

**PARK COMMISSION
AGENDA
September 19, 2011
7:30 P.M.
Long Hill Conference Room
Town Hall**

Call to order

Public Comments
Sports Groups

Acceptance of Minutes

Correspondence

Tr. Nature Commission – Site Relocation Research
5K Road Race for Suicide Prevention – Indian Ledge, 8/25/2012
2011 Pequonnock Valley Hike – TNC & THS
Dennis Riccardi – Twin Brooks Franklin Street Parking Lot

Old Business

New Business

Budget Review

Park Assignments/Committee Reports

Superintendent's Report

Any other business which might rightly come before this Commission

Adjournment

PLEASE CONTACT CLERK AT (203) 261-0129 IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND.

Trumbull Parks Commission
Re: TNAC site relocation research

8/8/11

Cc: Tim Herbst, Dan Nelson, John Marsillio, Dmitri Paris, Don Watson, Mary Ellen Lemay, Carl Massaro, Chad Ciocci, Marybeth Thorton, Ken Halaby

Dear Parks Commissioners.

This letter is being written to express our disappointment with the Parks Commission Chair's handling of the Nature Commission's request for a site location within the park system.

We are disappointed with the Chair's recommendation to deny our request, and also with the process that was used to come to this decision. After about a year of attempting to discuss this issue, the Parks Commissioners asked for a subcommittee to be formed comprised of Parks and Nature commissioners to do research, discuss possible locations and come back with a recommendation.

The Chairman of the Parks Commission refused to respond to my requests for a Parks/Nature subcommittee meeting for months. He then went forward and held subcommittee meetings without including me or other Nature Commissioners on the subcommittee. These meetings apparently led to a conclusion that the subcommittee would recommend that the TNAC does not fit into the vision of the Park system. The Chairman refused any discussions that included me in subcommittee prior to his conclusion.

We are an official Town of Trumbull Commission that was specifically formed by the administration and sanctioned by town council to create a Nature & Arts Center and bring Environment, Nature & Art education to the community. By denying all parks locations you are likely removing the majority of our site options, to achieve our chartered goals.

We chose 3 people to serve on the Parks/Nature commission subcommittee based on their experience. Together our professional backgrounds create a multidimensional viewpoint on analyzing site locations. Don Watson is an architect who has done site evaluations for Nature Centers. Frank Grayznski, has been a Development Director of Nature Centers for many years. His experience brings operations feasibility and analysis to the table. My experience is in Marketing and Branding new and seasoned company identities, products and services. Layered together our expertise would have provided a very comprehensive look at site evaluations, and probability of success. However detailed discussions never moved forward.

While much of Don Watson's report is valuable, his report alone cannot lead to an accurate assessment of properties for this project, our commission's intentions, or goals, as some of the criteria that he started with are his own vision and not that of the Nature Commission and 501c Board. We do not envision ever having a 10,000 square foot building, or running a full time nursery school with a 2000 square foot fenced in play area. Adding in these criteria greatly impacts the results.

Our vision has always been to create a Nature & Arts Center that inspires hands on OUTDOOR learning experiences. We do not ever want this center's focus to become an indoor 'museum' of large permanent displays. One could even argue that building in a location that does not allow for a 10,000 square foot building would protect our vision.

What we do desire, is a centralized location that has diverse ecology and access to trails and open space. The TNAC 501c3 has offered to fundraise for a new building, we are just asking for a site.

The Parks Commission has approved clearing or dedicating space to place 25+ ball fields, associated parking and buildings, a Dog Park, BMX track, AYSO soccer building, batting cages, a Teen Center & Recreation Center, an 18 & 9 hole Golf course with club house and associated parking, swimming pools, 20 tennis courts, sprinkler parks, a Historical Society, etc. The space utilized for these amenities are likely equivalent to 100's of acres of parkland.

• Many of these amenities cater to similar 501c3 entities, such as sports teams, and likely draw much more traffic to the Parks, than a small Nature Center would.

