

PARK COMMISSION
OCTOBER 17, 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

Diane Mayo
Kenneth Martin

Also,
Park Superintendent Dmitri Paris

Guests:

Mark Fritz, Tr. Babe Ruth, 133 Fernwood Road
Erica Huston, 1995 Huntington Tpke, Southern Conn. University Student
Jeff Blueweiss, Tr. Little League, 63 Coventry Lane
Scout Christopher Costantini (Observing)

Public Comments

Mark Fritz, Trumbull Babe Ruth League:

1. Babe Ruth wants to recognize their fifteen year old team members who were the 2011 New England Championship Team this year by placing two signs at their field area in Unity Park, one on the Batting Cage and one at the Concession Stand. They have a Banquet on November 6 and would like to present the signs that evening and install for the next season. The signs are 3'x5', green background with white lettering, listing the players and coaches names. He presented a photograph of one sign.
2. This fall, they would like to re-edge the inside two foot (2') perimeter with new sod. Work will be done by their current maintenance person. Cost for the project is \$1,000. Mark Fritz agreed to be on site during the work project so as not to create more a problem than the current terracing along the field edge. This is an interim safety fix to the outside line problem until field rehabilitation planned for the fall of 2012 can be accomplished.

Chairman, Superintendent and other Commissioners who might be available will meet with Mark Fritz, tomorrow, Tuesday, October 18th at 8:00 a.m. at the site to determine the extent of the proposed interim repair.

3. Babe Ruth would like to shut down Unity field next fall (2012) to contract-out rehabilitation of the infield. Therefore, there would be no Fall Ball on that field next fall. They would look to schedule elsewhere in the system, mentioning Jane Ryan or THS. They are currently fund-raising for this project.

Erica Huston, Southern Conn. University Student Cemetery Project:

Erica is completing a course entitled Death, Dying and Bereavement and proposes a project to identify grave sites on a grid and possibly re-set and clean some stones at the Ye Old West Yard Cemetery (Unity Two). She presented a sample print mapping plots as to what she would like to accomplish.

In discussion, Commissioner Martin noted that Riverside Cemetery is in great need of this type project. Erica said she would consider expanding her current proposed project to include Riverside Cemetery as this current project needs to be accomplished by October 25th and Unity West Yard is a smaller cemetery. Mr. Martin invited her to an Historical Society Meeting tomorrow evening, Tuesday, October 18th, to meet its new part-time administrator, Alicia Pruesch. It was noted to her that both the Historical Society and the Parks Department have information on historic grave sites.

A letter of support for her proposed project will be issued to Erica for presentation to Dr. Al Bradshaw, Southern Connecticut State University.

Jeff Blueweiss, Trumbull Little League:

Thanked Commission for meeting with them and approving their Field Renovation Project at Unity Complex. He also said they appreciate the Superintendent's comment of praise at the September meeting indicating Little League has turned the corner at this point, they are now a better renter than what we can be as owner. Little League is giving a lot of attention and care to the complex they utilize. He noted this project is a huge investment for Little League and the important need to protect the investment during and following the project.

- During the project, the irrigation system needs to be on at the right times. Contractor will contact the Parks Superintendent both in the fall and early spring as to irrigation needs. During this period while sod is rooting-in, fields #1, #2, and #5 need to be lock closed, with no parking in front of the garage to accommodate the contractor. Signage is most important. Upon discussion, it was decided that Little League will check into possible barriers for the garage area and appropriate signage.
- Once sod is established and open for play by Little League and general public, as other groups utilize these fields as well, field closures will be determined by playability. All fields will be locked when deemed necessary to close. A slide-sign (Open/Closed) was suggested for all Unity Park fields as some may be open, some closed depending on conditions.
- Little League would want to use Spring Hill Field and Madison North this spring because of the Unity field closures.

Superintendent noted that Spring Hill Field roadway continues to be impassable because of construction. Chairman will check with the Director of Public Works to determine if the roadway can be re-opened in time for spring scheduling of the field. Madison North will be part of the Spring Season scheduling by Recreation.

- Little League and Babe Ruth would like permission to pursue the donation and placement of two defibrillators, one in each of the two concession buildings at Unity Park. They will check with EMS on the best type equipment for their use, as well as train and certify one person from each team in their use.

Clay for Island Brook Field:

Chairman and Commissioner Lipinski met with Little League and discussed the need for additional clay at Island Brook as clay settlement has taken place since originally installed. Superintendent will check for funding.

Festa Tournament:

All Ranger bills have been paid.

We will submit a list of items for discussion at our November 14, 2011 meeting as:

- Opening time of park facilities.
- Clarification on Park System priorities for opening and closing of facilities
- Noise Ordinance Requirements
- Payment of Rangers overtime for special events.

Commissioner Martin questioned if there is any plan to paint the inside-back of the dugouts covered with graffiti and gum.

Mr. Blueweiss said they are, in fact, looking into non-graffiti type paint and hope to accomplish this clean-up of the dugouts as well as half-brick facade material to complete the look.

MOTION by Mrs. Mayo, second by Mr. Martin, unanimously passed to close meeting to guests.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Martin, and passed to accept minutes of the September 19, 2011 meeting. Vote: Three in favor, one abstain (Mrs. Mayo, who was not present for the meeting).

