

PARK COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 14, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Park Commission was held at Town Hall, opened at 7:40 p.m., with the following in attendance:

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)  
Kevin Bellows  
John Scippa  
Joseph DeSabia

Ken Martin  
Vin Lipinski  
Diane Mayo  
Anthony Chmielewski

Also:

Dmitri Paris, Park Superintendent  
Mary Markham, Recreation Director

Guests:

Rick Bushnell, 19 Camelot Drive, AYSO  
Joan Dosky, 20 Quaker Lane, Trumbull United Soccer  
Don Watson, 54 Larkspur Drive, Conservation Commission  
John Heyder, 27 Stella Street, Trumbull Sea Hawks, Girls Soft Ball  
Tom D'Amico, 107 Oakridge Road, President Trumbull Sea Hawks  
Greg McDonald, 57 Raven Road, Trumbull Little League  
Jim Blose, 220 Old Tree Farm Road, Trumbull Titans  
Phil Becchetti, 40 Essex Lane, Trumbull Titans  
Pam Georgas, Broadway, Nature Commission

Visit:

Trumbull Patch Reporter

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. DeSabia, unanimously approved adding to the Agenda those guests not listed on the agenda.

**GUESTS:**

**Rick Bushnell, AYSO:**

Submitted request for use of fields for youth soccer for the upcoming spring season. They have 1150-1200 players registered for this spring. They begin their season the end of April, usually the third week through last week of June. They play Saturday mornings. Their request includes four quads at Kaechele, Indian Ledge Turf, as well as one additional large field and designated fields for practices Monday through Fridays for 70 teams of U8 and older (835 players).

They have:

58 teams for boys and girls age 4 and 5  
40 teams for boys and girls age 6 and 7  
18 teams for boys and girls age 8 and 9  
8 teams for boys and girls age 10 and 11  
5 teams for boys and girls age 12-18

Games begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 1:30 p.m.

Game slots for Kaechele are one hour each.

They finished for the day to allow tie for Trumbull United's Top Soccer and any Saturday State Cup games.

AYSO requests designated fields for practices Monday through Fridays for 70 teams of U8 and older (835 players).

Liability Insurance Certificate submitted. They do not file a tax form, completed by parent organization in California. Background Checks completed in the fall; any new are done prior to season. They are 100% residency with Rosters available once registration is completed.

Commissioner Martin questioned if coaches are 100% residency and all volunteers. Responded yes with the exception if one parent lives out-of-town.

Joan Dosky, Trumbull United Soccer:

- Requesting field scheduling for spring season. They have approximately 500 youth soccer players, male and female, who will participate in practices and games from March (weather permitting) to late June.
- They request scheduling at Old Mine, Indian Ledge 4, Indian Ledge Turf Field, and Kaechele.
- They have 12 older-age teams, younger teams (Top Soccer) all play on Sunday at Kaechele.
- Insurance Certificate comes in from their state parent group. Will forward to us.
- They will provide their financial statement and Roster shortly.
- She noted that their Top Soccer Group is the largest in the State. They will receive a grant FROM Addis for their upcoming program. They play from 3:00 to 4:00 Saturday Afternoons at Kaechele.

Commissioner Lipinski questioned the difference between United Soccer and AYSO and what does Trumbull United do as far as putting money back into facilities and average registration cost and are their cuts?

Response: They are a Travel Program with most coaches paid. This expense is quite high. They have provided goals, nets, benches to enhance facilities. Registration is \$65 per year, portion to the State and portion to Club. There are other fees ranging between \$800 to \$1,000 depending on where tournaments are and cost for indoor programs. U9/U10 have no cuts. Teams have 18 players, and they try to play everyone.

Commissioner Mayo questioned if they pay additional to play Tournaments?

Response: Cost is determined by distance to travel.

