

## **PARK COMMISSION**

**APRIL 12, 2010**

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

Robert Ferrigno, Presiding	Diane Mayo
Joseph DeSabia	Kenneth
Martin	John Scippa

Also,

Dmitri Paris, Park Superintendent (8:20 p.m. – Attended a meeting of the Nature Center Board)  
Dan Nelson, Town Chief of Staff

Guests:

James Blose, 110 Old Tree Farm Lane, Trumbull Titans, New U10 Travel Team  
Phil Becchetti, 40 Essex Lane, Trumbull Titans, New U10 Travel Team  
Mike Mastroni, 9 Bear Den Road, Fallen Heroes Event

### Public Comments:

#### James Blose and Phil Becchetti on behalf of Trumbull Titans:

Mr. Blose and Mr. Becchetti noted this is their third visit with the Park Commission concerning qualifying Trumbull Titans for field scheduling. They reviewed their original request and referral to by the Park Commission to Trumbull Little League to be incorporated under their blanket request for field space. Mr. Blose indicated they have completed background checks and have their federal tax id number. Trumbull Little League initially indicated they would attempt to gain them some field time when they initially had 12 Trumbull resident players; but, since that time Titans has added two non-resident alternate players who are Shelton residents. One of the parents is a Trumbull Board of Education employee. Trumbull Little League has now indicated that because of the Park Commission requirement for full residency, Little League will not be able to accommodate their field scheduling.

They indicated that the Recreation director has tried to field them when there is an open field, but they are looking for a definite schedule rather than a last minute notice of field space. They require practice time. Mr. Becchetti compared their use with St. Joseph High School where there are many non-resident sports team players who use Trumbull facilities.

Chairman noted that the Town has a reciprocal arrangement with St. Joseph High School. We utilize and schedule their facilities as well.

Mr. Becchetti said they simply request a field, Madison Avenue field sufficient for what they need, but he noticed that American Legion is now being scheduled there. For years, only co-ed softball was scheduled there.

Chairman noted that the Recreation Director, Superintendent and Athletic Director schedule the fields in conjunction with the core leagues.

Mr. DeSabia reiterated that we do in fact maintain a 100% Town Residency requirement. *(Researched Minutes June 13, 2005. "...as of January, 2006, we will maintain the 100 percent Trumbull Residency requirement. Rosters must be submitted to the Recreation Director fro each individual team listing Trumbull residents prior to Park Commission release of field space for scheduling".)*

Chairman indicated the Commission would take their request under consideration.

Mike Mastroni, Fallen Heroes Event Coordinator:

Brought Commission current with planning for their Saturday, June 12, 2010 event scheduled for Indian Ledge Park. He brought a sample of the artist paintings of this years group of fallen heroes as well as one the beautiful large "Eagle Wings" plaques which will be presented. He supplied posters and commemorative coins to the Park Commissioners to assist with promotion of the event. They were not able to coordinate a "fly over"; however, they will probably have a static helicopter on the grounds as they had last year. He indicated he will be working in conjunction with the Park Superintendent on set-up arrangements.

Dan Nelson, Town Chief of Staff:

He indicated he was in attendance on behalf of the Town's administration to discuss with the Park Commission an idea which has come forward to combine the current Park Ranger Facility (approximately one or two acres currently on White Plains Road contiguous with Unity Park) with the Nature Center Facility (12 acres commercial property on upper Main Street) into one newly constructed facility within the park system. Several locations have been discussed with Beach Memorial Park (Hedgehog Road Circle Entrance area) indicated as most ideal location to establish a new combined facility. Beach Memorial and Twin Brooks are conducive to Nature Center and Ranger activities with its natural woodlands and current water-way ecology area.

He explained that both buildings are in dire need of extensive and costly maintenance. The thought is to sell both parcels for economic development purposes with the proceeds from the sale of the properties utilized to support the Town's deficient Pension Fund.

The proposal would be to seek federal grant funds to cover the cost of construction of the new facility rather than to bond.

He reiterated that this is currently just an idea they are exploring; however, they would like input from the Commission.

Chairman noted that the Superintendent felt, after looking at all park areas, Beach Memorial Park was the most suitable taking into consideration logistics, security, and utilities needs. Also mentioned was the possibility of utilizing volunteers from the nearby senior housing. He also commented that the

Park Commission will review how much property will be included with the potential sale of the Ranger Station parcel because of the need to retain property contiguous with park land.

Chairman asked for comments from Commissioners:

John Scippa: No issue, makes sense to combine the two facilities.

