

TRUMBULL NATURE COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

7:00pm

**Present:** Chairman, Pam Georgas; Commissioner Kevin Malone and Frank Grazynski. Guests: Cheryl Baumann

**Absent:** Commissioners Bonnie Lindsay and Ruth Mohr

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by the chairman.

**Past Minutes:** Motion made by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Georgas, to approve the August 6, 2013 minutes as written. Unanimous. Motion made by Mr. Malone, seconded by Ms. Georgas, to approve the September 10, 2013 minutes as written. Unanimous.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

**Current Building Update**

Mrs. Georgas noted the application on-line is available. The state will approve the application and appoint a school to come out to do the estimate. Bullard Haven is the closest school to the center that could complete the work.

**Town Agreement with 501c3**

Mrs. Georgas noted she is setting up a meeting with Dennis Kokenos, one of the town attorneys, who will assist TNAC to write the agreement.

**Parks Presentation**

Mrs. Georgas noted the presentation is basically the same, however, some of the Parks Commission concerns will need to be addressed.

**CT Neighborhood Assistance Program Update**

Mr. Malone noted he contacted Ed Lavernovich as to how to approach this program. It is too late for this year but we can be proactive for next year and start connecting with the sponsors. Discussion was held regarding projects currently being considered including the outdoor classroom, patio, butterfly garden and gallery. Some of these projects can be done through grants to cover the cost of supplies. It was noted Bullard Haven has certified instructors which would be used on the gallery project.

Discussion regarding project estimates was held. Once estimates are prepared, TNAC would be able to begin looking for sponsors.

Several other projects were discussed that are being considered including a canopy outdoors for classes, portable greenhouse and programming.

### **Student Advisory Board/Environment/Art Club Update**

Mrs. Georgas noted approximately 20 students responded to the request for participation. Meetings are being held and many of the students are very interested in working on projects. Several good ideas were presented by the students. Goals need to be set and a name chosen for the group. The students would like to have a program once a month for children and decided to start with November and schedule a Thanksgiving activity. Publicity and fund raising for activities were discussed. It was suggested that the Business Education Initiative be contacted for grant money to start the club. It was noted the 501c3 should be requesting funding. The students would be involved in various programs for leadership, arts and environmental projects.

### **Fall Programs**

Programs have many spots open. Meetings with the scout leadership are being set up. School field trips were discussed. The curriculum director would like to be more involved in the coordination of the field trips. Teachers are also being contacted. Transportation is a concern as money is not available to bring students to the center. It was suggested the PTAs be contacted for a donation.

### **Old Business**

1. Hike for Kids – Mr. Malone stated the park ranger was unaware of the walk. Mrs. Georgas noted the Recreation Department was contacted but it seems the information was not available to the rangers. Another walk is scheduled for this Saturday at Indian Ledge.
2. Hike Through the Valley – looking for naturalists.
3. Fall Back to Nature – Suggested the new student advisory board could participate for extra help.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk