

**PARK COMMISSION
MARCH 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
Joseph DeSabia
Kenneth Martin

Kevin Bellows
John Scippa
Diane Mayo (7:40 p.m.)
Gene Cellini (8:42 p.m.)

Also,
Dmitri Paris, Park Superintendent

Guests:

George Hesse, 44 Regina Street, Little League Baseball Operations Mgr.
James Blose, 110 Old Tree Farm Lane, Trumbull Titans, New U10 Travel Team
Phil Becchetti, 40 Essex Lane, Trumbull Titans, New U10 Travel Team
Silvia Arnos, 12 Alice Place, Concessions Discussion
Mike Mastroni, 9 Bear Den Road, Annual Fallen Heroes Event
Steve Chille, 4 Thomas Street, President TR Babe Ruth League
Mark Gagnon, 23 Maple Street, Frenchtown Elementary School Fathers' Club

Public Comments:

George Hesse, Trumbull Little League:

He is the Baseball Operations Mgr. for Little League and indicated that he has included Little League in their planned Master Schedule for Spring Play.

James Blose and Phil Becchetti on behalf of Trumbull Titans:

He indicated that they have spoken with Trumbull Little League who expressed a willingness to work with them by including them in their Field Scheduling Plan for this coming season. If the Park Commission approves their request, they will work through Little League to schedule fields. He submitted copies of their completed application for 501C designation, insurance certificate, background checks on individuals coming in contact with youth and roster of players.

He noted they are looking for field scheduling prior to Little League opening to begin tournaments. They are anxious to get youth to the outside from their current indoor play. They would like scheduling by April 10th, Little League will begin after school break the latter part of April. They thought the ball field at the Golf Course on Madison Avenue might be available and is sufficient for their group.

Chairman questioned if they checked with the Board of Education on use of school fields. They have not, but will. Schools have first priority, but schedule fields for league play once their needs are met. It was mentioned to them that the Madison Avenue field is currently schedules Co-Ed Softball and school use. Once spring scheduling is completed, we would know if this particular field is available.

Mr. Hesse noted that he didn't see any challenge with them working with Little League and scheduling field times for them.

Superintendent mentioned that the fields will be turned over at a point in time when weather breaks. Traditionall, it is close to the 2nd week of April depending upon weather conditions. Once fields are released, scheduling will be by Little League through the Recreation Department.

Silvia Arnos, 12 Alice Place, Concessions Discussion:

Previously sent correspondence questioning how to bid for concession rights at Beach Memorial and Tashua Pools, and expressed concern with the deteriorating services, food choices and health conditions at the concession stands. She is a Personal Chef, her family has worked at the food business and concerned that our current concessionaire is not meeting Health Codes.

Chairman indicated that we do, in fact, have a long-term contract in place with the current concessionaire; however, when that terminates Request for Bids will be published. He indicated that we will place the Health Director on copy of her correspondence concerning health concerns she feels should be corrected.

Chairman thanked her for attend to express her concerns indicating that in the upcoming season, if she witnesses any violations she should immediately notify either the Superintendent or Park Commission, and we will pass this information on to the Health Director.

Mr. Martin mentioned that he feels the major problem at concessions is litter; and, at the ball fields, there should be more responsibility with picking-up after ball games.

Mike Mastroni, Annual Fallen Heroes Event:

This year's event is being planned for Saturday, June 12, 2010, 12:30 p.m., Ceremony starts at 1:00 p.m. He has met with American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars who will once again sponsor this memorial tribute in honor of those service men and women who have lost their lives defending our country. He reviewed last year's most impressive event and indicated they are once again requesting use of Indian Ledge Field I and Amphitheatre stage for the Fallen Heroes Event. He will work with the Superintendent on set-up of tent and chairs. There will be many dignitaries in attendance as well as the Newport Navy Jazz Band. He submitted a listing of those being honored that day:

