

TRUMBULL DAY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2014

Call to Order

Elizabeth Mastroianni, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.in the Nichols Room at the Town Hall, Trumbull, Connecticut.

Members Present

Elizabeth Mastroianni, Chairman
Veronica Lenzen, Vice Chairman
Annie Fers, Secretary
Charles Letezeio, Treasurer
Joanna Orenstein
Kimberly Vecchione
Rosemarie Derrig

Guests

Lynn Arnow, Amy DeZenzo, Fran Basbagill (to be sworn in at future date), Frank DiMarco, Michael Vartuli, Gloria Mastrone-Clerk

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 19, 2012 meeting were distributed since they were not yet approved. Motion for approval made by Veronica Lenzen and seconded by Charles Letezeio as presented. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

The minutes from the March 5, 2014 meeting were also handed out. Motion for approval made by Veronica Lenzen and seconded by Joanne Orenstein. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

New Business

Lynn Arnow mentioned that Carl Massaro, Town Council Chairman, had stated that the Commission take action on the Chair positions and they should decide on the Sub-Committees.

Elizabeth Mastroianni began the meeting by stating that she was recently informed at a meeting with First Selectman Herbst, Lynn Arnow, Chief of Staff, and Amy DeZenzo, Administrative Assistant, held on Friday, March 7, 2014 that the Trumbull Day Commission is an advisory committee and that the town would be handling most of the responsibilities for the event from this point forward. Elizabeth stated that in the past four administrations the commission basically handled everything on their own. FS Herbst explained, due to the vast amount of work and staffing involved, and the lateness of the preparations that Lynn and Amy would serve as liaisons between the Town and the commission. FS also made the decision to enlist the professional services of an outside consultant again this year and that would be the same agent the commission hired last year as a consultant.

The Chairpersons voiced that they were not satisfied with this decision since they experienced many problems with said consultant last year and the Commission didn't like the way she treated the volunteers. They felt as though no one listened to them and did not feel respected especially since they volunteered a lot of their time to the event. Elizabeth Mastroianni also stated that she believes there was a conflict of interest since the same consultant handled the Golf Classic at no charge, yet she charges for the Trumbull Day event. Lynn indicated that the current arrangement would be the same this year, as last.

Chairpersons Elizabeth Mastroianni, Veronica Lenzen, Joanne Orenstein and Charles Letezeio, said that they would resign their positions if said agent was hired again. It was discussed at the previous meeting to bring to the table alternative Public Relations proposals and then discuss alternative plans, but that all changed with the First Selectman's decision to rehire the same contractor as last year.

Lynn Arnow stated that Elizabeth Mastroianni had the opportunity to voice her concerns about the FS hiring the previous contractor at her meeting with him and that she should have informed the FS of her intentions prior to the Monday evening meeting. Lynn also stated that Elizabeth had indicated to FS Herbst that she would be willing to work with the past consultant. Lynn further stated that Tim recognized that there may be an issue with the previous agent, there needed to be an understanding of the goals and urgency of the situation.

Lynn continued that the "consultant" by contract was responsible for many of the time-consuming duties such as RFP's and coordinating of the vendors, carnival, fireworks, sponsors, etc. and that, though Lynn was not involved in last year's activities, she was advised that last year's Trumbull Day was a success and made a profit. She also realizes that everyone worked very hard to make the event successful and asked that the members reconsider their decision to resign. However, because time is quickly approaching the event and the First Selectman is ultimately responsible for the event, it is the First Selectman's prerogative to temporarily hire an agent to complete this work.

Amy DeZenko shared concern that the Commission is concentrating too much on one person and not the goal of the Commission; the concentration should be on the positive side that once it was over, it was a success. She realizes that everyone worked very hard and they should be happy with its success. Furthermore, last year's consultant has all the information needed from the previous year – why start the process all over. Lynn Arnow and Amy DeZenko stated, because much of the coordinating amongst town departments relies on the Selectman's office, they will help in any way to lighten the load so we can work together for the community. Amy DeZenko also stated that it would be too costly to hire some of our facilities personnel at double-time pay.

Fran Basbagill questioned the duties of the commission. Lynn Arnow advised that the Commission was strictly for advisory and recommendations and that the ultimate decisions to approve contracts/agreements will be made by the First Selectman.

Lynn Arnow gave a copy of last year's budget to the Commission and indicated that it was the Commission's responsibility to set up a budget as requested by the Town Council to be presented at the Town Council next week. Also required would be an appearance before BOE to begin the process for a liquor permit. Elizabeth Mastroianni said that she would attend this meeting.

Annie Fers volunteered to oversee the entertainment, as did Kimberly Vecchione. Elizabeth Mastroianni said Kimberly can either assist Annie or take on another sub-committee. The event welcomes and needs sponsors and it is encouraged that everyone on the commission reach out to employers or businesses. Tim Herbst will send a letter out to them requesting their support.

It was decided that FS Herbst should be advised of this situation and invite him to the next meeting. Lynn Arnow said she would come up with answers tomorrow for the Commission as far as:

- The duties/responsibilities of the "consultant", and if the same contractor would be utilized.
- Who the consultant will be.

An e-mail will go out tomorrow with these decisions.

Motion was made by Kimberly Vecchione and seconded by Rosemarie Derring to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Mastrone
Temporary Clerk