

MINUTES of a meeting of the **SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION** held Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 5:30 PM at the Somerset County Park Commission Headquarters, 355 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ.

"In accordance with Public Law Chapter 231, the open public meeting notice requirements have been satisfied whereby the starting time and place of this meeting have been filed with a county newspaper and the County Clerk and posted in a public information area in this office."

President Fuerst called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Paul Consiglio
William Crosby
Dale Florio
Steven Fuerst
Walter Hansen
Joanne Jaeger
Dot Paluck
Gary Walsh
Patrick Scaglione, Freeholder Liaison

ABSENT

Christopher Paladino

Other staff members present were:

Raymond A. Brown, Secretary-Director
Joanne Steinruck, Executive Assistant
Tom Boccino, Principal Planner/Land Acq.
Dave Dendler, Manager Park Rangers
Pierce Frauenheim, Deputy Dir. Park Maint.
Don Korbobo, Property Mgmt. Coordinator
Dan Livak, Deputy Director Business Admin.
Matt Loper, Engineer

Darrell Marcinek, Director Golf Maint.
Marge Margentino, Manager Stable
Alex Mathew, Manager Info. Mgmt.
Karren Newman, Manager Recreation
Bob Ransone, Director Golf Mgmt.
Cathy Schrein, Manager Envir. Science
Adam Slutsky, Principal Engineer
Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director

Also in attendance: Brian Newman and Yvonne Childress

OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment from the public.

SERVICE AWARDS

Secretary-Director Brown presented a ten year service award to Michael Maak.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Secretary-Director Brown called for the approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting held August 18, 2011. **MOVED BY:** Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Crosby. **YEAS:** Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Paluck, and Walsh. **NAYES:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Commissioner Florio. **ABSENT:** Commissioners Jaeger, Paladino, and President Fuerst.

Secretary-Director Brown called for the approval of the minutes of the last Work Session held on September 8, 2011. MOVED BY: Commissioner Crosby; seconded by: Commissioner Hansen. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Paluck, and Walsh. NAYES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Florio. ABSENT: Commissioners Jaeger, Paladino, and President Fuerst.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Resolution R11-066 –Payment of Claims

Resolution authorizing payment of bills for \$861,060.96 comprising of check numbers 200229-200276, 201047-201063, 200720-200791, 200968-201033, 201136-201200, and 201597-201651. MOVED BY: Commissioner Crosby; seconded by: Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Florio, Hansen, Paluck, and Walsh. NAYES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Jaeger, Paladino, and President Fuerst.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Secretary-Director Brown submitted a report for the month of August 2011. Ray also expressed his appreciation and thanks to the Park Commission staff for their work prior, during, and after Hurricane Irene.

COMMISSIONER CORRESPONDENCE

1. Notice of Intent to Commence Negotiations for the Foreman, Assistant Foreman, Park Rangers, and blue collar workers. The contracts expire on December 31, 2011.
2. Letter from the State of New Jersey Division of Workforce Portfolio and Contract Management thanking the Park Commission for the use of the Visitor’s Center at Duke Island Park for the strategy and team building meeting.
3. Thank you note from the New Centre Dairy 4H Club thanking the Park Commission for all the help during the 4H Fair.
4. Letter from Mike Amorosa thanking Cathy Schrein for the use of the EEC for the Six County Coalition.
5. Letter from Counsel representing Teamsters Local 469 who filed a Request for Panel of Arbitrators regarding the improper discharge of David Mastrosimon.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were MOVED BY: Commissioner Hansen; seconded by: Commissioner Walsh. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Florio, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Paladino.

Resolution R11-067 – Emergency Purchases and Contracts

Resolution authorizes emergency purchases and contracts with Envirocon, LLC, Gavin Electric, and All Risk Restoration and Damage Contractors. The cost is not to exceed \$150,000.00.

Resolution R11-068 – Amending the Designation of Bank Depositories

Resolution amends the designation to include Joanne Jaeger, Robert Zaborowski, Yvonne Childress, Noreen Gul, and Christine Hogan.