Don Watson, Conservation Commission:

He updated the Commission on a Pequonnock River Initiative Grant which could be available from the Anne S. Richardson Fund, with application through Save The Sound, to install a demonstration of river-edge buffer design and construction in Old Mine Park. The site selected requires substantial stream stabilization following the dredging project from last season. This project would, as well, return the stream to a shallow gravel run, to improve water flow and fish habitat. The grant, if approved, could provide up to \$40,000. This would be a demonstration project for example to other communities, much like the Twin Brooks river-edge completed project. The application is due the end of the month, and they are looking for a letter of support from the Park Commission to include with the application. He referred to an aerial photo showing the river banks. The planning on the parking lot side is for planting up to the river's edge, on the picnic area side of the river, grass and taller growing trees. They will work in conjunction with the Park Superintendent on a Planting Plan if a grant for the project is secured. The Park Superintendent is in support of this proposed project.

Commissioner Martin questioned if there is a plan to be submitted with the application and do we need to review this project through the Wetlands Commission? Mr. Watson said once the project is approved, a plan will be presented and all requirements would be followed. This project is an example of exactly what should happen along a river edge and there should be no problem with approvals. The funding will pass through Save-The-Sound to the Town of Trumbull as a construction project. No funding required from the Town.

John Heyder, Trumbull Sea Hawks, New Girls Soft Ball Team:

Introduced themselves as having started a new Travel Girls Soft Ball Team to compliment Girls Little League by giving them an opportunity to continue playing at a higher level.

- Roster presented listing 14 players.
- They have applied for their 5013c designation.
- They have all Trumbull Little League coaches.
- Fees are nominal for a Travel Team, \$300/\$500.
- Equipment will be utilized by Little League.
- They will need two/three 90 minute playing slots.
- Not mandatory to play Little League. Goal is to improve for Little League All Star season; they are not in conflict with Little League.
- They will need a Little League size field.

Tom D'Amico, President, Sea Hawks:

This is a new program to keep the girls together; they would stay together through high school. Gives Little League a good showing at All Stars.

Greg McDonald, Trumbull Little League:

- Submitted Little Leagues request for spring field scheduling. Rosters, financials and background checks to be presented once registration is completed by mid-April.
- Questioned if Spring Hill Field will be playable this season. If not, Little League will move the bleachers to Unity Park. (Superintendent not certain when field will open yet.)
- They are in agreement to work any independent teams into their scheduling process.
- Their enrollment will be approximately the same, 1100/1200 players, including TBall Challenger Program.
- The Challenger Program is supported from funds from their 25 year celebration of the 1989 World Championship. They will be combining with Fairfield's Challenger Program this season.

Commissioner Lipinski questioned what their cost to play is?

Response: \$155 ages 9 and up.

\$140 ages 7/8

\$125 ages 5/6

\$ 20 discount for siblings

Commissioner Lipinski questioned what do they budget to spend on fields?

Response: They have a contract with Tarrantino for \$50,000. Get fields ready for play in spring and between-game grooming, raking and lining. (Superintendent noted, Parks Department complete the initial preparation of the fields and then picked-up by contractor.)

- Commissioner Lipinski questioned how a truck load of clay is purchased and spread. (Superintendent said Little League would purchase, Town would install.)

He questioned Mr. McDonald on maintenance projects.

Response:

- Brick Facing on building completed.
- Repaired windows in the Unity 3 press box.
- Replacing Batting Cage nets.
- Looking to purchase Bat Racks.
- Repair to pitching area on Unity 4 planned.
- The storage bin has been removed and the area to the back to be cleared of brush and debris.

Questioned if tarps on pitchers mounds kills the grass. Superintendent said yes. Some methods succeed, some not. Last year's wet weather and hot summer had its toll. The new philosophy is "Games before all else." Fields always have a limit to what they can handle. However, we work collaboratively and with combined effort with the leagues.

Commissioner DeSabia questioned their planned schedule:

80/90 teams, 14 games per team

T-BALL on grass

60 teams on actual fields.

Start April 25 through June 23, Play-Offs June 13/23, Tournaments. Same as last season.

Commissioner Mayo questioned if Trumbull Little League plans to fold the new girls team into their program?

Response: Yes, that is the plan. We will include them in the scheduling.

