

MINUTES of a meeting of the **SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION** held Thursday, January 19, 2012 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
Walter Hansen
Joanne Jaeger
Dot Paluck
Gary Walsh (via telephone)
Patrick Scaglione, Freeholder Liaison

ABSENT

Dale Florio
Steven Fuerst
Christopher Paladino

Other staff members present were:

Raymond Brown, Director
Joanne Steinruck, Executive Assistant
Jim Avens, Manager Horticulture
Tom Boccino, Principal Planner/Land Acq.
Dave Dendler, Manager, Park Rangers
Pierce Frauenheim, Deputy Dir. Park Maint.
Don Korbobo, Property Mgmt. Coordinator
Stuart Lederman, Counsel
Dan Livak, Deputy Dir. Business Admin.

Darrell Marcinek, Director Golf Maint.
Margie 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
Dina Trunzo, Manager TR
Donna Van Deursen, Manager HR

Also in attendance: Brian Newman, Yvonne Childress, and Rich Reitman

OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment from the public.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Consiglio reported that the Nominating Committee met and the recommendation was as follows: Steven Fuerst as President, Joanne Jaeger as Vice President, and Raymond Brown as Secretary-Director. **MOVED BY:** Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Crosby. **YEAS:** Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, and Walsh. **NAYES:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Commissioners Florio, Paladino, and President Fuerst.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Vice-President Jaeger called for the approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting held December 28, 2011. MOVED BY: Commissioner Crosby; seconded by: Commissioner Hansen. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, and Walsh. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Florio, Paladino, and President Fuerst.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Brown submitted a report for the month of December 2011.

COMMISSIONER CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Somerset County Regional Center Partnership asking for the appointment of the voting member from the Park Commission.
2. Interrogatories from County Counsel regarding Kingman vs. Somerset County Park Commission.
3. Letter from Manville Director of Recreation asking to use Gerber football field for a portable ice skating rink.
4. Great Swamp Watershed Association resolution supporting the National Park Service implementation of a comprehensive deer control and vegetation management program including Morristown National Historic Park.
5. Letter from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection informing the Park Commission of a new documentary film entitled *Living with New Jersey Black Bears*.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

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

Resolution R12-001 – Designating 2012 Bank Depositories

Resolution designates the 2012 bank depositories.

Resolution R12-002 – Award of Contract to Purchase One Toro Grounds Master 4000D with Safety Cab

Resolution awards contract to Storr Tractor Company and the cost is not to exceed \$63,549.00.

Resolution R12-003 – Award of Contract to Purchase Two Toro Grounds Master 360

Resolution awards a contract to Storr Tractor Company and the cost is not to exceed \$47,521.42.

Resolution R12-004 – Award of a Three-Year Contract for Farm Licenses

Resolution awards contracts to the following: Baron Parcel to Beekman Homestead Farm for \$666.00 per year; Snearowski Parcel to V. Peter Staats for \$2,812.00 per year;

Snearowski West to Richard F. Enderley for \$202.00 per year; and South Branch Reserve to Beekman Homestead Farm for \$551.00 per year.

Commissioner Walsh reported that the Audit Committee met this morning and recommended the following award of contract:

Resolution R12-005 – Award of Contract for Accounting and Auditing Services for 2012

Resolution awards Suplee Clooney Resolution a contract for audit and accounting services for 2012.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

A report for the month of December 2011 was submitted.

Brian Newman reported that there are no claims to submit this month. Staff is finishing closing the 2011 budget. Approximately \$250,000.00 will be provided by the County in the form of a grant plus an additional \$300,000.00 from open commission various trust accounts that were transferred into active operating accounts.

Resolution R12-006 – Renewal Membership to Somerset County Joint Insurance Fund

Resolution renews the membership for three years ending January 1, 2015. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Crosby. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, and Walsh. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Florio, Paladino, and President Fuerst.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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

Dan Livak, Deputy Director/Business Administration reported that he has been working closely with the County in reviewing the budget projections with the auditors and preparing for the 2012 budget.

HUMAN RESOURCES

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

Commissioner Consiglio reported that he has been working with Donna Van Deursen, Pierce Frauenheim and Ray Brown on the Park Maintenance Division organizational chart to address manpower needs for various new park responsibilities; including Skillman Village.

Donna Van Deursen, Manager, Human Resources reported that the SCJIF will be providing a chainsaw safety training class January 20th. Recruiting for seasonal employees has begun.

LEISURE SERVICES

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

Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director reported that the 2011 Goals and Accomplishments have been distributed. Cindie reminded everyone of the Sponsorship Breakfast on January 20th beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Dina Trunzo, Manager Therapeutic Recreation reported that the Hooked on Hoops basketball program for the kids will be held at the JCC gym. The program is full with 12 participants and there are 12 volunteers from Bridgewater High School assisting which will allow the program to have one-on-one assistance in addition to the three TR staff who will be there. The department is supporting five children in the Bridgewater Recreation department's basketball program as part of inclusion support services. Registration for the winter/spring programs went well with almost all programs full. There are some programs that have just as many individuals on the wait list and the TR staff is looking at ways to add programs and reduce the wait list. The Pajama Party begins the season on January 20th.

Cathy Schrein, Manager, Environmental Science reported that the Nature Through A Child's Eye exhibit is being held now through January 27th. There are 500 pieces of art displayed and over 1,400 people attended the January 8th reception. Verizon FIOS has done a video on the event. The EEC has received \$200.00 in donations from Patagonia through Base Camp Adventures, an outdoor equipment store in Basking Ridge. For every pair of Patagonia shoes they sold \$10.00 was donated to the EEC.

