

TRUMBULL NATURE COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

7:00pm

Present: Chairman, Pan Georgas; Commissioner Kevin Malone. Guests: Cheryl Baumann

Absent: Commissioners Frank Grazynski and Bonnie Lindsay

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by the chairman.

Past Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the August 6, 2013 meeting was postponed to the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Current Building

Mrs. Georgas stated she had a discussion with Bullard Haven. They informed her that the process has changed and now the TNAC will need to apply through the state school system. They will send her the link to the website so that she can start the application. Mrs. Georgas noted with this process, Bullard Haven may not be assigned to the project at the TNAC although they are the closest. She also spoke with Maria Pires, Director of Finance and when the estimate is obtained, this information will be sent to her for review. Mrs. Georgas noted that an agreement was made with the town to perform the code work required in the building which included ADA changes and that TNAC would fundraise for all the other work that was necessary. TNAC has fulfilled their part of the agreement and they will be on the agenda in October to discuss the code work to be done by the town. Mrs. Georgas has contacted Carl Masaro regarding the unresolved points between the town and the TNAC.

Parks Presentation

Mrs. Georgas noted the presentation has been updated. Additional information has been added documenting how the TNAC relates to the town vision. Discussion was held with Jamie Bratt, Director of Planning and Zoning and she felt this presentation should be sent to P&Z and parts should be incorporated in the Plan of Conservation and Development that is currently being finalized. The presentation regarding relocation, if put in as an initiative, would validate the plan even more. The Nature Commission would like to include two points in the POCD:

1. Recognition of the TNAC existence, location resolution and decision on land usage both for current and new property
2. Decision/recommendation that TNAC will eventually be relocated to Old Mine.

The TNAC is definitely a gateway into the town and the trails because of their location. Relocation of the center fits into the context of connecting the TNAC with the culture of the town including the trail system. Perhaps another point would be

3. TNAC can develop a gateway where they can provide incentives for local businesses to come into the area.

Additional changes to the parks presentation will be made updating individuals involved in the center.

Discussion with the town administrators and the Town Council needs to include a resolution/decision on a land use agreement with TNAC. This should include a timeframe.

Programs

1. Fall – registration has just begun with the schools.
2. Scout – one group of six is currently signed up for a program. Discussion of fees was held. It was felt by the commission that each program needs to have a minimum of 10 participants to work. However, they would hold the programs but the fee would be increased to \$7.00 for less than ten. Ten or more participants will remain \$5.00. Art programs will remain \$15.00 because of the materials used. Girl Scout requirements have changed and the program is being revised. Pricing on the website will be updated.
3. School – tentative meeting with the curriculum director has been set up. Email invites to the third grade classes for programs in October should be sent.
4. Plasko Farms has a fall fair and we have been requested to participate.

New Business

Ms. Georgas noted two students are interested in the TNAC to work their community hours. It was suggested that a student advisory board be established for the TNAC to coordinate small events. Recruitment of additional high school students would round out the board. This would engage students in events and provide activities for families who could be supportive of the center. Activities for the high school level could be coordinated such as Earth Day. It was noted the high school is hosting a community service fair next week and the TNAC would try to participate with the advisory board opportunity.

Mr. Malone spoke on the Mallot Foundation and the letters collected from the TNAC participants.

Mr. Malone stated he attended a presentation by Solarize CT. He will be distributing information at the Arts Festival this weekend. It was suggested that the nature center be used as a venue for a program which would bring people in to the center. Kick-off meeting is 9/22. All systems need to be ordered by 2/9/14 to be included in the program. Discussion was held regarding donations and incentives for energy initiatives for tax credit. Mrs. Georgas will get information from the town so that the TNAC can review the possibilities for participation and donations.

Mr. Malone is meeting with the historical society regarding the hike to be held the last week in October.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk