

PARK COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 10, 2008

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

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)	Kevin Bellows
Louann Riccio	John Scippa
Tracy Vonick	Anthony Chmielewski
Gene Cellini	

Also,	Guests:
First Selectman Raymond G. Baldwin, Jr.	Steve Chille, Chris Bowden. John Plofkin, Babe Ruth League
Director of Public Works John DelVecchio	Richard MacLean, Jim O'Donnell and Mary Ellen Kovacs,
Park Superintendent Dmitri Paris	Representing Feile, Inc.
Recreation Director Mary Markham	

Chairman called meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Chmielewski and unanimously passed to add Babe Ruth League request to our Agenda.

Stave Chilli, 11 Thomas Street, Babe Ruth League:

Update on Concession Stand Health Code Improvements: They distributed a diagram of the new layout for the interior of the Concession Stand at Unity Park. The wall has been moved. They are now going to populate it with items required by the Health Department...hood, suppression system and sinks. They have contracted-out for the installation. Plans have been approved by the Engineering Department, currently being reviewed by the Fire Marshal and then to the Building Official. Approvals should be finalized this week. They request permission to move forward with installation.

**MOTION** by Mr. Vonick, second by Dr. Bellows, and unanimously passed to approve installation of hood, suppression system, and sinks as required by the Board of Health in the Unity Park Babe Ruth Concession Building once all permits are in place.

Richard MacLean, Feile President, 68 Sport Hill Road, Easton with James O'Donnell, Board Member and Mary Ellen Kovacs of Festival Committee:

Mr. MacLean reviewed their meeting in October with the First Selectman, Director of Public Works and Park Commission Chairman which was set to review the invoices submitted by the Parks Department to Feile, Inc. for turf repair following this past June's Irish Festival which they had contested. At that meeting a compromise figure of \$4,000 was suggested with both Mr. MacLean and Mr. Ferrigno to bring this proposal back to their respective boards. They attend tonight to request approval for them to conduct their Irish 'Festival at Indian Ledge Park on Fathers' Day weekend 2009; and request that the Commission reconsider the Park Usage Permit Fee that would apply to the Irish Festival for 2009 and beyond.

Chairman qualified for the Commission that the compromise was offered by the Director of Public Works and First Selectman, suggesting that the cost for rehabilitation of Indian Ledge I, the primary field area utilized by Feile, could reasonably be offered as a compromise to the "full multi-field" turf rehabilitation originally invoiced by the Park Department. For the October meeting, the Chairman provided two comparison costs from Treeland ( one from the "Charts" and a Field Inspection cost) for rehabilitating the Indian Ledge Fields in support of the invoice presented for the repairs, which included Indian Ledge I as well as the lower level and upper levels of turf.

Mr. MacLean commented that when we first sat down in 2005 one of the things that he tried to stress was that they not only wanted to be good visitors to Trumbull but wanted to help contribute to the town of Trumbull and the Trumbull community. They wanted to engage Trumbull groups in the festival to benefit them and feel vested in the event. Over the four years, Feile paid over \$100,000 to town of Trumbull police, fire, parks and emergency services. Additionally they made donations to the Marching Band, Explorers and Parks Department, as well as two charities in New Orleans following the Katrina event (\$14,000 to Habitat and \$19,000 for high school computers) and \$11,000 to the St. Patrick's Football Club. They like to think that they have worked hard to make the Town of Trumbull proud to host their event.

Their event has not been without glitches. He expressed appreciation to our Director of Public Works, Parks Superintendent, First Selectman Baldwin and Park Commission Chairman Ferrigno as they worked through these.

Their request is that they would like to continue with a renewal of the agreement we have been working under for the past three years and continue for another three years and make it a date for the town of Trumbull.

Chairman Ferrigno questions is there a second part to their request?

Yes. We would like you to adopt new regulations with regard to permit fees. Non-Trumbull Events Permit Fees.

The amount that would be applied to them would be very expensive (\$13,000). They would prefer somewhere around \$3,700 as was the amount over the past three years. They run on a pretty narrow margin. This year: \$350,000 revenues and net \$22,000/\$30,000 after donations. They have a 10% margin when things go well. Weather conditions make it difficult. An additional \$10,000 to budget to have the festival in Trumbull would be prohibitive for them. They would like to be grand-fathered in at their previous contract amount as it relates to festival days and set-up and tear down days. He noted that during set-up and break-down, the park is not exclusive to their event. Other activities are happening in the park...softball, turf field, teen center, water park...right up to Friday.

