

MINUTES of a meeting of the **SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION** held Thursday, October 18, 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
Dale Florio
Steven Fuerst
Walter Hansen
Gary Walsh
Patrick Scaglione, Freeholder Liaison

ABSENT

Joanne Jaeger
Christopher Paladino
Dot Paluck

Other staff members present were:

Raymond Brown, 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
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 Management
Cathy Schrein, Manager, Envir. Science
Adam Slutsky, Principal Engineer
Dina Trunzo, Manager TR
Donna Van Deursen, Manager HR

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

OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Darrell Daum from Pittstown, Franklin, New Jersey asked the Commissioners if the Park Commission would allow archeologists to do research on park properties. Director Brown reported it has been done in the past and asked Mr. Daum to provide his contact information to Cathy Schrein and she will be in touch with him.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting held September 20, 2012. **MOVED BY:** Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Walsh. **YEAS:** Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Walsh, and President Fuerst. **NAYES:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Commissioner Florio. **ABSENT:** Commissioners Jaeger, Paladino, and Paluck.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Resolution R12-062 - Payment of Claims

Resolution authorizing payment of bills for \$1,340,259.90 comprising of check numbers 221924-221954, 222360-222383, 221955-222026, 222221-222274, 222494-222562, and 222899-222956. MOVED BY: Commissioner Walsh; seconded by: Commissioner Crosby. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Florio. ABSENT: Commissioners Jaeger, Paladino, and Paluck.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Brown submitted a report for the month of September 2012.

COMMISSIONER CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from New Jersey Water Supply Authority regarding the July 1, 2013 Proposed Rate Adjustments for the Sale of Water for 2014.
2. Letter from New Jersey Water Supply Authority regarding application for uninterrupted water supply from the Raritan Basin System for Eastern Concrete Materials, Inc.
3. Letter from Township of Bridgewater requesting use of public land for their 2012-2013 deer culling program.
4. Resolution adopted by Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners regarding the preserving open space, farmland, and historic sites.
5. Resolution adopted by Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners supporting the full funding by the State for bicycle and pedestrian projects.
6. Thank you from the New Centre Dairy for the support of the 2012 4H Fair.
7. Invite from the Township of Green Brook to the 100th Anniversary of the Washington Rock Monument Celebration held October 13.
8. Memo regarding a \$70,000.00 grant from the Friends of Earthly Delights for the de-siltation of the Buck Garden pond.
9. Letter from a resident who is very impressed with the appearance of Duke Island Park.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

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

Resolution R12-063 – Supporting State Funding of Preservation of Open Space

Resolution supports establishment of a long-term, dedicated source of state funding for preservation and stewardship of open space, parks, farmland, and historic sites.

Commissioner Walsh stated that the local legislator should be contacted for assistance with the maintenance of properties. He also asked about Green Acres funds being used instead of taxpayers. Tom Boccino reported that Green Acres funding is available for acquisition and development but not maintenance. Counsel Lederman reported that the funds cannot be used for maintenance.

Resolution R12-064 – Awarding a Second and Final One-Year Extension of a Contract for Well Maintenance and Repair

Resolution awards a contract to Stryker Heating, Cooling & Electric as the primary contractor and A. C. Schultes as the secondary contractor. The cost is not to exceed \$32,325.00.

Resolution R12-065 – Award of Contract for Green Knoll and Spooky Brook Golf Courses Automatic Irrigation Control System Conversion

Resolution awards a contract to Storr Tractor Company and the cost is not to exceed \$34,280.10.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner Walsh, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of September 2012.

Dan Livak, Deputy Director/Business Administrator reported that revenue is seven percent greater than as compared to 2010 and 16.5 percent greater than 2011. Spending is in line with 2011. Dan distributed Buy-A-Brick brochures and encouraged the Commissioners to purchase a brick which will be installed at the TD Ballpark in Bridgewater. The proceeds of this program go in part to the Therapeutic Recreation Department.

Commissioner Walsh asked for an update on the preliminary budget. Brian Newman reported that the kick-off meeting for the budget was held last month and the Park Commission is being asked to cut its allocation from the Freeholders by five percent.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Commissioner Consiglio, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of September 2012.

Donna Van Deursen, Manager, Human Resources reported that the Employee Safety Fair will be held on October 31. Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield will be providing employees with health screenings this year including blood glucose screenings and blood pressure screenings. Donna thanked the Park Foundation for providing a donation to purchase approximately 100 door prizes. Donna also reported that she has been working with the health benefits consultant and should have renewal figures for the next meeting.

LEISURE SERVICES

Commissioner Jaeger, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of September 2012.

