

PARK COMMISSION

September 19, 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)
Kevin Bellows
Vincent Lipinski

Anthony Chmielewski
Kenneth Martin

Also,
Park Superintendent Dmitri Paris

Guests:

Mike Mastroni, 9 Bear Den Road, Fallen Heroes Memorial Tribute
John Lauria, 9 Providence Drive, Trumbull Historical Society, Trumbull Valley Hike
Jeff Blueweiss, 63 Coventry Lane, Trumbull Little League President
Doug Imri, 22 Ridgeview Avenue, Trumbull Little League

Public Comments

Mike Mastroni, Fallen Heroes Tribute:

He distributed the Program for the Saturday, September 24, 2011, 8th Annual Tribute beginning at 12:15 p.m. with a performance by the Navy Band Northeast, Welcome remarks beginning at 1:00 p.m. with greetings from Fourth District Congressman James Himes, State Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, US Army Commander, New England District, Colonel Charles P. Samaris and Trumbull First Selectman Tim Herbst. They have an Army Golden Knights Jump at 2:30 p.m. He is hoping for good weather. They expect as many as 500 to be in attendance. They have weighted tents; but, not enough to cover whole crowd. He was pleased to mention that each recipient Family will receive a beautiful sculpture titled "Remembrance". He hoped BMX racing and soccer were not being scheduled that date because of the parking needs. Superintendent assured him that scheduling would not be during the time of their event.

John Lauria, Trumbull Valley Hike:

Reviewed the upcoming Trumbull Nature Center and Trumbull Historical Society Trumbull Valley Fall Hike planned for October 23rd (rain date October 30th) beginning at the Park Street Commuter Lot, along the east side of the river, and ending at Indian Ledge Park, lower level. They expect approximately 80 hikers. Shuttles are being provided to bring walkers back to the Park Street Lot. He questioned if the lavatories at the lower level could be kept open so attendees would not have to walk up the hill to use the lavatories. There is no fee for the Hike. A Guide is sold for \$2.

Superintendent noted we are in the process of closing water facilities. It may be that only the upper level will be open by October 23rd.

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed to close guest portion of the Agenda.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed accepting the minutes of the August 8, 2011 meeting as distributed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Email from the Trumbull Nature Commission – To express disappointment with the handling of the Nature Commission's request for a site location within the park system. Letter was accepted and acknowledged.

Email from Eric Richard – American Foundation for Suicide Prevention request to hold a 5K Road Race at Indian Ledge Park Saturday, August 25, 2012. No action as Mr. Richard was not in attendance.

Email from Dennis Riccardi – Expressing displeasure that Twin Brooks Franklin Street Parking Lot is locked in the early morning hours until park opens.

Forwarded from Recreation Dept, Email from Marcia Moseley – Non-resident working in Trumbull expressing displeasure that Twin Brooks Franklin Street Parking Lot is locked at 7:00 a.m.

Chairman commented that the parking lot is closed until park opening, as with other parks within the system. This Commission has a responsibility to protect and secure Trumbull resident taxpayers' million dollar facilities. The only non-resident pass provided to Trumbull corporate employees is for the lunch-hour break.

Old Business:

Donna Festa Tournament check for past-due Rangers bill was received after countless follow-ups right prior to this year's Tournament. Check to cover this year's bill is due thirty days following Tournament, October 2, 2011. There were some issues which arose this year, including their arrival at the park earlier than allowed by Zoning Regulations Noise Ordinance, which the Tournament Committee had been given a copy. Because the tournament followed Hurricane Irene and Island Brook Park was closed, all activities were scheduled at Unity Park and were not controlled adequately.

Little League representatives Jeff Blueweiss and Doug Imri arrived at this point in the meeting.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed to re-open guest portion of the Agenda.

Mr. Blueweiss expressed disappointment in hearing this report because Little League as sponsor allowing them to utilize the parks, their not being compliant with conditions of use affects Little League's reputation as well.

