

TRUMBULL NATURE COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

7:00pm

Present: Chairman, Pam Georgas; Commissioners Frank Grazynski and Bonnie Lindsay. Guests: Madeline Dennis, Cheryl Baumann and Rasa Malish

Absent: Kevin Malone

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.

Public Comment: Ms. Baumann noted TNAC is having a table at Trumbull Day. They are sponsoring a demonstration by Horizon Wings called Elements of Flight from 4:15-5:15pm. This is a live bird show. They will also have a game at the table for two different age groups of children. Participants will play the game by answering questions to receive a prize. They plan to include crafts and endangered species information also. Table will be open from 11am-6pm.

Past Minutes: It was moved by Mr. Grazynski, seconded by Ms. Lindsay to approve the minutes with two changes to correct the spelling of both of their names. Unanimous.

Local Endangered Species Campaign

Ms. Georgas noted the fall program for the schools is being completed by Eric which will be tied into the field trips held at the Nature Center. Discussion was held as to how the programs will be offered. It was agreed to offer them as a package and hold the school portion as part of the field trip. They are contacting those schools who have not participated in the past to encourage them to take advantage of this program which is partially underwritten by a local sponsor.

School Field Trips/Technology

Ms. Georgas noted she has had a discussion with Sun Products and they are interested in donating technology for the science-based activities planned at the Nature Center. They are willing to donate iPads and microscopes which would be set up by Sun Products to allow program participants to use the latest technology in their research. Richard White is still working on learning apps. He is currently looking for a place to host the programs and is hoping to be able to use these applications in several different areas, including uses for the Town of Trumbull. This may start out as a test product.

Scout Programs

Ms. Georgas noted these are all set. The Center will be reaching out to different groups to get them involved. Discussion of upcoming programs was held.

Ms. Georgas noted Project Learning Tree has training on environmental subjects for grades K-12 sometime in July for three days. She noted this would be great training for Eric who is enthusiastic to be involved in such program presentations for the Center. Fee is \$100 and the Commission discussed the possibility of paying a portion of the fee so that he could attend.

Birthday Parties

Ms. Georgas had a program meeting where they discussed the birthday parties. They noted the parties needed to have fun names and new descriptions written for each. New names were discussed by the Commission and Ms. Malish will write the new descriptions.

Additional discussion was held regarding the training opportunity for Eric. Mr. Grazynski noted that Eric will be participating in these programs also and that perhaps the entire fee for the environmental class be paid so that he can develop more programs for the center on various topics.

Backyard Greenspace Habitat Certification Program

Topic had previously been discussed. It was reiterated that participants could turn their backyard into a green space, including vegetable gardens, to receive a certificate. This will be part of the mapping system and could be a part of the living green program. Community gardens were discussed regarding collection of food for the local food programs. It was felt these gardens may not be appropriate for this program but other organizations may be able to participate.

Fall 2013 Seasonal Programs

Ms. Georgas noted they have approximately ten programs in place that include bees, arts and crafts, pumpkin carving, nature detectives. They are also considering kite building/designing, astronomy and rockets. The Center does have some supplies which should be utilized for these programs. They have also been contacted regarding a beginning guitar program for children. Sign up for these programs is usually late September into October.

Adjournment

Mr. Grazynski moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm; seconded by Ms. Lindsay. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk