

PARK COMMISSION  
JULY 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	Joseph DeSabia
Kevin Bellows	Gene Cellini
Ken Martin	Diane Mayo

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

Guests:  
James Blose, 110 Old Tree Farm Lane, Trumbull Titans, U10 Travel Team  
Phil Becchetti, 40 Essex Lane, Trumbull Titans, U10 Travel Team  
Anthony Vinci, American Little Legion, 40 Long Meadow Road

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

Mr. Blose submitted their Fall Roster including 12 Trumbull players. They will look to schedule practices evenings, 90 minutes to 2 hours depending on daylight, once or twice weekly beginning the first week of September through second week in November. He presented copies of their Roster of players, Insurance Certificate and I.R.S. Filings.

Chairman asked if Commissioners had any questions. Dr. Bellows commented that last year his team was scheduled on school fields only.

Chairman thanked them for their attendance and submission of information.

**MOTION** by Mr. DeSabia, second Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed to close Public Comments and return to order of the Agenda.

**MOTION** by Mr. DeSabia, second Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed to accept the minutes of the June 14, 2010, meeting as distributed.

Correspondence:

From Norma Overhiser, Ex. Asst. to the First Selectman, indicating a call from Mr. Jerry Bloom 24 Fairfield Avenue, Shelton, CT who asked about the rule that prohibits metal detectors in Trumbull Parks. He would like to know when this was adopted and if it is a “legal” ruling.

Chairman will respond that the Town of Trumbull Charter (November 4, 2003, Section 13.C, and those going back to July 1, 1965) states that the Park Commission has the care, management and control of all parks and grounds used for park and recreational purposes (which includes Historic Cemeteries and Greens). Further, the Commission has the power to make and alter from time to time all needful rules and regulations for the maintenance of order, safety and decency in said parks and grounds.

Town Code Ordinance (Section 15-3) states that no person other than a resident of the town shall use any park or any public property located therein except with the permission of the Board of Park Commissioners.

The Park Commission has historically denied any use of various subsurface detectors (including metal detection devices) or digging for the collection of items or minerals within the grounds of the Trumbull Park System or historic cemeteries. The Park Superintendent and Park Rangers, acting on behalf of the Park Commission, have the authority to use appropriate enforcement action for any violation of our Ordinances.

The intent of our ordinances is to allow for the needful rules and regulations for the healthful maintenance of order and safety within the parks and grounds of the Town. Any digging is hazardous and allows for the damage of grounds.

Old Business:

Dr. Bellows questioned the failing turf condition of the fields at the Unity Park Complex. Superintendent explained that over the past several years, criticism of our departmental management was excessive (why are we so “tuff” on field play) and that the Leagues’ preference was for play time not fields visual aesthetic. Subsequently we agreed to Leagues handling of maintenance on these fields. Turf density comes at a cost. We are watering the fields; however, we are presently in a heavy drought period. We have a great deal of clover on the fields which does not affect play. We watch for any hazardous conditions.

Dr. Bellows reported there is a large shrub to the right of the mailbox at the Exit onto White Plains Road from the Ranger Station which should be trimmed for a better sight line. Superintendent made note and indicated the Trumpet Vine would be trimmed.

The Box Trailer was placed at Unity Park going back to the mid 1990's by the Babe Ruth League and ceased to be utilized several years ago. Several garages will be contacted to determine if the box trailer can be removed.

Mr. Martin reported that the Historical Society summer History Camp at the Abraham Nichols House will be limited to one week, July 12 through 19.

Recreation Director noted that this year the Recreation Department has two Summer Camps with 500 registered.

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**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed to re-open Public Comments to hear Anthony Vinci, 40 Long Meadow Road, on behalf of American Little Legion.

Anthony Vinci presented Little Legion's Fall Use of facilities request for Fall Ball. They request use of the High School, Unity and what ever else is available for their play. High School fields should be open this fall. They work with Little League to schedule six teams of 10/11/12 year-old players for practices during the week, with games on weekends.

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Cellini, unanimously passed to close this Public Comments portion of the meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

- In a very hot heat wave. We are not cutting, but watering. We use 55 gallon drums and pails to keep greens plantings watered.
- Pools up and running. Just a few closings (8 hour cycle) because of fecal matter or vomit.
- Tashua Playground Equipment installation completed. Already one swing damaged.
- Playground Inspection reports received with just under \$8,000 in repairs required to be up to code changes, i.e. Consumer Protection required changes for chains and hooks, etc. We should be done with these by the end of the month.
- Water Parks holding-up extremely well.
- Dry weather will allow our dredging the Old Mine waterway.
- Begun working on the boardwalk at Great Oak Park. State Grant for materials.
- Received a neighbor complaint about the loud music at Unity Park games. Music is from the Babe Ruth field. We will alert Babe Ruth to curtail the loud amplification of music over their sound system.

Mr. Martin noted:

- Sign at the Park Street Rail Trail entrance near the Commuter Parking Lot has been knocked down.
- A new sign is needed for Riverside Cemetery at the Daniels Farm Road entrance.
- There are two completely rusted grills at Unity Park Picnic Area which should be removed.

Dr. Bellows noted that he walked the St. John's Property which is a beautiful open space area. It is our understanding that the application to build on the site went to court and will be withdrawn. The property is still owned by St. John's Church.

**MOTION** to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrs. Mayo, and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe, Clerical Adm. Asst.

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