US Army CWO William I. Brennan, Bethlemen, CT.
US Navy SEAL/LEO Tyler J. Connely, Glastonbury, CT.
US ARMY SGT. Felix M. DelGreco, Jr., Simsbury CT
US ARMY SGT. Benjamin L. Gilman, Meriden, CT
US ARMY ARMY WO Michael A. Kight, Waterbury, CT
US NAVY SWO SEAL Jason D. Lewis, Brookfield, CT
US NAVY SEAL LT Michael P. Murphy, Patchogue, NY
US NAVY PO2 Tyler J. Trahan

Chairman expressed appreciation to the Fallen Heroes Committee, Mr. Mastroni and the Trumbull Veterans Groups for the planning and conducting of this most impressive annual event, indicating that we will have the Recreation Department hold their date. He is to work with the Superintendent on the details and set-up.

Steve Chille, on behalf of Trumbull Babe Ruth League:

He submitted the League's financials, tax returns, Fees Analysis, 501C Certificate, and Insurance Certificate.

Noted they have two concerns this coming season. They would like to have the mound, which is currently elevated but flat, rebuilt; and, they would like to build a locked-off area on the second floor of the press box to store equipment. He said they are in agreement to closing down the field in the Fall for a complete rehabilitation. They will play on a different field in the fall.

Superintendent explained that repair to the mound will be in the range of \$3,000. He would suggest they forego this work until the fall rehabilitation project. He noted also that he was told there was a desire to rehab depressions at the base lines (the apron) with new material. This product comes bagged and once provided this repair would be accomplished by the Park Department crew.

A storage area on the second floor of the press box would be considered for approval once they submit their plans for review by the Commission, Superintendent, Engineering and Health Departments.

Garbage pick-up is a constant problem. He will continue to drill coaches on the importance of picking-up following games.

Mark Gagnon, Frenchtown Elementary School Fathers' Club:

Requested permission for Frenchtown Elementary School Fathers' Club to host a Sleep-Out at Old Mine Park first week of June. They will cook, show a movie and sleep in tents. They would set-up tents on the field area. They will finalize plans once there is a consensus of approval for them to go forward. They were told that Boy Scouts do this but didn't know if school groups are allowed.

Chairman indicated that we have, in fact, approved a similar sleep-over by the Daniels Farm Fathers Club. It was suggested he check with them to determine supervision levels. Event should be parent and child (children) attendance, emergency vehicles (cars), cell phones, EMS alert to the activity and inclement weather plans.

MOTION by Mrs. Mayo, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to close Public Comments.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed to accept the minutes as distributed of the February meeting.

Chairman welcomed new Park Commissioner, Kenneth Martin.

Correspondence:

Received this evening a request from the Trumbull Community Women to conduct their annual Tidy Up Trumbull project, April 24th – May 2nd.

April 24: Electronic Recycling (tentative for 8-12 at the Nature and Arts Center.

April 25: Optional date for any clean-up projects.

April 26 – May 1: Preferred dates to do planned clean-up projects.

May 2: Earth Day Fair at the Nature and Arts Center.

They will work with the Park Superintendent to coordinate the best areas to focus their efforts. They plan a new bench for the Beach Pool Water Park area and to plant a tree.

MOTION by Mr. Scippa, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve the Trumbull Community Women's Club Annual Tidy Up Trumbull project within the park system.

MOTION by Mr. DeSabia, second by Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed to approve Trumbull Youth Lacrosse request to provide a Rock Climbing Wall at their Annual Picnic on Sunday, June 20, 2010, at Unity Park lower pavilion from 9:00 a.m. to dusk with required insurance certificate provided by the vendor.

MOTION by Mr. DeSabia, second by Mr. Scippa, unanimously passed to approve request for use of Indian Ledge Park for this year's Annual Fallen Heroes Event being planned by the American Legion and VFW in conjunction with the Fallen Heroes Committee for Saturday, June 12, 2010, 12:30 p.m., Ceremony at 1:00 p.m. with details to be accomplished under the direction of the Park Superintendent and scheduling through the Recreation Department. As in the past events for Fallen Heroes, the set-up, take-down, and cleanup etc. will all be done by volunteers from the Fallen Heroes Organization.

Park Stickers:

Chairman noted that at the request of the First Selectman, he, the Park Superintendent, and Vice Chairman Keven Bellows this morning conducted a tour of our larger parks within the park system with the new Director of Public Works, John Marsilio. They will meet again concerning any recommendations on fees and distribution of Park Stickers.

Mr. Martin noted that there were perhaps 40 cars at Twin Brooks this past Saturday, half without stickers. Stickers give some degree of control and a revenue source to the Town. He said that everyone using Wolf Park in Monroe must pay a Parking Fee.

Sticker control would most probably be accomplished by the Park Rangers. Park Rangers are authorized to issue Parking Tickets.

Superintendent's Report:

- Clearing brush at Nothnagle and Abraham Nichols Park (Orchard to Tannery).
- Snow events brought clearing assignments.
- We had some flooding damage.
- Water leak at Abraham Nichols Park orchard area (found no as-builts).
- Maner Drive had a washout. A stone buffer was constructed at the site.
- We have had tears (cracks) in our new tennis courts material at 5 courts, one was vandalism. Currently checking with contractor.
- Repaired Larkspur Bridge at Twin Brooks
- Readyng parks for spring.

Superintendent indicated that with full scheduling of park facilities now peeking, he is requesting the Commission to consider a moratorium on expansion of league utilization of Town sports fields. Every league has people who want more field time. Our fields need what is called "rest and rehabilitation" time which leagues tend to push off until there is no choice but to close down for maintenance purposes. Leagues now play Fall Ball, which was a time in the past when maintenance could be performed. We are currently expanding use with the addition of Travel Teams being endorsed through league scheduling which impacts maintenance requirements further.

Mr. Scippa said that we as a Park Commission give them use as best we can. New groups keep springing up.

Dr. Bellows said it is a rule that travel team kids must play either Little league or Babe Ruth in order to play with a new league; however, the new leagues take field space away from the core group. Additional leagues definitely dilute the teams and scheduling availability.

Superintendent said that we are being pushed as a community to provide field resources for other than the core leagues and he is very concerned as our field conditions present a liability risk as well as a huge maintenance value. There must be a slow down in expansion.

Mr. Cellini mentioned budget constraints, field damage and recovery issues as a great concern with over-use of fields.

The Chairman will explore thoughts for a possible moratorium going forward on expansion of leagues with the Town Attorneys, as well as review the current paper work provided by the newest request from a new league which includes simply an application for 501C designation....with the question does this constitute 501C status required for approval to play this spring?

Mr. Martin noted that we need to emphasize what the Trumbull Park Commission does for the greater majority of the community. If we take field space for spin-offs, this is taking field time from the core league.

Mr. Scippa said that we perhaps should control the facilities by simply requiring the resting of fields for maintenance purposes, rather than limiting the leagues. Only schedule field space available.

Mr. DeSabia brought to our attention that fields at the Trumbull High School are utilized by travel teams who may not be paying fees which also keeps field space from being scheduled by Trumbull leagues.

Discussion:

Due to the fact that the contracted services to maintain the Board of Education athletic fields are funded within the Parks Department Budget, the Park Commission recommends the following action:

MOTION made by Mr. Scippa, second by Mrs. Mayo, and unanimously passed that the Park Commission recommends that all Fees collected for use of Trumbull High School fields for the Summer Recreation Programs, covered by the Parks Department Services Account, be billed by the Board of Education Plant Operations Department with revenue returned to the Town to offset the cost of providing this service. In order for this procedure to go into effect, the schedules for all outside organizations utilizing the Trumbull High School fields must be submitted to the Park Commission for the playing seasons of each year, beginning with the 2010 spring season.

MOTION at 10:25 p.m. to adjourn by Mr. Scippa, second by Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe

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MOTIONS**

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