

TRUMBULL NATURE COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 8, 2011
Trumbull Nature & Arts Center
7:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

- Agenda Items:** Call Meeting to Order
Public Comments – 15 Minutes
Acceptance of February Minutes
Treasurer's report
TNAC development plans
- Parks/Nature commission subcommittee
 - Membership
 - 501c3 application/update
- 2011 Programs & Events updates
- United Way/Unilever/E-Rotary Community Gardens volunteer days/update
 - Seasonal programs/School field trips/Scouts, Update
 - Pancake Breakfast/Maple sugaring demonstration
 - TNAC Student Art show at Town Hall/Jul-Aug
- Website and Media
Old Business
New Business
Adjournment
- Attending:** Commission: Chairman Pam Georgas, Frank Grazynski, Bonnie Lindsay, Kevin Malone, Ruth Mohr. Website Administrator: Mitchell Lewis
March Meeting Clerk: Sheryl Baumann
Guests:
- Rose Dial, 9 Clifford Street
 - Kristine Saccone, 15 Crown Street
- Neighbors to the Nature Center attending the meeting:
- Linda Kentosh, 26 Owl Hill Trail
 - John Signes, 26 Owl Hill Trail
 - Alma Iucopilla, 82 Tashua Road
 - Ed & Carol Ahern, 23 Owl Hill Trail
 - Suzanne & Al Stewart, 7125 Old Turnpike Road
 - Mary Ciulla, 46 Owl Hill Trail
 - Stephanie Frazier, 29 Owl Hill Trail
 - John & Robyn Cardinale, 20 Owl Hill Trail
 - Mike & Lisa McAndrews, 32 Owl Hill Trail

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm.

Public Comments – 1 hour

- Guests in attendance voiced their concerns about the possibility of the TNAC moving, and of the selling of the TNAC building site.
- Pam summarized the current status of the building and property. Pam added that a subcommittee of Parks Commission and Nature Commission members is being formed to research possible relocation sites. In regards to the Wagner property, the property appraisal indicates that it is at a point where the bonding and interest would not be covered by the sale at this time.
- Pam stated that the property Deed does not show any restrictions at time of sale that the property must remain open space.
- Neighbors stated that they felt a new building or expanded building could be built on the current property. Pam stated, renovation would be costly, so it makes sense to look at properties more suitable for a Nature Center.
- Commission members said it would be preferential for TNAC's long-term growth that the building be situated in a park, where it would be protected by state and federal governments. Parkland would have larger acreage than the current site, and be adjacent to trails.
- Residents stated their concerns that if TNAC moves, the Town may sell the property to a commercial builder and something would be built that would not fit into their neighborhood.
- Discussion of 5-year capital plan. A neighbor said she believed that because the TNAC was listed in the capital plan that it would happen and be 100% bonded with taxpayer money. Pam explained that a capital plan is not an actual budget. Everything in a capital plan may not be approved or 100% bonded. The TNAC is listed in the 5-year capital plan so it may also be considered for possible state and federal grants.

Minutes

January Minutes were approved as presented. Kevin moved on the motion and Frank seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

January Treasurer's Report Minutes was approved as presented. Bonnie moved on the motion and Frank seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

February Minutes were approved as presented. Ruth moved on the motion and Bonnie seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

No report was submitted.

TNAC development plans

Parks/Nature commission subcommittee

Pam reported that at the last Parks Commission meeting, it was agreed to form a subcommittee with the Nature Commission. This subcommittee would explore possible sites for a TNAC building within Trumbull parks. The subcommittee would consist of three people from the Parks Commission and three people from the Nature Commission. The three members on the subcommittee from the Parks Commission are: Bob Ferrigno, Ken Martin, and Tony Chmielewski. Kevin nominated Don Watson, Pam Georgas, and Frank Grazynski. Bonnie seconded the nomination. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

Membership

Bonnie reported that fifteen brand new families registered for programs. There have been five new memberships in the past week.

501c3 application/update

Meg reported that the last submission was put through, and TNAC is currently waiting for IRS determination.

2011 Programs & Events updates

United Way/Unilever/E-Rotary Community Gardens volunteer days/Update

Pam reported that Kris filled out an application for Unilever. E-Rotary was approved for \$1,000. United Way will help. The Unilever date is TBD. May 20th is the planting day for the E-Rotary Community Garden sponsorship project. Meg is developing a garden ornament craft project for kids to do at the May 20th event.

Seasonal programs/School field trips/Scouts, Update

Bonnie reported great interest in the programs.

Pancake Breakfast/Maple Sugaring demonstration

Pam reported that commission members are attempting to get donations, and requested griddles for the event. Pam suggested that a membership drive be held at the breakfast.

Aquarion \$2,500 Award Grant (not on original Agenda)

Pam reported that Deborah Cox suggested TNAC apply for the award. Pam discussed the gathering of supporting documentation, such as a promotional video and children's letters.

TNAC Student Art Show at Town Hall/Jul-Aug

Pam talked to Emily Areson of the Arts Commission regarding doing a children's art show at Town Hall between July 6th and August 19th. The show would include artwork created at TNAC's spring programs. Additionally, TNAC will have the main library's lobby window to decorate in July.

Website and media

Mitchell reported that he is looking into a CMS system that would allow authorized users to log-in and update the TNAC site as necessary. Pam requested that two program listings would be on the home page, and that the home page be adjusted for better readability.

Old Business/New Business

April 22nd will be Unilever Earth Day. There will be a pot your own plants activity. A banner may be created for use at events.

Adjournment

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:07pm
Submitted by Sheryl Baumann, March Meeting Nature Commission Clerk