kaechele Complex., Saturday's out by 1:30 p.m.. (Trumbull United plays Saturday afternoons.)
- U12, U14/16, Traditionally play at Indian Ledge Turf.
- Two additional fields at THS will be requested.
- Clinics one weekday at Kaechele, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., two sessions for 6 weeks, Sept. through October. They use a modified, smaller, layout.
- All scheduling will be coordinated with Pop Warner and School Events. Police for traffic when required.

Superintendent noted that he will be closing at least one quadron during the fall season; perhaps, two. Kaechele #2 and #3 particularly need attention. Soccer has been most cooperative with necessary field closures. Once all scheduling is completed, we will find them space to play.

Chairman thanked Mr. Bushnell for his attendance.

Sharon Lomnitzer, Trumbull United Soccer:

Submitted Trumbull United's request for Soccer Fall scheduling of fields for practices and games. They will have 400 players, 11 teams, boys and girls, ages nine through eleven.

They request:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| • Old Mine | Monday-Friday | 3:00 to dusk | Practices |
| • Indian Ledge 4 | Monday-Friday | 3:00 to dusk | Practices |
| • Indian Ledge 2 Turf | Monday-Friday | 3:00 to dusk | Practices |
| • Kaechele | Saturday | 2:00 to dusk | Games/Top Soccer |
| • Kaechele | Sunday | All day | 8v8 Games |

Indian Ledge 2 Turf	Saturday	12:00 to dusk	Games
Indian Ledge 2 Turf	Sunday	10:00 to dusk	Games
One other large field	Sunday	12:00 to dusk	Games

Upon question, Chairman stated that all players should be Trumbull residents.

Dawn Wood, Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center:

Requesting permission to conduct a 2 mile walkathon charity event on Saturday, October 16, 2010 (alternate date, Oct. 23rd) at Twin Brooks veterans' park area for the benefit of the school. They expect 250 participants students 3/6 years, parents and siblings. They are planning for concession stands (hotdogs and hamburgers) and games. They would like to close-off the entrances and exits to through traffic during the event.

Chairman mentioned other locations for consideration, need for Rangers presence for traffic and security, port-a-lets and the need for permit by Board of Health for the food.

Daniel Cronin, 172 Hedgehog Circle:

Noted that he has spoken with both Mr. Paris and Mr. Nelson (Town Hall Chief of Staff) who have assured him that there would not be a 5,000 square foot building built at the Hedgehog Road entrance to Beach Park. He desires being on record as opposing any building being built at that location. Mr. Cronin lives at Stern Village, walks the park road to the pool daily, and is most familiar with the traffic concerns at Hedgehog and Daniels Farm Roads. As a World War II veteran he has great respect for the Memorial Green at that location honoring 22 young men from Trumbull lost in that war and would not like to see the tranquility of that area disturbed.

Superintendent mentioned that there will be activity close to the Pool. The Town has a \$40,000 grant to extend the parking lot by the swimming pool.

MOTION by Mrs. Mayo, second Mr. Scippa, unanimously passed to close Public Comments portion of agenda.

MOTION by Mrs. Mayo, second Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed approving the minutes of the July 12, 2010 meeting as distributed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center:

Requesting permission to conduct a 2 mile walkathon charity event on Saturday, October 16, 2010 (alternate date, Oct. 23rd) at Twin Brooks veterans' park area for the benefit of the school.

Following discussion:

MOTION by Mrs. Mayo, second Mr. Martin, unanimously passed approving the Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center's request to use Twin Brooks/Veterans' Park area for a 2 mile walkathon on Saturday, October 16, 2010 (alternate date, Oct. 23rd), with park open to the public with one-way parking according to the established one-way in from Brock Street (Franklin Street Gate closed), established parking plan administered by the Park Rangers (preferably three rangers), Board of Health and Use Permit through Recreation Department in place, clean-up following event, following all Park Ordinances and rules and no animals.

Trumbull United Soccer Club:

MOTION by Mr. Martin, second Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed accepting Trumbull United's request for Fall scheduling of fields for practices and games to be scheduled through Board of Recreation.

American Youth Soccer Organization:

MOTION by Mrs. Mayo, second by Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed accepting AYSO's request for Fall scheduling of fields to be scheduled through Board of Recreation.

