

PARK COMMISSION

MAY 9, 2011

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
Vincent Lipinski
Diane Mayo

Anthony Chmielewski
Kenneth Martin
Joseph DeSabia

Also,
Park Superintendent Dmitri Paris

Guest:
Peter Tinnesz, 39 Cranbury Drive, Trumbull Youth Lacrosse
Linda Ciocci, 72 Shawnee Road, German Shepherd Dog Club of Gr. New Haven, Inc.

Public Comments:

Peter Tinnesz representing Trumbull Youth Lacrosse:

Indicated leadership change in Trumbull Lacrosse. He is the current President of Trumbull Youth Lacrosse. He stated that he did schedule for early spring play through the Recreation Department. He was not aware that he needed to present his request to the Park Commission.

He submitted:

Spring Field Schedule Request
Roster for Spring 2011
Background Checks for all coaches and Board Members.
April/June Games and Practice Schedule
Certificate of Insurance
IRS 501c(3) Verification

They have 265 players, K-8, all Trumbull residents.

Their request includes:

Use of Indian Ledge artificial turf from 5:30 to dark on Mondays. They work with Trumbull United for swing- exchanges of fields if necessary.

Four BOE fields on Saturdays, 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Sundays, 10:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Spring, April through third week in June
Fall, one day a week.

Tournaments are through CONNY (Fairfield County Connecticut/New York)

He indicated he will follow this procedure for their Fall Scheduling.

Linda Ciocci, German Shepherd Dog Club of Greater New Haven, Inc.:

With reference to their request for use of lower level Old Mine Park on Sunday, September 4, 2011, for a German Shepherd Dog Club dog match, they will provide the required Waivers for participants and insurance certificate in the amount of \$2,000,000 naming Town as an additional insured to the Recreation Department in conjunction with the permit process. They expect perhaps 20/30 dogs that day.

MOTION by Mrs. Mayo, second Mr. Chmielewski, unanimously passed to close Public Comments portion of the agenda.

Correspondence:

Babe Ruth: Thanks to Park Commission and Superintendent for help this spring. Fields look great, water is on, bathrooms are open and concession stand is open. The Site preparation work for the batting cage is complete and they expect construction to begin within a couple days and completed within a week.

Superintendent and Chairman reported that the Landscape Architect's Summary of site work for the Babe Ruth Field as peripheral with more major work required for a complete field rehabilitation. There is puddling in the interior field and outfield issues which need to be corrected. A long-range plan for a major rehabilitation with shut-down of field for a period of time is still necessary and should come in from them as soon as possible, preferably by our June meeting. We will invite Landscape Architect Fritz Lotto to attend our June meeting to further discuss the long-range rehabilitation plan for the Babe Ruth Field.

Superintendent noted that the installed cage is not level but hugging the surrounding terrain. This is not critical to its use if it suits their needs.

Email from a resident reporting a tree located alongside the fence at Riverside Cemetery is in a precarious position and could fall. It would knock over one of the largest monuments in the cemetery. Superintendent will do an inspection and remove if necessary.

Superintendent discussed investigating the possibility of closing the access roadway into Riverside from Daniels Farm Road at the old mill house and river because this narrow right-of-way is collapsing at the point of entrance to the Cemetery with a grave site in peril. A safer access would be from Ward Place if the Town has sufficient right-of-way and parking availability. Superintendent to explore right-of-way through the Engineering Department.

From Unity Hill United Church of Christ accepting our proposal to disassemble and relocate the historic barn on their property. Upon question Superintendent said he hopes to accomplish the dissembling and storage of the barn by fall.

From Indian Ledge Radio Control Club, Inc. providing a copy of their Insurance Certificate listing the Town of Trumbull as additional insured.

The Radio Control Club fly models at Indian Ledge Park mornings. Never there when there is an activity. Chairman noted the planes keep geese away from the field.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed allowing the Indian Ledge Radio Control Club, Inc. to continue their flying schedule at Indian Ledge Park for the upcoming spring, summer, fall seasons.

From Boy Scouts of America requesting permission to host a Cub Scout Day Camp at Old Mine Park from Monday, July 18, 2011 through Friday, July 22, 2011 as well as Monday, July 25, 2011 through Friday, July 29, 2011.

If use is approved, they requested a letter certifying that the water servicing this facility is from a municipal source and meets all state health standards as required by standards set by Boy Scouts of America and the State of Connecticut for Day Camps. Our water supply is provided from a municipal source, Aquarion, and a letter will be issued indicating this. They can check further with Aquarion as well as the Trumbull/Monroe/Easton Health Director.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows second by Mr. DeSabia, unanimously passed approving Boy Scouts of America request to host a Cub Scout Day Camp at Old Mine Park Monday, July 18, 2011 through Friday, July 22, 2011 and Monday, July 25, 2011 through Friday, July 29, 2011 for their annual Day Camp with scheduling and permit requirements completed through the Recreation Department.

From Town Attorney Edward V. Walsh indicating that he had a telephone conversation with Chris Terenzio concerning a Boot Camp he is advertising and plans to conduct within Town facilities and issued a Cease and Desist from posting brochures or advertising for use of Town facilities for a Boot Camp program until further notice.

From Town Attorney Edward V. Walsh indicating that a Waiver form is being drafted. He also provided information on a new Bill being presented to the Conn. General Assembly to give municipalities immunity from suits tied to recreational land use. The bill is focused on passive recreation areas, such as hiking trails. Recreation facilities such as basketball courts and swimming pools, those that require maintenance, are not included.

Old Business:

No word as yet on Land Trust proposal.

Mr. Lipinski expressed concern with sports groups scheduling through the Recreation Department prior to coming to the Park Commission for approval as did the Trumbull Youth Lacrosse. He feels they should be directed to the Park Commission prior to scheduling fields.

Superintendent noted that the leagues are following the procedures from past seasons wherein those who were utilizing school properties were scheduled by the BOE and some exchanging (swap for fields) was accomplished by Recreation. Once the new Field Use Policy is activated in July, all requests will come first to the Park Commission.

Mr. Lipinski said he has requested from the Recreation Director a listing of those organizations which provided all the necessary documentation required for scheduling and a list of those which have been scheduled on fields. He has not as yet received this information for review. He indicated it would be beneficial for this Commission to see the schedule once in place. He is concerned with who is using our fields, and we don't know about it.

Superintendent noted we have a rapport with the Recreation Director who generally attends our meetings; however, she is not here this evening to present the information.

Dr. Bellows noted that it would only be the travel teams, who mostly use the Board of Education fields. Some use of Madison Avenue and Spring Hill fields.

Superintendent reiterated that there will be consistency once the field use policy is in place after July.

Mrs. Mayo requested the Chairman intercede and request the information from the Recreation Director.

Use of Water Parks Discussion:

The policy is that no busses are allowed in parks. And we do not allow bus parking at the Sprinkler Parks and Pools. As there was a request from a Kindergarten teacher from Frenchtown school, we will make notification that bus parking and group permits for the water parks are not allowed.

MOTION by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed accepting the minutes of the April 11, 2011 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman indicated that in order to accomplish more security in several accessible locations at parks closure times, he is suggesting that barriers be installed at the entrance to Nothnagle Park and the Twin Brooks Park waterfall parking area which is outside the gated roadway but allows easy vehicle access after dark to the park.

Nothnagle Park shares the entrance roadway with the Nichols Cemetery and we would make notification of the closure of the park property entrance to the Cemetery Committee and/or Caretaker.

Superintendent said he will comply with whatever the Commission wants; however noted that “horses” will be moved and even thrown into the close-by pond by vandals and gates will be “torn” out. His Department no longer constructs gates; therefore, this would be funded by a special appropriation or as a budget request for 2012. He felt a strong gate system would require significant funds. He explained that there are capital purchases and operational purchases. Fencing would be a capital purchase. He does not have funds to cover the cost of barrier gates in his current or the new fiscal budget. Superintendent suggested the Commission put together a list of those capital needs desired to be incorporated in our next fiscal budget.

Posts with Chains was discussed.

Chairman reiterated that some form of effective barrier for vehicles is necessary in these areas.

Mr. Lipinski questioned how do we get the chain and post outside the budget process? Once cost is determined, funding source will be identified.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Dr. Bellows, and passed with five in favor (Dr. Bellows, Mr. Lipinski, Mr. Martin, Mr. Chmielewski, and Mr. DeSabia) and one abstention, (Mrs. Mayo) for Superintendent to determine cost and have a chain hung from sturdy posts with reflectors and locks installed across the entrance to the Twin Brooks Waterfall Parking Lot and one at the entrance to Nothnagle Field on Cemetery Drive to be opened in the morning and closed at dusk each day as are other parks in town.

Mr. DeSabia retired at 9:15 p.m.

Mr. Lipinski reported conditions of litter, water bottles and garbage at field areas. We should have signs which state... “Bring It In, Bring It Out”. Once concessions open, there will be more litter. We were to get a reminder letter out to the leagues about litter. We will get that letter out this month reminding the leagues of their responsibility to keep the field areas clear of litter.

Mr. Lipinski reported that at Island Brook Field #2 balls roll into the pond because it is on an incline. Superintendent will keep the grass high close to the pond to prevent balls from rolling into the pond.

Superintendent's Report:

- He has been assigned a Highway Department vehicle to get him through this season; therefore, he will not request a Supplemental Appropriation but include a new vehicle in the next fiscal budget.
- Met with Dan Nelson, Chief of Staff. They have the first list of applicants for eligible hire to fill the retiree position.
- Department still has men out; three light duty employees and the Town does not have the services of a plumber leaving the plumbing jobs to our own workers. We also have men out utilizing accrued winter comp time as well as vacations. Men will be at a blood-borne pathogens class on Wednesday morning and off duty at times for blood testing. Manpower is his biggest problem.
- The department has completed a number of spring projects.
 - Planted a tree for the Nichols Garden Club who have been waiting a year.
 - Installed a fence at the Community Gardens at the Abraham Nichols Park which was donated by Unilever.
- To free-up manpower, he is considering outsourcing field clay maintenance for all fields next year. This would be a budgeted item, passed along to the leagues.

Mr. Martin questioned the disrupted planting area at the Commuter Parking Lot on White Plains Road because of traffic light installation in that area.

Superintendent said garden was taken down. Once all the construction is done, he will determine if the planting area can be reestablished.

MOTION by Mrs. Mayo, second by Dr. Bellows, to approve the use of Old Mine Park, Sunday, September 4, 2011, for a German Shepherd Dog Club OF Greater New Haven, Inc. dog match contingent upon the submission of an insurance certificate naming the Town of Trumbull as an additional insured for the event and the signing of a Town Waiver by all participants to be submitted to the permitting Recreation Office prior to the event with any supplemental waivers from day of event submitted to the Recreation Office the first work-day following the event.

Vote: Three in Favor: Mrs. Mayo, Dr. Bellows, Mr. Chmielewski
Two Opposed: Mr. Lipinski and Mr. Martin.

MOTION CARRIED.

CONSENSUS TO ADJOURN AT 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Administrative Assistant

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