Once again, our request is to be grand-fathered in.

Discussion centered around how they could reduce their costs by utilizing private security company and more volunteers.

Director of Public Works John DeVecchio agreed to track labor costs over the past four years to determine where the cost needs to be for this to be a self-supporting event. He felt we should have a meeting of the minds so that there are no surprises on Feile part or on the Town's part. Private security may bring their costs down 50 percent. He stated that on past history, we must agree or disagree on remediation costs...labor and materials.

Chairman cautioned that they must be self-supporting and not impact on the taxpayers of Trumbull.

Mr. MacLean said that they recognize that as an organization they need to work sooner on what is a manageable range of expenses. Should sit down in December or January with all the departments in question and determine costs so there are no surprises.

First Selectman Baldwin stated that as all are aware, he is a big supporter of this event. Much like the Town's Annual Concert, we are going to take the same approach as Feile and ask departments to give us budgets in advance of the event so we can make plans accordingly. He said Trumbull Day planning is much the same...they were shocked by the cost of security this year.

Mr. Baldwin reiterated that Feile is looking for a waiver of new fees for at least the next two years. I strongly support what they have done and would appreciate your consideration of a Waiver of Fees.

Chairman reiterated, we would like you (Feile) to be self-supporting, being a non-Town event. If we can assist by coming up with anticipated costs in advance, we would certainly do this. But, costs are determined by needs...parking, security, grounds maintenance.

Mr. Baldwin commented that these family events really add value to the community.

Mr. O'Donnell noted that there are 6000 members in the Gaelic Club with close to 25% of their Executive Committee Trumbull residents. Their "Grounds Person" is a Trumbull resident.

Mr. MacLean said they need to prepare and meet a budget, and they need to know in advance what to expect.

Chairman commented that the Parks Department has a budget as well which is determined by municipal needs. He questioned the Director of Public Works if we can develop a cost average for manpower for the past four years for the parks in particular.

Mr. DeVecchio indicated that they should be able to put figures together for a review of costs.

Mr. MacLean said they are looking for a tentative approval tonight. More comfortable if they are paying for specific identified issues, materials and labor.

John Scippa: If we could review what costs have been for the past four years, come up with a number, exact and as close to what the cost is, we could look at it and all be comfortable with our decision.

Mr. MacLean said they are not pressing the Commission but they would like one year, plus three years.

Mr. Scippa said he was uncomfortable with an agreement to be put in place committing the Town to a contract for the Town to sustain for two or three years. Comfortable with this current year. He thought we could consider to continue for one year.

Mr. MacLean said that in order for them to plan, they have to maintain the status quo for permit fees... grand-fathered in, subject to final analysis by the Town looking into the fees. Tentative Agreement for 2009 all contingent on fees for one year.

Chairman: Any questions?

Mr. Chmielewski felt we need the review.

Mr. Vonick: We will set a date aside for this tentative event date once terms are comfortable for both parties. Families may not pay the \$12 this coming year.

Mr. Scippa: Dmitri and John are to get the hard numbers together. Come back to us in December (one month) when we can make a professional decision on affordability to us and then before committing to allow this to go forward in 2009.

Mr. Ferrigno: We want this event to be self-sustaining with no cost for the Town of Trumbull.

Mr. MacLean said they have to go through costs with Police Department, Fire and EMS as well.

Chairman asked if there were any questions.

Mr. MacLean thanked the Commission for their support in the last four years. We feel Trumbull is a home for us.

Mr. Chmielewski questioned what they are paying now?

Chairman responded \$675 for Friday, Saturday and Sunday and \$337.50. for set-up and break-down days.

Prior to leaving the meeting, Mr. MacLean thanked the Commission for their support in the last four years. We feel Trumbull is a home for us.

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Vonick, and unanimously passed to close meeting to Public Comments.

Superintendent commented that we need a reasonable solution for the costs. It is very expensive because it takes so long for set-up and break-down. They are not like the Annual Concert with professionals setting up. The damage to the turf comes from the long period of prolonged heavy activity. The "make-up" of the event, is driving the costs. Over the four years, we absorbed the costs in our departmental budget for turf repairs... because we are a municipal department there were no specific billings however following the first year grid was provided to help the wear and tear on specific tent areas. When we invoiced for multiple seedings and materials we were not invoicing for coring and manpower that is associated with turf rehabilitation. Treelands submitted costs were more inclusive. Rangers are documented, on call for the complete event. We had a crew of eight on duty immediately following the event. We don't make a profit, just don't want to be in deficit.

Mr. Scippa said absolutely make sure this is for a one year agreement only, with a cash bond in place.

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Scippa, unanimously passed to approve the Indian Ledge Park fields repair invoice compromise from the "full multi-field" turf rehabilitation originally invoiced to only rehabilitation of Indian Ledge I, the primary field area utilized by Feile, in the amount of \$4,000.

**MOTION** by Mr. Vonick, second by Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed to tentatively approve Feile, Inc.'s request to utilize facilities at Indian Ledge Park Fathers' Day Weekend 2009 conditioned upon final review and approval by the Park Commission and Feile, Inc. of a four-year review of finances prepared by the Director of Public Works, Park Superintendent and Chairman of the Park Commission analyzing materials and labor, based on sound best practice, for this event. This tentative approval covers a one-year agreement with submission of a Certificate of Liability Insurance and a minimum cash bond in the amount of \$10,000 to cover any damages to facilities to be determined at the sole discretion of the Park Commission.

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Vonick, unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the October meeting.

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed to ratify actions of the October meeting:

- Consensus to change the order of the Agenda to hear comments of Steve Chille, on behalf of Babe Ruth League.
- Consensus to approve Babe Ruth Leagues removing a wall at their Unity Park Concession Stand to allow space for an additional sink as required by the health Department in accordance with plans approved by the Town's Engineering Department.
- Consensus to close meeting to guests.
- Consensus of approval to Redding, CT BXA Troop 15 for Reciprocal Approval for use of Old Mine Park on November 1-2, 2008 by this non resident troop, conditioned upon filing Appropriate Permit through our Recreation Department including Insurance Certificate, Fee and indication of Ratio of adults to youth and no open campfires.
- Consensus of approval for Superintendent to proceed with the field drainage project at Indian Ledge I.
- Consensus to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Chairman reported that he has heard from the Town's Internal Auditor, Lynn Scully, notifying us that Little League has not provided its Tax Returns for her review since 2003..providing transparency of their financials . All other leagues have complied and she is concerned. He said Commissioner Scippa, as a past president of Little League, has agreed to speak with the current chairman of Little League in this regard.

Garbage:

Chairman said that it is now apparent that garbage is out-of-hand throughout our park system and particularly at the field areas. Barrels and dumpsters are over-flowing and not being picked-up. Leagues are required to perform this maintenance as a part of their permit for use of facilities. We experience this at tennis courts and along trails as well.

Recreation Director said that Trumbull United is one League which is particularly attentive to picking up their trash...and teams are always reminded on their notices...fields always free of litter when they leave.

Following discussion it was decided Superintendent will get a spec and bids to cover trash pick-up and then we will meet with the leagues and indicate that unless they help, we are going to contract for this service and will levy to cover trash pick-up as it applies to their areas.

Budget: Superintendent and Chairman will present a tentative budget at the December meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

- Working on and off replacing the roof at the stand at Tashua Pool.
- Sprinkler Park at Beach Pool in process of repair. Cost for underground damage valves was determined at \$17,000. Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent located the breaks in the system and are currently retro-fitting and constructing the plumbing parts and have nearly completed the major repair in-house rather than purchasing the intricate valve system.
- Three-quarters of department beginning work on leaves, plus doing those in parks.
- Winterization of all irrigation systems close to complete.
- Island Brook excess sod installed at Unity fields 1/3/4/and 5.
- Three Little League pitcher mounds (fields 1/3 and 5) replaced with a professional product supplied by Little League, less sand, better compaction (\$3,000)
- Dogs “off-leash” on our trails and the Rail Trail are a problem. Questioned Rangers’ ability to fine for this offense. (We will check with the Town Attorney on enforcement of our Ordinance and can Rangers issue tickets for fines.)
- First Selectman’s Valley Tour for Seniors and Handicapped last Saturday was a really a great time. Approximately 35 attended and were transported in Golf Carts.
- Rail Trail does bring and require work for our Department. Tree falls at least once or twice a week and the path sides need now to be included in our clearing schedule as well as removal of leaves from the path.
- Beginning bi-annual meadow cutting “ground-down”.
- We successfully received a grant covering the costs for a replacement vehicle bridge at Old Mine Park The project has gone out to bid.
- Rangers have identified a Grant for Invasive Species. Could cover the cost to dredge Old Mine Water Way.

Dr. Bellows commented that Island Brook Park looks beautiful. All agreed.

**MOTION** to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Chmielewski and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe, Clerical Administrative Assistant

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