

TRUMBULL NATURE COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 21, 2012
Trumbull Nature & Arts Center
7:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Items: Call Meeting to Order
Public Comments – 15 Minutes
Acceptance of July minutes
Treasurer's Report
Programs
- Fall programs 2012 update
- School field trips update
Relocation update
501c3 Update
Website and media
Old Business
New Business
Adjournment

Attending: Commission: Chairman Pam Georgas, Frank Grazynski, Bonnie Lindsay,
Clerk: Sheryl Baumann, Guest: Rasa Mali

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments

No comments.

Minutes Approval

July minutes were approved as presented. Frank moved on the motion, Bonnie seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

No report given.

Programs

Fall programs 2012 update

Pam reviewed the fall 2012 program schedule:

- Saving endangered and threatened species
- Where the wild things tread
- Introduction to archery
- Exploring the parks through geocaching
- Into the wild and onto the canvas
- Bee discovery day
- Animals in art
- Artabilities – for child artists with special needs
- Art in the park
- ArtSmart! ArtStart! Workshop Series
- ArtSmart! Escape for Adults Series
- Saturday Crafting Workshop Series

Most of the programs have dates and times, with a few yet to be scheduled.

School Field Trips

TNAC is in need of instructors, especially for the spring. A discussion was held regarding the process of obtaining instructors. Pam stated that TNAC needs to apply for grants for a start-up fund that would pay a part-time employee. The employee would coordinate programs and work to draw field trips from surrounding communities. This issue will be brought up at the next 501c3 meeting.

Relocation update

Pam attended the Trumbull education sub-committee meeting to participate in discussions on building location. Pam plans to attend the next meeting.

501c3 Update

No discussion held.

Website and Media

Sheryl informed the Commission that fall programs have been added to the website.

Old Business

No discussion was held.

New Business

- The Trumbull Board of Finance made a decision that it will no longer pay for TNAC's internet service.

- A discussion was held regarding the need for the Nature Commission to negotiate a written agreement with the Town that states what the Town will be paying for. The Commission is working towards negotiating an in-kind service and land use agreement with the Town, similar to what other towns have in place. The Commission's research indicates that neighboring towns donate substantial in-kind services to their nature centers. These towns see their nature centers as valuable community assets that have a positive influence on economic growth.
- The 501c3 needs to determine if it will pay for the internet service until such time as the written agreement with the Town is in place.

- The Trumbull Arts Festival, to be held on September 16, has given TNAC free space at its event. The 501c3 will discuss the planning and organizing of TNAC's space. Kathy Vincent will be available to help at the event.

- Pam proposed to the commission the possibility of conducting an awareness campaign regarding the New England Cottontail. The population of the New England Cottontail is dwindling, due to loss of habitat. Various ideas were discussed regarding the best ways to bring awareness of this issue to a wide audience. The discussion will be continued at the 501c3 meeting.

Adjournment

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Sheryl Baumann, Nature Commission Clerk