Resolution R11-069 – Adopting the Smoke-Free Policy

Resolution adopts a Smoke-Free Policy to go into effect on November 1, 2011.

Resolution R11-070 – Amending the Rules and Regulations

Resolution amends the rules and regulations to incorporate the Smoke-Free Policy adopted by the County and Park Commission. The regulations have also been re-categorized into slightly different sections, although they are the same as previously adopted.

Resolution R11-071 – Award of Contract to Warnock Fleet

Resolution amends R11-061 adopted at the August meeting. Ford no longer manufactures the Escape Hybrid. Purchase is State Contract with Warnock Fleet. The cost is not to exceed \$25,738.00.

Resolution R11-072 – Award of Contract to Stryker Heating, Cooling & Electric and A.C. Schultes

Resolution awards a contract to Stryker Heating, Cooling & Electric and A.C. Schultes as secondary contractor in the event that Stryker Heating can not perform the duties in a timely fashion. The annual cost is not to exceed \$32,325.00.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Brian Newman submitted a report for the month of August 2011.

There was a discussion regarding golf revenue and the effects of Hurricane Irene. The revenue has a shortfall of approximately \$550,000.00. Approximately \$300,000.00 of that estimate will be returned by the closing of open accounts. An application has also been sent to FEMA. Brian Newman reported that the County will assist with the operating costs. He also reported that a resolution can be adopted if the budget is to be amended due to the hurricane. The money from the capital budget that has not been used for a dedicated project can be utilized. Secretary-Director Brown reported that the Joint Insurance Fund was on site every day and has assisted with payments.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Commissioner Consiglio, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of August 2011.

LEISURE SERVICES

Commissioner Jaeger, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of August 2011.

Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director reported that the Somerset County United Way has created a program called Community Conversation with residents of Somerset County to identify concerns and issues. The Park Commission hosted a meeting with the front-line employees. The Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall will be at North Branch Park October 13 to 16. Camp Okee Sunokee and the Teen Scene Program went very well this summer.

Cathy Schrein, Manager Environmental Science reported that camps are completed. The EEC received a \$1,000.00 grant from Wells Fargo which will be used to purchase new program supplies. Program registration will be held September 17 and 18. Dave Dendler and Cathy provided an informational table at the J&J Health and Safety Fair. The solar project is moving ahead and anticipate the panels being installed by the fall. The 1770's Festival will be held Sunday, October 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Karren Newman, Manager Recreation reported that Warrenbrook Pool was very busy this summer. The tennis courts at Colonial Park are completed. Green Knoll tennis courts will remain open until October 31. Fall Yoga began with 45 people and there is an expanded class at 5:30 p.m. for employees. The Duke Island Walkers have been displaced due to the hurricane and they walked at North Branch Park this week and will walk at Buck Garden next week.

Marge Margentino, Manager Stable reported that the beginner classes are full. The Stable has 68 trees that fell across the trails. Half of the trails have been cleared. The Hunter Pace has been rescheduled for November 6.

GOLF MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Paluck, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of August 2011.

Darrell Marcinek, Director Golf Maintenance reported that Neshanic Valley and Spooky Brook Golf Courses opened the day after the hurricane. Warrenbrook and Green Knoll opened two days later. Quail Brook lost more than 12 trees which staff was able to clear away. Darrell will be participating in the Go Green Fair to be held at the Red Mill Museum in Clinton on September 17. This is part of the Stewardship of the South Branch.

Bob Ransone, Deputy Director Golf Management reported that the golf courses have been busy. Bob commended the maintenance crew on clearing the courses. The first of two rounds of the County Championship has been completed. The last round will be played September 17. The blood drive was held again this year with Somerset Medical Center. All donors received a free round of golf. This year there were 281 donors of which 55 were new to the program. The promotional events have been expanded to

Friday and Saturday for nine holes. An e-mail blast has been sent out regarding sales at the pro shops. The courses are also promoting twilight golf where the prices are cut in half.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner Consiglio, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of August 2011.