Chairman reported that he, the Superintendent and Commissioner Lipinski did meet with the Little League representatives at the Unity Complex on their proposal for Field Modifications to Fields #1, #2, and #5 and upon review of the specifics of the proposed modifications, top soil type and irrigation issues, the proposal was approved allowing Little League to proceed with the renovations beginning October, 2011. He reiterated at that time that the general public has ability to utilize these facilities when not scheduled for Little League or Recreation Department programmed play.

Babe Ruth Proposals:

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed granting Babe Ruth League permission to recognize their fifteen year old team members who were the 2011 New England Championship Team this year by placing two signs at their field area in Unity Park, one on the Batting Cage and one at the Concession Stand, signs are 3'x5', green background with white lettering, listing the players and coaches names.

However, because it was noticed that the font was not the same as current signage, in the future, signs need approval by the Park Commission prior to having them made to be certain all aspects of size, color and font are correct.

MOTION by Mr. Martin, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve Babe Ruth League's request to close and contract rehabilitation of the Babe Ruth Field at Unity Park in the fall of 2012 based on total scope of the project providing plans, specifications, contractor and funds verification in advance for approval by the Chairman and Superintendent prior to begin of the project.

Erica Huston, Southern Conn. University Student – Cemetery Project:

MOTION by Mrs. Mayo, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve project to identify grave sites on a grid and possibly re-set and clean some stones at the Ye Old West Yard Cemetery (Unity Two) as well as expanding project to include Riverside Cemetery and upon completion provide the Park Commission with a copy of documentation for our records.

MOTION by Mrs. Mayo, second by Dr. Bellows, and passed (one abstention, Ken Martin) granting permission to Little League, working in conjunction with advice of the Chief Park Ranger, to come up with a suitable solution to block parking in front of the Little League garage area and appropriate signage for closing fields #1, #2, and #5, during and until fields are released, to facilitate construction project beginning October, 2011.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrs. Mayo, and passed (one abstention, Ken Martin) granting permission to Little League to research and submit to the Park Commission for review possible modification and approval of a design for permanent signage for all Little League Fields at Unity Park to facilitate locked closure and opening of designated fields determined by playability during the regular season.

Committee Reports:

Dr. Bellows reported:

Unity Park

Fields are in bad shape.

New gates look good.

Beach Memorial and Twin Brooks Parks

Noted that aeration is randomly on or off in Twin Brooks Pond.

(Superintendent said the fountains are on timers.)

Mrs. Mayo reported:

Field Scheduling

Software for programing is out to bid. Once in place, we will begin inputting information in time for spring scheduling.

Project Review Sheet drafted by Mrs. Mayo

- Final statement changed as follows: *You may attach additional information including plans, if you do not have enough room to answer your questions.*
- Upon discussion, it was decided to *remove #7 referring to town donations to a project.*
- Any typos found will be corrected.

Mr. Martin reported:

Abraham Nichols Park:

Barn renovation looks great.

Nothnagle Field:

Gate installation still in review.

Mischa Brook Park:

No response yet on our expressed concern for sewer construction dumping of asphalt, road material, old storm drains and other debris in the park. We have identified and documented what's happening in the park and would like to have remediation accomplished.

(Chairman said he was referred to the Sewer Coordinator by the Director of Public Works. He has not as yet had conversation with him.)

Rail Trails:

Signs at two ends of trail with rules. Both in bad condition and covered with graffiti.

(Superintendent said these are State signs. He will make contact with the State.)

Superintendent's Report:

Abraham Nichols Park.

- One entire corner post of the barn was rotted and needed to be rebuilt.
- Rebuilt two doors.
- Discovered the roof of the Caretaker Shed is collapsing. Must replace before winter.
(Mr. Martin said this could qualify for an Historic Preservation Grant.)

Rail Trail:

We had a visit today by a State Committee plotting out the southern connection of the trail from Beardsley Park area, Unity Park border, under highway, to Brock Street, along border of Twin Brooks Park, to Manor Drive, to Daniels Farm Road, to Tait Road completed trail. He noted there will be some impact to Twin Brooks Park which we will need to monitor and control.

Field Scheduling:

- This fall was bad as we have ever experienced. Interfacing data for the Rangers has not been available. It is very important for us to get the new Field Use Program in place for spring scheduling. He explained that we have many Recreation Department softball teams who must be moved into the Scheduling Program and provide appropriate fees to cover their corporate and individual sponsorship involvement.
- Superintendent reported that we had an incident when we had much rain resulting in closing of fields. First sunny day, when fields had not dried, soft ball teams were on two of our fields (Indian Ledge and Long Hill School) with shovels, rakes and speedy dry trying to make fields playable and the fields were completely thrashed. Superintendent suggested punitive measures be set to cover use of fields by all users who use fields when closed for play.

Chairman requested a breakdown of costs to repair the two fields.

Clay availability for Island Brook Park:

Superintendent commented that he will review funds; however, we have two main filtration pumps which need to be replaced at Beach Pool and a new diving board for Tashua Pool which will deplete his account and feels that additional clay for Island Brook Park will most likely be postponed.

Old Mine Park River Edge Project:

It is felt that Public Works will not have man power to complete the river edge project and Parks Department will be assigned this project when time allows.

Great Oak Trail:

He suggested we keep the continuation of the Great Oak Park Trail as appropriate for several Eagle Scout Projects.

MOTION to adjourn at 10:20 p.m. by Mrs. Mayo, second by Mr. Martin, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Adm. Assistant

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