Marge Margentino, Manager Stable reported that the beginner lessons are full with a waiting list. Extra classes will be added to fill with the waiting list. The Stable has been seeing a number of riders leaving Watchung Stable and Seaton Hackney and registering with Lord Stirling Stable for lessons. Spring lessons registration will begin in six weeks. The Lipizzans show will be held September 14th, 15th, and 16th. Dina Trunzo and Marge are looking into starting an Equine Assisted Therapy (EAT) program which is a non-riding program geared toward mental health. Marge is in discussion stages with Lyons VA Hospital and Rutgers Equine Science Center to develop a program to certify Psychologists in EAT.

Karren Newman, Manager Recreation reported that she has received 17 requests for Special Event Permits in Duke Island and Colonial Parks. The Duke Island walkers celebrated their eighth anniversary on January 4th. Karren just returned from attending the USTA Community Development Workshop conference in New Orleans. Winter Yoga has begun with 75 people registered in the two classes.

GOLF MANAGEMENT

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

Darrell Marcinek, Director of Golf Maintenance reported that three golf courses are closed for the season and staff is busy with in-house projects.

Bob Ransone, Deputy Director Golf Management reported that Quail Brook and Neshanic Valley Golf Courses are doing well. The WAPL is on target with fundraising. Everyone involved has been very cooperative with assisting with the event. Bob has been approached by GolfNow; a division of the nationally syndicated television Golf Channel network, to agree to permit them to fill unused tee times at all golf courses on a trial basis through May 2012 without any compensation on our part. If at the end of the trial period we wish to continue with the service, we would agree to supply them with one tee time at each of our courses (our choice, it would be the one directly before twilight begins each day, never used) daily in exchange for the services. We would also be able to send out e-mail blasts to all of the subscribers (50,000 plus) and be included in the ongoing national advertising on the Golf Channel. Currently Morris and Mercer Counties participate in the program and have achieved great results of filling unused times.

Counsel Lederman reported that if the program works there will be a discussion in May to enter into a contract with them. The Neshanic Valley concession vendor discussions are on-going. A meeting will be held with them shortly to discuss their contract with the Commission.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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

Alex Mathew, Manager, Information Management reported that the server has been upgraded and the Office 2010 security software has been installed.

VISITOR SERVICES

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

Dave Dendler, Manager, Park Rangers reported that the Rangers continue to teach CPR and first aid until the end of March. The Bridgewater deer management program is going well. The SCJIF assisted the Park Ranger and Human Resources Managers with contacting OSHA to review the ice safety procedures that the Rangers use.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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

Don Korbobo, Property Management Coordinator reported that his licenses collected \$46,474.00 from farming and \$103,166.00 from hunting in 2011 which is a 26% increase more than 2010.

PLANNING AND LAND ACQUISITION

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

Tom Boccino, Parks Section Principal Planner, Land Acquisition reported that the most acreage acquired was 2011 with 913 acres which includes Skillman Village.

CAPITAL FACILITIES – CONSTRUCTION and ENGINEERING

A report was submitted for the month of December 2011. Ray Brown thanked the Engineering staff for their assistance with various projects.

Adam Slutsky, Principal Engineer, reported that the weather has had an affect on some projects but the Colonial Park pavilion is substantially completed.

PARK MAINTENANCE & HORTICULTURE

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

Jim Avens, Manager Horticulture reported that the Art and Photography exhibit will be held weekdays from February 27 to March 16 and it is a display of photos, paintings, and drawings of Buck Garden. The Arborist Work Day at Skillman Park will be held on March 10.

Pierce Frauenheim, Deputy Director Park Maintenance reported that the recycling of Christmas trees has been expanded to assist Bound Brook and Raritan. Pierce thanked Ray Brown, Donna VanDeursen, and Commissioner Consiglio for their assistance with staffing.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Walsh reported that a meeting was held this morning to discuss the auditor resolution.

FREEHOLDER'S REPORT

Freeholder Scaglione reported that 2011 was a good year despite the weather conditions.

OLD BUSINESS

Presentation: Organic Community Garden at Natirar

A public hearing was held in December regarding the organic community garden and the Athletic Complex on the Howe property. The garden was well received and the project is ready to begin.

Howe Athletic Complex at Colonial Park

This project is on the former Howe property. Previously it has operated as a sod farm and would be ideal for the construction of athletic fields. The project proposes several fields that might help address the strong demand for facilities in the Franklin Township region. The plan is to have one cricket field, two regulation soccer fields, and three smaller soccer fields. An underground pipeline goes through a portion of the site and there would be nothing constructed in that area. The plan was well received by the local officials at a Town Council meeting in December, but the immediate neighbors to the property attended the public meeting and were opposed. Ray reported that he will to one neighbor's detailed written requests which listed all of his concerns. Ray asked the

Commissioners if he should move forward with the project or hold another public meeting. The Commissioners response was an additional meeting is not necessary and he was directed to move ahead. In response to a question, Ray reported that the fields will be maintained by the present Colonial Park staff and no new full time employees were anticipated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. was made by Commissioner Crosby; seconded by Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, and Paluck. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Florio, Paladino, Walsh, and President Fuerst.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond A. Brown
Director

Joanne Steinruck
Executive Assistant