• Many of the organizations that utilize the parks also draw nonresidents.

• Many of these activities are much higher risk in regards to liability or risk of injury, than children and families participating in nature or art learning experiences.

Simply put, we are dismayed that the Town of Trumbull has a Parks Commission that will not support a town sanctioned Commission in reaching its goal of creating a sustainable Nature & Arts Center.

I have also twice requested to see letters sent to the Commission by the community regarding this issue for reference, and have not to date received any of them, nor have they been publicly recognized or documented with the minutes. There have not been any public forums held specifically on this issue, so that the public can discuss and weigh in on this proposal.

On August 8th the Parks commission voted that "A Nature Center does not fit into their Vision of the Trumbull Park System".

Sincerely,

*Pamela Georgas
Chairman, Trumbull Nature Commission
TNAC Site Relocation Subcommittee Member
TNAC Marketing, Strategy/Development Team*

*Frank Grayznski
Trumbull Nature Commission
TNAC Site Relocation Subcommittee Member,
TNAC Strategy/Development Team*

*Bonnie E. Lindsey
Trumbull Nature Commission
TNAC Volunteer coordinator and registrar*

*Ruth Mohr
Trumbull Nature Commission
TNAC Programs Committee*

*Kevin Malone
Trumbull Nature Commission
TNAC Youth Coordinator*

From: eric.richard@hotmail.com
To: joanatparks@hotmail.com
Subject: 5K Road Race for Suicide Prevention Indian Ledge Park
Date: Thu, 25 Aug 2011 14:07:40 -0400

Dear Parks Commission,

I have been deeply saddened by the deaths of Tyler Clementi, Asher Brown, Billy Lucas, Seth Walsh and Raymond Chase along with the many other teens we lost due to suicide and being bullied to death.

These tragic stories are no longer in the media; however, the issue of bullying among Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender and Questioning youth is still at large. I created a group known as Suicide Prevention Education Network a program that would teach others the effects of bullying, fight for equality and prevent suicide.

In the aftermath of this increasing trend I want to host a 5K Road Race to raise money for **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**. I would like to hold the event at **Indian Ledge Park Trumbull, CT**. I was hoping to host on **Saturday, August 25, 2011 7PM** reason being in the evening for symbolism similar to the Out of the Darkness Walks. I realize there is not a sufficient amount of time for the preferred date, however, being a college student my dates are flexible to allow for the sufficient amount of time needed for planning.

Thank you for your time,

Eric Richard

Thank you for your information. I meant I wanted to perform the race Saturday, August 25, 2012 7PM. sorry for the error.

From: Ken.Martin@raveis.com
To: joanatparks@hotmail.com
Date: Tue, 6 Sep 2011 07:25:12 -0700
Subject: Valley hike, Parks Agenda, 9/19.

Dear Joan,

The Trumbull Nature Center in Cooperation with the Trumbull Historical Society would like to be placed on the 9/19 Parks agenda in order to present a plan to the commission regarding a fall hike in The Trumbull Valley, west side of the river.

John Lauria will present on behalf of the Trumbull Historical Society.
A representative from TNC will also try to be in attendance.

Thank you,

Ken Martin
Parks Commissioner

-----Original message-----

From: Dennis Riccardi <dennis.riccardi@nasdaqomx.com>
To: Dmitri Paris <dparis@trumbull-ct.gov>
Sent: Fri, Sep 9, 2011 15:00:42 GMT+00:00
Subject: Twin Brooks Park



Trumbull Parks,

As a tax paying resident of Trumbull I want to voice my displeasure at the fact that the town has locked out residents from using Twin Brooks Park during early morning hours. I am one of dozens of residents who use that park early every morning for either morning walks or dog walking. Our only access was the back parking lot off of Franklin St..

I agree that something needed to be done to keep trespassers who trash the park out during late nights, but isn't that what we have a police dept. for??? I think the town OVER reacted to the problem and didn't give the problem much thought! Now you restrict people who respect and use the park every morning.

Dennis Riccardi