Superintendent's Noted:

- Noted that the Babe Ruth League indicated they are completing their fall schedule and will be submitting their request as soon as it is complete.
- Playground repairs are near complete. Cost \$800.
- We are experiencing an increase in vandalism which brings major costs to the department
- Dredging at Old Mine Park in process. Once dry, we will utilize the dredged material and silt.
- Vehicle Bridge Repair – We have grant monies in place, but permitting needs to be accomplished.

Mr. Martin Reported:

Site-line vine cut at Ranger Station.

Entrance to Valley from Park Street. Originally a Blue and white Trail created. Now bikers are creating new trails, mounds, jumps through the area, cutting trees and laurel, extreme use in wet conditions. They are not respectful of the terrain.

Chairman will arrange for a site inspection with Commissioners. Maintenance and security of the valley trails are falling to the Superintendent and Rangers. Park Commission authority in the Pequonnock Valley Property and trails needs to be determined.

Pam Georgas, Trumbull Nature & Arts Center, arrived and requested permission to address the Commission:

MOTION by Mrs. Mayo, second by Mr. Scippa, unanimously passed to re-open the Public Comments portion of the Agenda to hear a request from the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center.

Pam Georgas, Trumbull Nature & Arts Center:

Requested permission to hold a Corporate volunteer Community Impact Day, August 9, 2010, at Abraham Nichols Park Community Gardens. Their plan is to install a split rail fence around the perimeter of the Community Gardens and then plant raspberry bushes on the outside. They will meet Park Superintendent specifications. They have two corporate groups, Unilever and United Health for the program. There will be two shifts with a lunch break.

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed to return to the order of the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman met with the First Selectman and Town Attorney Edward Walsh on Friday with the new TDOG people. The Town Attorney reviewed past information on the creation of this off-leash dog exercise area with the town park system and indicated that the Park Commission's Motion of May 19, 2008 that the TDOG Organization reestablish itself as a separate entity under Internal Revenue Code Section 501c3 Tax Exempt Status to be upheld. Chairman reported that this group feels they should be included under the Park Department. Chairman noted that all not-for-profit leagues utilizing park facilities are required to have Tax Exempt Status in order to utilize our facilities. The First Selectman indicated he would check with several town-resident attorneys to determine if one might complete the required 501c3 Tax Exempt Status pro-bono for this organization.

Superintendents Report:

- Dredging well on its way at Old Mine Park.
- Indian Ledge paving next to Field I two thirds complete.
- Additional paving to be installed to the rear of the Barn Youth Center for handicap parking.
- Fields responding well with new drainage system at Indian Ledge I natural turf.
- Gearing up for Annual Concert, September 10th.
- Met with Little League and Phone call with Babe Ruth on conditions of the fields. Fields now coming back from this season's drought. Encouraged them to come up with a plan for the coming season for remediation of the fields. They need to rebuild the fields before any structure improvements. We are past only a "rest" of a field to bring it back.
- Reiterated lots of activity with our Rangers this year. We have had substantive vandalism cases and several narcotics issues. Aldo Memorial Park incident resulted in an arrest.
- We have returned to working at spring Hill ball field. Currently staked-out for future expansion of that plateau.
- There is some thought to expanding the Compost Area at Indian Ledge by filling-in the gully toward the Teen Center.

Mr. Martin presented a large poster and two-page flyers found at the Rail Trail announcing an event has been planned and advertised by YES Endurance Sports Series, "Bad Moon Rising" evening Rail Trail Race and Endurance Run , for Friday, August 20th, 2010, starting at 8:00 p.m. at the Town of Trumbull/State of Connecticut Rail Trail and contiguous Town of Trumbull parks.

Following discussion as this was the first the Park Commission heard of this planned event, the chairman contacted the organizer Tim Holmstrom on speaker-telephone to indicate that as the event did not meet Park Commission rules and policies for approval it was decided that the event as planned is in violation of the Town of Trumbull Park Ordinances and would be referred to the Town Attorney.

