

PARK COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 8, 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
Kevin Bellows
John Scippa
Diane Mayo

Anthony Chmielewski
Joseph DeSabia
Gene Cellini

Also,
Dmitri Paris, Park Superintendent
Mary Markham, Recreation Director
Timothy M. Herbst, First Selectman

Guests:

Christina Pereiro, 11 Arrow Head Road (Trumbull Youth Lacrosse)
Jim Olayos, Athletic Dir., St. Joseph High School
James Blose, 110 Old Tree Farm Lane, Trumbull Titans, New U10 Travel Team
Phil Becchetti, 40 Essex Lane, Trumbull Titans, New U10 Travel Team
Rich Vieira, Dir. Of Athletics, Christian Heritage School
Rick Bushnell, 29 Camelot Drive, AYSO
Joan Dosky, 20 Quaker Lane, Trumbull United Soccer Club
Anthony Vinci, 41 Meadow Road Trumbull American Little Legion
Gary Bean, 163 Hilltop Circle, Trumbull Babe Ruth League

MOTION by Mr. Bellows, second by Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed to change the order of the Agenda for discussion with First Selectman Timothy Herbst prior to Public Comments.

First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst requested opportunity for discussion concerning Park Vehicle Stickers. He indicated that he had preliminary discussions with the Recreation Director and Park Superintendent concerning complaints about non-residents using park facilities and increase in littering in our parks. He mentioned a 1.7 percent revenue shortfall this year possibly accumulating to 3.2 percent over the next two years. He expressed great concern with this budget shortfall possibility and the need for more controls over the use of our parks and would like to have the Commission consider a Fee for Park Stickers to get a handle on those who use our park facilities. He doesn't want the fee to be excessive, but suggested \$10 per vehicle next season. The Recreation Director indicated that we gave out close to 5,000 stickers last season which would equate to \$50,000 annually for resident vehicle stickers. The fee would also cover the cost for purchase of stickers and distribution.

Superintendent questioned Non-Resident Stickers as we have many "all-access" parks ... ball fields, Nanny passes, pool guests, etc.

Chairman commented we may have to consider a "day" pass covering non-resident exceptions.

First Selectman Herbst asked that the Commission explore the options in this regard and make its recommendation; however, non-resident sticker should be substantially more. He reiterated his great concern with loss of revenues this year and next year.

As our stickers about to expire, June 30, 2010, a request for Special Appropriation would be required to purchase prior to that date.

Chairman thanked the First Selectman for his attendance to discuss this concern with the Commission.

Christina Pereiro, Trumbull Youth Lacrosse:

They are for the third year hosting their annual picnic at Unity Park, Sunday, June 20, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to dusk with approximately 300 people in attendance. They will provide the appropriate insurance certificate naming the Town as additional insured. The owner supplies the insurance certificate. Twice before, they have received permission to rent and provide a rock climbing wall for the event. Climbers are fitted with a harness and surface can be adjusted for different levels of challenge. The wall is a 24' portable climbing wall and accommodates 4 climbers at one time.

Mrs. Mayo questioned if parents sign a waiver for the kids. Response, "No".

Jim Olayos, Athletic dir., St. Joseph High School:

In support of St. Joseph High School request to use Unity Park for its JV Softball and Indian Ledge artificial turf field for Lacrosse. They also use Madison Middle School for JV Baseball. They are currently renovating their upper field and don't have the space for a few dates. Upon question, he indicated they can utilize a skinned softball field. Lacrosse is 3:00/5:30 p.m., 4/8, 4/16, 5/7, 5/15, and 5/20. He indicated they do share their outdoor facilities with Town leagues.

James Blöse, 110 Old Tree Farm Lane, and Phil Becchetti, 40 Essex Lane,
Trumbull Titans, New U10 Travel Team

They are a new U20 Travel Team, ages 9 and 10, 12 players. They will provide an extra level of baseball and need a practice field to use for outside practice. Currently practice inside. They have insurance for the team.

Chairman noted that we require that all outside nonprofit organizations permitted to use Town facilities are in compliance with federal and state reporting requirements as well a background checks for all individuals working with youth.

Jim Blöse submitted their Roster and indicated they need field apace from April through July.

This is their first year. Upon question, Mr. Becchetti stated that they charge for each player, they cover the cost of uniform, use of facilities and tournaments...approximately \$550. They need practice times about 2 hours (90 minutes) Mondays through Fridays, from 5:00 p.m. on. Need a 46 foot pitching distance.

Superintendent questioned if they can play on a "skinned" field. Answer, "Yes". Just don't want the kids to be dormant through this period.

