

TRUMBULL NATURE COMMISSION

Tuesday February 8, 2011
Trumbull Nature & Arts Center
7:00 pm.

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Items:

Call Meeting to Order
Public Comments - 15 Minutes
Acceptance of January minutes
Acceptance of January Treasurers report
TNAC Development Plans
 2010 Annual Report
 3-year Marketing/Development Strategy Plan
 Membership Drive
2011 Programs and Events Updates
 Seasonal Programs
 Pancake Breakfast/Maple sugaring demonstration
 Unilever Earth Day Fair
 Come to Your Senses' Day
Website and Media
Old Business
New Business
Adjournment of regular meeting

Attending: Commission Chairman Pam Georgas, Frank Grazynski, Kevin Malone, Ruth Mohr, Guests Sheryl Baumann, Mitchell Lewis Stephen and Ryan Pynch, Christine, David and Daniel Yankura, Meg Barnes, and Rose Dial

Commissioners Paul Buttress and Mike Paoletto absent with excuse

In the absence of a quorum there were no motions.

Meeting called to order at 7:09 pm.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report could not be approved due to a lack of quorum.

Public Comments

Eagle Scouts were present to record the meeting for a Citizenship in the Community Badge. Christine Yankura commented on a program that occurred last year, and wished she could have filled out a survey. Bonnie will send a new survey to Mitchell to put on the website for easy access. Bonnie will also contact Betty Merritt to send surveys out to program participants.

2010 Annual Report

Pam asked for comments concerning the 2010 Annual Community Report. There was a discussion and questions concerning the report but all agreed the report would be accepted after the addition of financial details and the Community Garden at the Center were to be added.

3-year Marketing/Development Strategy Plan

Pam is working on the Plan for presentation to the Board of Finance.

Membership Drive

It was agreed that the Membership Drive will be put on hold until later this year. Membership applications will be available at any events that the Center holds or attends.

Seasonal Programs

Spring/Summer will be delivered to Trumbull Schools later this week.

The Trumbull Young Women group will be assisting with the Pancake Breakfast/Maple Sugaring Demonstration.

Due to weather conditions the placement of fences around the Community Gardens may be delayed from the March 1st date.

Kevin, Sheryl, and Pam will attend the Unilever Earth Day Fair on March 17, 2011.

Frank said the Come to Your Senses' event has been scheduled for May 1, 2011.

The CT Trail's Day group leaders from the Nature Center will be Frank, Ken Martin, John Russell, and John Lauria. The Trail's Day is set for June 4, 2011.

Website and Media

Mitchell gave an update on the website and there were some suggestions given to him. Pam said that Mike will be putting some postings on our Facebook site.

Old Business

Frank, Kevin, and Ruth submitted to the Clerk statements they wanted put into the record. These statements concern the April 2010 vote to explore the possibility of moving the Center. These statements are shown at the end of the minutes and are on file at the Center's office.

New Business – none

With no other business the meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.
Submitted by E. Bonnie Lindsay, Nature Commission Clerk.

Letters submitted at the 02/08/11 meeting.

Dear Fellow Commissioners:

In regard to our vote to explore a new Nature Center, I was and continue to be an enthusiastic supporter of this exploration. I also hope that in the future a new building will be built for us so we can continue our mission, grow our impact and become an avenue through which all ages can connect with nature.

As a past president of the Trumbull Land Trust I was and continue to be very concerned about the preservation of ecologically significant lands in Trumbull. But as a Commissioner I feel our charter is to grow a Nature Center and increase the environmental education possibilities for all. The preservation of the lands and/or the disposition of wetlands and uplands is not in our purview. Those issues are best taken up by other Commissions with the ability and legislative power to regulate activities and/or save parcels of land.

I firmly believe that a Nature Center located in Twin Brooks will be a fantastic addition to our town, and will give us an opportunity to grow and educate. I also believe that all other Town Commissions and bodies will work diligently to ensure that any actions taken will be done with the “best for Trumbull” as the ideal result.

I would also like to comment on the actions of a former Commissioner and his method of informing the public of our vote. I feel strongly that his actions are very detrimental to the future of our Nature Center and attempts to “paint” our actions as “anti-nature.” I take great umbrage at this characterization and feel that the politicization of a Nature Center, and our vote, is doing a great disservice to our volunteer efforts and the future of environmental education in Trumbull.

I am very proud of my vote . My vote was made thinking about the future and looking for the “best” for a Nature Center. I also feel strongly that my vote does not diminish my environmental credibility but instead enhances it.

Frank Grazyński
Trumbull Nature Commission

To whom it may concern.

As a member of the Nature and Arts Center Commission, I am in favor of the exploring the possibility of the relocation of the Center to Twin Brooks Park.

Ruthe Mohr
Trumbull Nature Commission

February 5, 2011

Trumbull Nature Commission
7115 Main Street
Trumbull, CT 06611
Attn: Pam Georgas, Chairperson

Re: Relocation of Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

Dear Pam:

I have prepared this letter to provide a record of my position regarding the proposed relocation of the Trumbull Nature and Arts Center to Twin Brooks Park. I believe that the relocation of the Center would provide numerous advantages and benefits to the community.

Twin Brooks Park is clearly a more appropriate setting for the Center than the current location at 7115 Main Street. The accessibility of the Center would be greatly enhanced if it were to be located in Twin Brooks Park where there are already numerous visitors that enjoy being outside in nature. The extensive network of walking trails and ecosystems at Twin Brooks provides the perfect environment to explore the natural world, as we encourage visitors at the Center to do.

Unlike Twin Brooks Park, 7115 Main Street has virtually no local pedestrian traffic or access to the greater outdoor community. Furthermore, the existing building is not conducive to the types of larger group activities in which the Center engages. The proposed building at Twin Brooks Park would be specifically designed to accommodate the activities of the Center. The proposed building at Twin Brooks Park would also be more energy-efficient and environmentally design conscious than the existing facility.

I am strongly in favor of relocating the Trumbull Nature and Arts Center to Twin Brooks Park.

Sincerely,

Kevin S. Malone
Trumbull Nature Commission