Following discussion it was decided that the Commission would like a primary designee of the Donna Festa Tournament to attend the November meeting to respond to issues which arose from this year's tournament and ensure compliance going forward, as well as proof that Ranger's bill for this year's tournament was paid within the thirty days of the tournament as required, or future use will be denied. The Commission requests that a Financial Accounting of this year's tournament be presented at the November Park Commission meeting.

Mr. Blueweiss and Mr. Imri reviewed a proposal to renovate and repair fields at Unity Park including flipping fields #5 and #2...

- #5 to a softball field by skinning;
- #2 to a baseball field by sodding;
- #1 Re-pitch and re-sod;
- #3 Re-sod baseline;
- #4 Re-pitch.

Superintendent noted that these fields are also scheduled by Recreation.

Following discussion , proposal taking into safety issues mentioned was found conceptually acceptable. Ideal time would be in mid-October.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. Chmielewski, and passed (Vote: Four in favor, Dr. Bellows, Mr. Chmielewski, Mr. Lipinski, Mr. Ferrigno. One Abstain, Mr. Martin.) to accept Little League's request to contract for fields renovation and repair at Unity Park based on Little League's providing the Superintendent and Chairman with plans for the project no later than October 1, 2011. If Superintendent approves plan, Little League can move forward with the maintenance project under supervision of the Superintendent.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed to close Guest portion of Agenda.

Old Business:

Mr. Lipinski noted there was a news article in the Connecticut Post discussing the Nature Center location proposal wherein he was quoted; however, he has not spoken with a reporter on this issue; the reporter may have taken information from meeting minutes.

New Business:

Commissioner Mayo prepared and reviewed with the Chairman a sample form to be used for scouting or other projects within the parks system. Copies were distributed to be discussed or amended at the October meeting.

Chairman proposed appointing Park Commission sub-committees to facilitate the full commission as it makes its decisions at regular meetings. Commissioners will be responsible for reporting on assigned parks at our regular monthly meetings. Chairman is ex-officio to all committees.

Anthony Chmielewski	Kaechele Complex Old Mine Park Kaatz Pond
Joseph DeSabia	Great Oak Park Spring Hill Field Tashua (Madison) Field
Kevin Bellows	Unity Park Twin Brooks Beach Memorial Park
Diane Mayo	Field Scheduling Pools Tennis Courts
Kenneth Martin	Abraham Nichols Park Nothnagle Field Mischee Brook Park Rail Trail
Vin Lipinski	Island Brook Park Indian Ledge Park

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed approving Park Commission Sub-Committees as assigned.

Commissioner Lipinski commented that now that spring and soon fall seasons are over, we should have an accounting on the Field Use Policy.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed to request from the Recreation Director a Financial Statement and accounting based on the new Field Use Policy.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Going into the fall season, we were hit with Hurricane Irene, August 28th. Clean-up is still underway and will be for quite a while. We had a large log jam in the Pequonnock River and hazards all the way up the trail. Indian Ledge was shut down. Annual Concert was cancelled, because of many trees hinged over the passage ways. Brush plus leaf pick-up will back the department routine chores.
- Now winterizing facilities. Suggests the Commission consider utilizing Porta Johns early spring and late fall to allow for closures. (It was decided two weeks on both ends would be considered.)
- Long Hill Garden Club has donated \$2,000 for sycamore trees to be placed on the north side of Old Mine Park water way.
- We have not heard from the Ann S. Richards Fund allowing for a grant in the amount of \$45,000 for the south side of the Old Mine Park water way which was secured by the Pequonnock River Initiative and the Trumbull Conservation Commission to install a demonstration river-edge buffer design and construction. There is a requirement of that grant for the Town to provide fill and rough grading.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed to direct a letter to the Director of Public Works requesting an update and as soon as possible to provide fill and grade the south bank at Old Mine Park waterway to allow for the Ann Richards Project to move forward.

MOTION to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Adm. Assistant

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