Mr. Cellini questioned how does this group differ from other teams, Little League or American Legion?

Mr. Blöse stated that they ate similar, but add to what they are currently doing. All are at All Star ability. Their tryouts were in late November and December. Twelve boys experienced in playing in tournaments. Upon question, both sons playing (ages 9 years). Chairman questioned are they just doing this while their sons are playing. They said, No.

Mary Markham, Recreation Director:

Added for the record that St. Joseph's High School are donating Turf Fabric for four batting cages...two at Trumbull High School, one each at Unity Babe Ruth and Little League fields.

Rick Vieira, Christian Heritage School Dir. Of Athletics:

Requested use of Unity Field (Baseball), Nothnagle Field (Softball), Tashua (Tennis) in parks, and Indian Ledge Soccer Field. Also requesting from BOE use of Madison Middle (Baseball) and THS (Tennis). They offer their gym for basketball summer camps and THS for over-flow games.

Upon question, Superintendent said Twin Brook's field is off scheduling because of wet circumstances. This field has been transformed into a passive use parcel. The wetland is under federal jurisdiction. We can't raise this field above the water levels as it is in a flood plain and because of this it falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Also, Twin Brooks has limited parking.

Rick Bushnell, Trumbull AYSO:

He submitted a copy of their spring schedule, beginning April 24th, Saturdays 12:00 noon. Spring registration will give them approximately 1,300 players. All teams will have 1 game scheduled per week on Saturdays. Games begin at 8:30 to 1:30 at Kaechel (all four quadrooms). In addition they are requesting use of one additional full-sized field, hopefully at Indian Ledge, for 3 or 4 games every Saturday morning on that field. They coordinate their schedules with Trumbull United. Practices are usually on school ground; however, one other practice field would be good.

There was a parking problem last fall, with over scheduling at Kaechele/Madison. They now provide a Special Police Officer to handle parking.

Chairman questioned both Joan Dosky and Rick Bushnell as to how did they work out their over-lap problems. Joan stated they no longer compete for players. They share the facilities and cooperate. Trumbull United is the Travel Team, AYSO the Recreation Team. Youth can play both; but, not a lot do. They have parents on both boards or coaching both.

AYSO's financials are done out of their National Group. They are 100% background checked. Youth 18 do not get checked.

Joan Dosky, Trumbull United Soccer Club:

Background checks are done. Federal Tax Return sent in (State not required)

She noted their Top Soccer Group (40 kids) has been most successful and a most rewarding program. They take the whole 4 quadrooms at Kaechele on Saturdays from 2:00 to dusk.

They play:

Kaechele on Sunday's all day., Games

Old Mine Monday-Friday 3:00 to dusk for practice.

Indian Ledge 4 Mondays-Fridays, 3:00 to dusk, Practice

Indian Ledge 2 turf Tuesdays-Fridays, 3:00 to 10:00 p.m. Practice

Indian Ledge 2 turf Saturdays, 12:00 to 10:00 p.m. Games, and

Indian Ledge 2 turf Sundays, 10:00 to 11:00, Games.

They also need, two other large fields for Sundays, 10:00 a.m. to dusk for Games.

Superintendent commented that Kaechele fields are getting some heavy wear out there and they need to begin to take this into consideration.

Problem they see, They need space for 5/6 additional teams. THS not available in the spring. Could use Indian Ledge 4 for youngest team.

Chairman questioned what would happen if we can't accommodate the additional teams. He asked do they get to a point in time when you must filter kids down to Recreation group?

Dr. Bellows noted that Madison Middle is not used for Pop Warner in the spring, perhaps they can schedule there.

Mrs. Mayo asked if they are 100% Trumbull residents. Yes.

Anthony Vinci, American Little Legion:

Submitted details for their field use needs. They are working closely with Little League. They need Monday nights 5:00 to dusk for 11/12 year olds, one field, 2 adults coaching. Their senior teams will be scheduled at THS. There may be some home games if they make the Play Offs. Their season is June 5 through July 22...7 weeks. Pretty condensed program. They would like to have one or two practices Mondays through Sundays, one field (Spring Hill). They will try as well for scheduling on the THS JV or Varsity fields if time works out for them. St. Joseph also committed 20 dates to them, as well at Notre Dame in Fairfield.

Gary Bean, Trumbull Babe Ruth League:

Submitted fields request for their upcoming season. 19 teams, approximately 400 games, field space for 200 games (one-half, TR team against TR team), 210 players. They submitted their financials, insurance certificate and 501C certificate.

Superintendent stated that their Unity field is showing signs of ware, yet no sign of slowing down use. He feels they may be able to get another season out of it and they will be facing a shut down.