It has come to the attention of the Park Commission, that an athletic event has been planned and advertised by YES Endurance Sports Series and entitled "Bad Moon Rising." This athletic event is to consist of a Rail Trail Sprint Race of approximately 5.4 miles out and back on the Town of Trumbull's Rail Trail. It is also to consist of an Endurance Trail Marathon of 27.7 miles on the Rail Trail and Indian Ledge Park trails in the Town of Trumbull. This athletic event is scheduled for Friday, August 20th, 2010, at 8:00 p.m. with the start at the entrance to the Town of Trumbull/State of Connecticut Rail Trail and contiguous Town of Trumbull parks. Permission to hold this athletic event at and on Parks owned and maintained by the Town of Trumbull has not been submitted to the Town of Trumbull Park Commission for approval as required by the Town Charter, municipal code, and regulations. Furthermore, a review of the facts surrounding this athletic event known as "Bad Moon Rising" establish that it is in violation of the Town Charter, municipal code and Park regulations.

MOTION by Mr. Scippa, second Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed that the Park Commission hereby denies use of the Town of Trumbull park facilities for the YES Endurance Sports Series "Bad Moon Rising" evening Rail Trail Race and Endurance Run, planned for Friday, August 20th, 2010, starting at 8:00 p.m. at the Town of Trumbull/State of Connecticut Rail Trail and contiguous Town of Trumbull parks as proper approval for the use of the Trumbull Parks for this athletic event was never obtained and further, that this athletic event is in violation of the following Town of Trumbull municipal ordinances.

I. Sec. 15-14. Closure of parks.

All town parks shall be closed at dusk each day except by special permission granted by the Board of Park Commissioners.

(Res. No. TC15-162, 6-5-95)

The Bad Moon Rising Evening Rail Trail Race and Endurance Run are scheduled to start at 8:00pm and end by 12:00am. This is in violation of Section 15-14 of the Trumbull Municipal Code which states that all Parks shall be closed at dusk except by special permission of the Board of Park Commissioners which was not obtained in this case.

2. Sec. 15-3. Use of parks by nonresidents.

No person other than a resident of the town shall use any park or any public property located therein except with the permission of the Board of Park Commissioners.

Again, the Rail Trail Race was open to the general public/non-residents and no permission was sought by the organizers of this race to use the Park.

3. Sec. 15-7. Ball playing and athletic contests.

(a) Ball playing or athletic contests shall be played in town parks only at such times and places as may be designated by the Park Commission and scheduled by the Board of Recreation; a written permit for all athletic games is required and obtained from the recreation department; a copy of the permit or a visitor permit must be displayed in all motor vehicles of those involved with the athletic activity.

The organizers of the Bad Moon Rising Trail Race did not receive approval by the Park Commission of the location of the race nor was the date and time scheduled by the Board of Recreation as required by Section 15-7 of the Town of Trumbull Municipal Code.

4. Rules, Regulations and Policies of the Town of Trumbull Park Commission

Finally, the standard past practice of the Park Commission with respect to the use of the Town of Trumbull Parks by an organization is as follows;

(a) Volunteer organization must submit documentation establishing that it is a valid non-profit organization formed under U.S. Tax Code Section 501(c) (3) and;

(b) Provide proof that the organization has valid insurance coverage and that the Town of Trumbull is named as an additional insured on this insurance policy.

In this case, the entity sponsoring the event is a “for profit” entity and never provided any proof of insurance coverage.

For all of the above reasons, we the members of the Park Commission deny TCC Adventures, YES Endurance Sports, and Tim Holmstrom permission to use any Park in Trumbull for a certain race entitled “Bad Moon Rising” scheduled for August 20, 2010 at 8:00pm.

This motion will be referred to the Town Attorney.

Trumbull Nature & Arts Center:

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Martin, unanimously passed approving the Trumbull Nature & Arts_Center’s request to hold a Corporate volunteer Community Impact Day, August 9, 2010, at Abraham Nichols Park Community Gardens to install a split rail fence around the perimeter of the Community Gardens and then plant raspberry bushes on the outside

ACKNOWLEDGED Mr Daniel Cronin’s statement of opposition to any construction of a building at the Hedgehog Road Beach Memorial Park Entrance location.

CONSENSUS to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Adm. Assistant

**PARK COMMISSION
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MOTIONS**

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