Recreation Director commented that scheduling worked well last season.

Commissioner Mayo questioned if Little League working better with Trumbull Loves Children who are housed at the elementary schools?

Response, yes Little League schedules at 6:15 p.m., once TLC is closed at 6:00 p.m.

Jim Blose and Phil Becchetti, Trumbull Titans:

- Submitted copies of Roster, 990-N Tax Form (they are under \$50,000), Insurance Certificate and Financials. They will have 26 players, two teams of 12/14 players.
- 100% Trumbull residents.
- Each team needs two practices , 90 minute slots per week.
- All games played out of town, East Haven for Tournaments.
- Last season they were scheduled at Tashua School with several practices at Madison/Tashua. (Both fields good for practices.) For consistency, they like to practice on one field. Need 50/70 foot field.
- Cost: 11 U \$850 (Full Pkg. including Sports Zone, E.Shore Travel Team expense and Uniform)  
10 U \$625 (Full Pkg but don't go long distance to play.)
- Outside games drive the cost up.
- Coaches are volunteers.
- They are a new team, donations came in around \$2,000. Forming a 5013c is a substantial expense, one-time expense around \$2,500, insurance around \$125 per team. At some point, once more established, they would be willing to contribute in some way toward field maintenance.

Upon question, because they begin early in the season, schedules will be completed once all leagues have their information in.

Pam Georgas, Trumbull Nature Commission:

Here to continue discussion of the relocation concept to the Parks system. She expressed concern with the direction the discussion of the January meeting was taking when it was mentioned that a Nature Center could possible be incorporated within the state magnet school proposal or as another community did by utilizing existing town facilities for programs. She would like to focus on the original proposal to build a new facility within the parks system. She indicated that a liaison committee would be helpful in communicating what their needs are.

Commissioner Martin noted that the original proposal was open to discussion. Original proposal planned on sale of two properties to cover cost of a new building. This is no longer the case.

Chairman Ferrigno said that this Commission has not locked-in to a 'single' location. He questioned if the Nature Commission is willing to look at other locations other than their suggested location of Twin Books Park if the Commission feels there is another location for consideration?

Commissioner Scippa questioned if there is a time-frame here?

Ms. Georgas said that money is going to be needlessly spent on the current Nature Center building because of its age and condition and that's the reason for urgency.

Chairman Ferrigno noted that the idea of utilizing the Kaatz Property was mentioned. The Nature Center's goal is regionalization. Pam said that would not work because of the close proximity to the deep pond, the ledge at the back of the property, and no access to the Rail Trail.

Chairman stated that a new building would be in the range of \$1,000,000, renovating current building or another town facility, perhaps \$100/\$200,000.

Superintendent concurred that money is currently going into maintenance of the two declining buildings.

Chairman Ferrigno said that the Twin Brooks location is a resident park. There is concern that a new building at that location would affect the aesthetics of the park. There is concern with closure of the park from time-to-time under flooding conditions.

Superintendent noted that we never shut down Franklin Street, so access from Franklin Street would be available if the park is closed.

Commissioner Martin noted that we never had access to information on traffic, access, use of building, etc.

Superintendent said he never thought it was in reality, but in the future. At this particular point of time, Commission should be in discussions on the proposal.

Commissioner Martin reiterated that the Commission understands their situation. The facility is not right for them on Route 25. Kaatz Property seemed a possible location, but her indication of needs doesn't seem to be right for that location. Twin Brooks is a fragile location with huge issues of flooding. Others should be looked at...the current Teen Center Building at Indian Ledge Park, the Abraham Nichols Park barn/green house area, the barn we are moving into the system from Unity Hill Church, or any other new building coming to the Town for use.

Commissioner Scippa suggested we consider appointing a sub-committee to meeting with a sub-committee of the Nature Commission in this regard.

Ms. Georgas noted that nature centers need a central place as a focal point.

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed to close Guest portion of the meeting.