Dan Livak, Deputy Director Business Administration reported that he has been busy coordinating damage control between the Joint Insurance Fund and contractors. The 2012 budget materials have been distributed.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Hansen, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of August 2011.

Alex Mathew, Manager, Information Management reported that the servers will be moved to the second floor next week. A separate air conditioning unit has been installed for the servers.

VISITOR SERVICES

Commissioner Crosby, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of August 2011.

Dave Dendler, Manager, Park Rangers reported that the Rangers have been assisting with tree work. REI has given a \$5,000.00 grant for the Adopt-A-Boulder event. Dave is working on expanding the volunteers for the morning of that event and there will be a bouldering competition. Eastern Mountain Sports will also be sponsoring the event by providing specialized tools for trail work. The Hawk Watch is open and last week 13 bald eagles were seen. The Deer Management Program is moving ahead. This weekend is the New Jersey Wild Outdoor Expo.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Crosby, Chair of the Committee, submitted a reported for the month of August 2011.

Don Korbobo, Property Management Coordinator reported that the Speiden house had some water and the Ross Farm well house was flooded. Four tree inquiries from neighbors were investigated and one needed a quick response from our tree contractor.

PLANNING AND LAND ACQUISITION

Commissioner Hansen, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of August 2011.

Tom Boccino, Park Planner reported that there should be more closings on a number of key properties. Commissioner Hansen asked about the maintenance of the Skillman

property, especially in light of the budget due to the hurricane. Brian Newman reported that the Improvement Authority will fund some portion of the immediate clean up. Some Open Space funds will be used for the initial clean-up as well. There is no long-term plan.

CAPITAL FACILITIES – CONSTRUCTION and ENGINEERING

A report for the month of August 2011 was submitted.

Ray Brown reported that Mathew Loper and Adam Slutsky have been assisting with the assessments and Ray thanked them for their help. The County will be applying for New Jersey and FEMA funding. The Capital projects that are currently on-going are to continue. The Senior Management Team continues to meeting regularly to discuss projects. Commissioner Walsh expressed his opinion that Capital money should not be spent at this time. Commissioner Consiglio strongly disagreed. Brain Newman explained that there are projects that are necessary to maintain the park commission facilities. He also explained that not all Capital projects will be done in 2011. It will take several years from them to begin and be completed. All the money will not be spent in 2011. President Fuerst asked for the Capital Facilities Committee to provide a status report at the October Work Session.

PARK MAINTENANCE & HORTICULTURE

Commissioner Consiglio, Chair of the Committee submitted a report for the month of August 2011.

Pierce Frauenheim, Deputy Director Park Maintenance reported that one of the North Branch ball fields and playground are closed. Duke Island Park will remain closed until all the tree issues have been taken care of. Natirar walking trail will open September 16. Pierce thanked the County staff for their assistance, as well as the Park Ranger and Maintenance staff who have done a great job. Pierce went to Lock Haven, Pennsylvania to assist with the set up of the Traveling Wall which will help knowing how it is going to work. Commissioner Consiglio thanked the staff on a great job in getting the parks back in order as quickly as they did.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

No report this month.

FREEHOLDER'S REPORT

Freeholder Scaglione thanked the staff for all the assistance on the clean up after the hurricane. All the old buildings in Skillman Village have been demolished. Patrick also commented that the Park Commission will not have a cash flow problem. The County will do what needs to be done for appropriations.

OLD BUSINESS

Ray reported that the Printmaking Council has distributed an e-vite for September 28 for an Open House at the Reeves Cultural Center to show off the renovations and to thank the Park Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve Fuerst thanked everyone at the Park Commission, County, and Freeholders for their assistance throughout Hurricane Irene.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. was made by Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by Commissioner Walsh. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Florio, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Paladino.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond A. Brown
Director

Joanne Steinruck
Executive Assistant