Mr. Bean asked when would we want to take down the field. Superintendent indicated best time would be in August.

Mr. Cellini added that in the fall they can play at Madison in the afternoon because Pop Warner is over at 11:00 a.m. as well as at Jane Ryan School. THS field will be back on line in the fall as well and perhaps St. Joseph's will be available for some scheduling.

Superintendent stated that one way or another we will have to shut down at some point. Chairman said we should be planning now for August/Fall shut down. With repairs, we can get a few years added for use.

Chairman welcomed new Commissioner, Diane Mayo.

Election of Officers:

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed nominating Robert Ferrigno to continue as Chairman. Vote unanimously in favor.

MOTION BY Mr. DeSabia, second by Mr. Scippa and Mrs. Mayo, and unanimously nominating Kevin Bellows to continue as Vice Chairman. Vote unanimously in favor.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Scippa, adopting the second Monday of each month as the regular meeting date for the Park Commission Meetings for 2010, with meeting being held the following Monday, or a date to be determined, if the regular meeting date falls on a holiday or must necessarily be rescheduled.

RETURN TO ORDER OF THE AGENDA.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Chmielewski, accepting the minutes of December 14, 2009 and January 11, 2010 as distributed and to approve any consensus actions taken.

CORRESPONDENCE:

From: Trumbull Lacrosse - Indicating TYL has never filed an IRS form 990 before. They do so this year. Submitted Financial Records for 2009 for general overview. They will comply with background check requirement.

From: Trumbull Nature and Arts Center - Request to utilize Old Mine Parking for Rail Trails hiking event for June 5 & 6 for 25 participants. They are also planning to launch their letterboxing project on one of those days. (We will indicate to them that use of Old Mine is contingent upon whether there is Picnic Scheduling for those dates and that the event should be limited to 25 participants because of the parking limitations.)

From: Silvia Arnoso – Expressing interest and to present a proposal for new management for the concessions stands at Beach and Tashua pools. (We will indicate, we are of the understanding that we still have a Concession Contract in place and we will add her to a bid list if we should re-bid the concessions.

Chairman indicated that a long-term agreement was entered into several years ago with the present concessionaire because upgrades of equipment were required by the Health Department and while we own the buildings, he was required to meet the Health Code and provide equipment at his expense. We are of the understanding that we still have a Concession Contract in place. The Purchasing Agent is attempting to locate a copy of that contract. Once received, we will have the Town Attorney review to determine if re-bidding may occur. According to the contract all upgrades to this facility will be the sole property of the Town of Trumbull.

Chairman will respond to Ms. Arnos once a review of the present contract has been accomplished.

REQUESTS:

Trumbull Titans, New U10 Travel Team

New U20 Travel Team, ages 9 and 10, 12 players. Request for practice field to use for outside practice.

We will indicate to this new Travel Team group that we are currently working through scheduling of leagues to determine what field space is available. Our suggestion would be for them to contact one of the organized leagues who are utilizing fields to determine if they can be incorporated under their blanket request for field space. He is reminded all outside nonprofit organizations permitted to use Town facilities must be in compliance with federal and state reporting requirements and Background Checks must be accomplished prior to scheduling for use of Town facilities.

Chairman reiterated that before scheduling consideration, Town needs recognition and validation from the Internal Revenue Service that organization is a bona fide legal 501C. Also, the Town needs names and addresses of individuals in contact with youth and verification and proof that background checks are completed.

FIELD REQUESTS:

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to accept Field Requests for scheduling as follows:

Christian Heritage
AYSO
Lacrosse
Tumbull United Soccer
American Legion
American Little Legion
Babe Ruth
St. Joseph High School
Trumbull Recreation Softball
Trumbull Little League

VEHICLE STICKERS:

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Dr. Bellows and Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed to agree in principal with setting an Annual Fee of \$10 per year for a Trumbull resident Park Vehicle Sticker with particulars to be resolved in time for our next regular meeting in order to have new program in place to begin June, 2010, when current sticker expires.

BUDGET REVIEW:

- Superintendent indicated that we will submit a proposed budget for Fiscal 2010/2011 with no changes from the current budget total. This will be a very tight operating budget proposal. His first budget meeting is scheduled for March 2nd, after 12:00 noon.
- Department has completed a large clean-up projects at Abraham Nichols Park and at Twin Brooks/Manor Drive, installed a new gate at Manor Drive to keep vehicles out of the area.
- Superintendent has a Trial Date coming up this month on an injury case at Island Brook Park Tennis Courts.

MOTION to adjourn at 10:20 p.m. by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Chmielewski, and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Adm. Assistant

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MOTIONS

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