**MOTION** by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mrs. Mayo, unanimously approving the Minutes of the January 18, 2011 meeting by adding the following Motion made at the end of the meeting:

***MOTION** by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mrs. Mayo, and unanimously passed that the proposed Batting Cage by the Babe Ruth League be consistent with the Little League cage with a fixed fence on top.*

**Correspondence:**

From: Cub Scout Pack 468 requesting use of Old Mine Park upper and lower pavilions, field areas and lavatories, June 3,4,5 ( sleep over Friday night to Saturday morning) for their annual Family Camp Out. Approximately 38 scouts with their families and leaders cook dinner, stories around campfire, set-up and sleep in tents, take hikes and work on team building. Each Scout will have a parent for the camp out.

**MOTION** by Mr. Lipinski, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed approving request by Cub Scout Pack 468 to use of Old Mine Park upper and lower pavilions, field areas and lavatories, June 3,4,5 ( sleep over Friday night to Saturday morning) for their annual Family Camp Out.

Field Use Requests:

Trumbull United Soccer, Trumbull AYSO, Trumbull Titans, Trumbull Sea Hawks :

All requests are acknowledged and will be considered once all required information (schedules, rosters, insurance certificates and background checks) is submitted by individual leagues for scheduling under the guidelines of the new Field Use Policy to the Park Commission and Recreation Director.

Commissioner Martin questioned who is responsible for cleaning up fields after games, particularly at Indian Ledge Turf Field. He has noticed debris accumulating from time to time. He also mentioned the bringing in of dogs to game.

Superintendent said the individual teams take on this responsibility; however, we have drop-in play when teams are not scheduled and this brings in the litter. He noted that Trumbull United is very conscientious in cleaning up before and after their play. We have a Leash Law in our ordinances, but not length of leash. Animals are not banned from the parks.

A letter will be directed to field users alerting them to field litter pick-up responsibilities.

Commissioner Martin questioned Ice Cream vendors in the parks. He said there is a vendor who take two parking places at the entrance to the Kaechele Soccer Fields.

Recreation Director said the soccer groups may have an agreement as does Recreation with one vendor as a safety measure. Parking could be directed to a more remote area and away from parking spaces.

**MOTION** by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. Chmielewski and Mr. DeSabia, unanimously passed to provide a letter of support from the Park Commission to the Anne S. Richardson Fund endorsing the application of the Pequonnock River Initiative and the Trumbull Conservation Commission for funding to install a demonstration of river-edge buffer design and construction in Old Mine Park with details of project to be presented for approval once funding is approved.

**MOTION** by Mr. Scippa, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed, that the Park Commission shall hereby delegate a sub-committee comprising Commissioners Ferrigno, Martin and Chmielewski to meet with a sub-committee of the Nature Commission concerning the proposal to locate a combined Nature Center and Ranger Station within the Parks System and determining potential sites.

Commissioner Martin noted that the sidewalk in front of Abraham Nichols Park is not one cleared by the Parks Department. He brought this to the attention of the Park Superintendent but has been told that this is not one of the sidewalks assigned for clearing and it would be difficult to add to the current five miles of walks being done. Mr. Martin takes issue with this decision because Abraham Nichols Park is utilized in the winter as it houses the Historical Society, and even though the parking lot is plowed, the sidewalk should rightfully be cleared by our own parks department.

Superintendent explained the complex assignment of five miles of outside-of-parks assignments including school safe-walks and down Church Hill and Daniels Farm Roads which are located in heavily-walked areas. The State/ Huntington Road area has never been a safe-walk area that the Town clears. He did indicate that once all their clearing responsibilities were accomplished, he would make an attempt to have the sidewalk cleared.

**Field Use Policy:**

Chairman noted that we are awaiting an opinion by the Town Attorneys concerning voting ability and disclosures by Park Commissioners when voting on this proposed Field Use Policy as to any current position, past affiliation, child in program, coaching, etc. in a league.

A Special Meeting of the Park Commission will be scheduled in the next several weeks to vote on the Field Use Policy.

**CONSENSUS** to adjourn at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe  
Clerical Administrative Assistant

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