Ken Martin: Indicated a positive response to combining the Ranger Station and Nature Center.

Diane Mayo: As long as they can get appraisals indicating the parcels are worth selling. She agrees in principal.

Joe DeSabia: Sounds good.

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Superintendent reported that he met with the Nature Center group this evening. They need to sit down with the administration to discuss the details. They are tethered to the current facility. He explained the benefits of the combining of the two facilities.

**MOTION** by Mr. Scippa, second by Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed that the Park Commission agrees in concept and principal of joining the Nature Center and Park Ranger facilities at one new building and central location more properly located within the parks system, which is currently thought best to be at the Hedgehog Road/Circle entrance area of Robert G. Beach Memorial Park in support of the mission of the Town Administration to sell the two parcels currently housing these deteriorating facilities.

**MOTION** by Mr. DeSabia, second by Mr. Scippa, unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2010 meeting as distributed.

Correspondence:

From: The German Shepherd Dog Club of Greater New Haven, Inc., Request to utilize the lower level of Old Mine Park on Sunday, September 5, 2010, for their annual event.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Mayo, second by Mr. DeSabia, unanimously passed to approve use of Old Mine Park by the German Shepherd Dog club Greater New Haven, Inc., to utilize the lower level of Old Mine Park on Sunday, September 5, 2010, for their annual event with appropriate scheduling through the Recreation Department.

Park Stickers Discussion:

Chairman indicated that discussion continues on the issue of Park Vehicle Stickers.

Non-Scholastic Fees for B.O.E. Field Scheduling:

Chairman has met with the First Selectman, Superintendent of Schools, Athletic Director, Plant Administrator and Parks Superintendent and will continue to meet with all parties to resolve the many issues involved with scheduling sports fields. The Board of Education provided a copy of their current Schedule of Fees and Policies; however, the policies need to be modified to meet current problems with scheduling and provide continuity of fees and enforcement requirements for use of sports fields.

**CONSENSUS** of Commission was that all are in agreement that once policy and fee schedule are established, fees for B.O.E. field use by non-scholastic/non town-sponsored leagues should be collected at time of scheduling preferably through the Recreation Department.

Titans Request for Field Scheduling:

**CONSENSUS** of Commission was that while the Commission appreciates their expressed concern with scheduling practice time, as they know, Little League indicated at our meeting of March 8, 2010, they could accommodate scheduling field time for the Titans team. The Park Commission tries to achieve 100 percent residency (*(Researched Minutes June 13, 2005. "...as of January, 2006, we will maintain the 100 percent Trumbull Residency requirement. Rosters must be submitted to the Recreation Director for each individual team listing Trumbull residents prior to Park Commission release of field space for scheduling")*); and, therefore defers to the Trumbull Little League to make that decision because every team is under the umbrella of a core Trumbull Youth Organization. We will respectfully request Little League reconsider and reevaluate possible scheduling Titans field time for the current season only.

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The Park Commission is currently moving forward on a comprehensive policy to address these issues for Town fields scheduling. **It is noted that any agreement made for field usage will be only for the 2010 season.**

Aldo Memorial Park:

Mr. Scippa reported that Aldo Memorial Park, off Madison Avenue, is being utilized for Paint Ball competition. Superintendent will have Rangers check the area.

Twin Brooks Park:

Mr. Martin reported that on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, there was a large non-resident/out-of-state and non-permitted group utilizing the pavilion and surrounding area for a barbeque and Easter Egg Hunt at Twin Brooks Park. There was a New York Airport Shuttle Van and New Jersey plated cars parked in the park. He reported it to a Park Ranger who spoke with the group. There were five large trash bags of garbage left in the park for pick-up. Mr. Martin expressed great concern with non-resident users of park facilities. Chairman, Mr. Martin, and Park Superintendent will plan to meet with the Director of Public Works to once again discuss Park Vehicle Stickers as a control in our parks.

Historical Society Request:

The Historical Society requests permission to host an Antique Car show at Abraham Nichols Park on June 6, 2010. Cars could be parked in their parking area or at the upper level weather permitting, whichever is best. Additional parking would be planned for the N.I.A. and Nothnagle Park parking areas.

**MOTION** by Mr. DeSabia, second by Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed to approve use of Abraham Nichols Park for a Historical Society hosted Antique Car Show by the Eastern Packard Club on June 6, 2010 with final arrangements with the Park Superintendent.

**MOTION** to adjourn at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe  
Clerical Adm. Assistant

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MOTIONS**

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