

PARK COMMISSION

February 9, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at 7:30 p.m. at Town hall with the following in attendance:

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)
Joseph DeSabia

Kevin Bellows
Tracy Vonick

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

Visitors:

Steve Chille, 11 Thomas Street (BabeRuth)
Joan Dosky, 20 Quaker Lane (Trumbull United)
Ralph Ciocci, 72 Shawnee Road (German Shepard Dog Club)
Jim Fracker, 78 Old Dyke Road (A.Y.S.O.)
Rick Bushnell, 19 Camelot Drive (A.Y.S.O.)

Chairman indicated as there was not a quorum, all actions would be by consensus and ratified at the next regular meeting.

Public Comments:

Steve Chille on behalf of Trumbull Babe Ruth League:

Presented their request for field scheduling for the 2009 season including Unity, Jane Ryan, Madison on a daily basis; Trumbull High School for over-flow games. They anticipate 200 players, 14 teams. Their concession stand is completed to code. Noted that American Legion is expanding their program. They hope to ensure that they can accommodate 200 players. He noted that over the past ten years, Babe Ruth has committed close to \$300,000 to improvements at the Unity Park field, including the lights for the ball field, the concession stand, fencing, score board and general maintenance.

Chairman indicated the Town's appreciation to the League for their significant contribution toward the amenities of the field. He asked that he submit a list of these items for our records.

Upon question, Mr. Chille indicated that the cost per player for season play is \$235.

Madison Middle field is in disrepair from installation of sewer line as well as the inability to use turf chemicals on school fields. Mr. Chille said he heard that the field might become a "skinned" field. Our Park Superintendent was not aware of that discussion.

Superintendent stated that all the leagues need to get their schedules in and facilities will be distributed. Historically Unity Park has remained a Babe Ruth, American Legion field.

Chairman invited Joan Dosky from Trumbull United to comment on their trash pick-up policy with their teams. She explained that they explain to their coaches the importance of picking up prior and following all games. At Kaechele they provide black bags which are filled and then placed in the dumpster at the end of the games. They did find a 'massive' amount of trash including a lot of burned aluminum foil at Indian Ledge several times and have decided it was from youth coming in after dark. (Superintendent took note and will alert Rangers.) In conclusion, she said whenever they meet with their coaches they emphasize the importance of picking up before and after play.

All recognize that Unity complex is different from other field areas, with multiple league play. We will encourage all leagues to get involved with before and after field pick-up. Chairman reiterated that if we go to contractual trash pick-up, costs will impact upon the leagues.

Ralph Ciocci, German Shepherd Dog Club of Greater New Haven, Inc.:

The Dog Club is requesting use of Old Mine Park lower field for two full days:

Sunday, September 6, 2009

Saturday, October 10th, 2009

Their program will be the same as in the past. Their programs have been in place for several years with no problems. They will pick-up the area prior to leaving.

Rick Bushnell and Jim Fracker, AYSO Soccer:

Presented their Field Request for Spring 2009 season, including use of Kaechele Complex all day Saturdays and Indian Ledge Artificial Turf Field Saturday mornings. They coordinate their schedule with Trumbull United. April 18, 25 – May 2,9,16,23,30 – June 6, 13. They have 1,000 players. Trumbull United has 400/500 players.

AYSO offered to provide fertilizer or another product to assist with getting the fields in condition. Superintendent indicated that the fields will need Merit (grub control) early spring and their donation of this produce would be appreciated.

Again the Superintendent said they will take all requests and try to accommodate league needs.

Questioned if they can install a sink at the upper level lavatory in the Kaechele Building, as well as needed gutters, particularly at the door front and back garage door. The piping is all in place, sink just needs to be installed. They would also like to install a railing and motion-sensor lights for the large steps. Superintendent indicated that both projects would be acceptable. List of materials and installation procedures for these several projects to be provided to Superintendent for his review prior to installation.

Joan Dosky, Trumbull United Soccer:

Submitted their field scheduling request for the spring season. They will have 23 teams. They will be adding a TOP Special Needs Soccer Program this year. Will need a small area designated for this group. It's more a socializing program to develop skills. They like utilizing Old Mine Field area as in the past. They do need another field for a younger group, doesn't need to be regulation size. Superintendent suggested they look at Indian Ledge Lower Level #4...large field, perhaps 10 feet short of regulation size. They provided portable goals for Indian Ledge last year and this year they would like to donate aluminum benches.

Chairman expressed appreciation and requested two letters indicating their donations be submitted for our records.

CONSENSUS to close Public Comments and return to the order of the Agenda.

CONSENSUS to approve the minutes of the January meeting as distributed.

Fallen Heroes Event Update:

It was felt that request to land Black Hawk helicopter at Indian Ledge Park artificial field would be denied. Indian Ledge I natural turf field could be approved.

Irish Festival:

We have been informed that the Feile committee voted NOT to have a festival this year.

CONSENSUS of approval to the German Shepherd Dog Club of Greater New Haven, Inc. to utilize the lower level field for two events; Sunday, September 6, 2009 and Saturday, October 10, 2009 with appropriate permit from Recreation Department including required insurance certificate.

Budget Review:

Superintendent reviewed the budget submitted to the First Selectman. Budget includes contractual increases only in salaries. We have increased the Part Time Rangers \$1.50 per hour. They are currently at a lower level than lifeguards, pool checkers or golf course rangers. Even with this increase they will be considerably lower than these similar part-time positions. Certification required courses will hopefully be reinstated. Under Capital Outlay we have included funding for a required Handicap Access Ramp at the Teen Center. Lease purchases are included which are off-set by those which are being retired. We are requesting a heavy duty tractor for shared- use by Highway and Parks Department. Also, two vehicles, one replacement pickup truck and one replacement ranger vehicle.

Superintendent's Report:

Island Brook Park looking good. Drains perfectly.

We are clearing for the parking lot at Great Oak Park.

Building new heavy duty gates for Twin Brooks and Old Mine Parks.

Pruning trees at the Gilbert Standley Orchard.

Continue with keeping the Rail Trail cleared of debris and fallen trees.

Mr. Vonick mentioned a tree which is down across the trail near Whitney Avenue. Superintendent took note.

CONSENSUS to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Adm. Assistant

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