Dina Trunzo, Manager Therapeutic Recreation thanked the Park Commission for allowing her to present and attend the conference in Italy. Dina learned that the United States, and in particular, Somerset County, is very advanced with the assisting residents with disabilities. Dina reported that thanks to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Americans have so many opportunities. Representatives from Canada, Amsterdam, Great Britain, and China specifically reached out to Dina and asked to continue dialogue and be a resource for them. A professor from Hungary had a discussion regarding the building of an accessible playground at one of the schools that serves kids with disabilities. Dina attended a workshop titled Inclusion U that trained and certified her as an Inclusivity Assessor. The Therapeutic Recreation Department has added a science program to be conducted on Friday, November 9, when the children are off for the teacher's convention. Another new event is Pictures with Santa to be held on December 1. The event will be from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the participants can have their photograph taken with Santa. This will be a sensory friendly environment with activities offered while the child waits to see Santa. Dina has obtained the use of a Santa chair, a back drop, and wrapped presents from a local Recreation Department.

Cathy Schrein, Manager, Environmental Science congratulated Dina on her trip to Italy. Due to the rain on Sunday, October 7, the 1770's Festival was moved from 96 Lord Stirling Road to the EEC. Despite the rain, there were still approximately 600 attendees. Cathy and Tom Boccino attended a film premiere on the film Re-imaging Our Watershed: Renaissance on the Raritan. Last year Cathy, Ray Brown, Karren Newman, and Tom Boccino were interviewed at Duke Island Park for the film. Cathy will try to obtain a copy for the Commissioners to see.

Karren Newman, Manager Recreation reported that Adult Bocce, Tennis, and Putting Course, and Paddle Boating programs and facility operations are coming to an end. Mischief Night Madness will be held on October 26, Breakfast of Champions will be held on October 27, and the Turkey Trot will be held on November 17.

Marge Margentino, Manager Lord Stirling Stable reported that fall lessons are half way completed and 58 out of 85 classes are full to capacity with a waiting list. The Salute to Horse Power Classic Car and Motorcycle Show was held despite the rain. Father Glenn of The Church of St. James performed a nondenominational blessing of the animals at the Stable. Spectators brought donations of apples and carrots for the horses.

GOLF MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Paluck, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of September 2012.

Bob Ransone, Deputy Director Golf Management reported that the County Golf Championships are completed. All of the golf courses remain open. Warrenbrook will close for the winter next month. Golf rounds are strong and slightly more than October of 2011. Commissioner Crosby's church held a golf outing at Neshanic Valley and Bill thanked Bob and his staff for the outstanding job they did.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Hansen, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of September 2012.

Alex Mathew, Manager, Information Management reported that Information Management is now publishing a monthly informational newsletter. Focus has been on 2012 projects and communications.

VISITOR SERVICES

Commissioner Crosby, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of September 2012.

Dave Dendler, Manager, Park Rangers reported that the Adopt-A-Boulder event will be held on November 3 and 4. November 3 will be volunteer work on the trails and November 4 will be the climbing competition. Dave has received a grant for \$1,250.00 from Access Fund to be utilized for purchase of tools needed for the volunteer day. The competition will be the only one in the state of New Jersey. Dave will work with Rich Reitman on a press release. Park Rangers have been busy with manning informational tables for the Park Commission at fairs. President Fuerst asked Dave to work with Ray on possibly obtaining Park Foundation donations for the event. The Hawk Watch this year has been good and it will continue to the middle of November.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Crosby, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of September 2012.

Don Korbobo, Property Management Coordinator reported that he has been busy working with Jim Avens on tree work.

PLANNING AND LAND ACQUISITION

Commissioner Hansen, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of September 2012.

Tom Boccino, Parks Section Principal Planner / Land Acquisition, reported that he hopes to close on 300 acres before the end of the year. A grant was submitted for the bikeway project that Tom presented at last month's meeting. Tom has submitted an award nomination for the playground at Colonial Park to the New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association.

CAPITAL FACILITIES – CONSTRUCTION and ENGINEERING

A report was submitted for the month of September 2012.

Adam Slutsky, Principal Engineer, reported that work continues on the Howe all-purpose athletic fields and the dredging of the Duck and Mettlers Ponds in Colonial Park. The Elm Cottage/Grist Mill repairs continue and the Park Commission headquarters parking lot will be paved soon. Construction of the Richardson parking lot continues and repairs to the Markota house are completed. The Raritan River Greenway Bikeway Peters Brook connection has been paved and is waiting for the bridges to be installed. Construction of the Howe all-purpose fields continues and it is hopeful that they will be ready by the fall of 2013.

Director Brown reported that the County recently acquired two lots adjacent to the fields which will provide additional buffering for the facility and room for a permanent restroom at some point in the future.

PARK MAINTENANCE & HORTICULTURE

Commissioner Consiglio, Chair of the Committee submitted a report for the month of September 2012.

Pierce Frauenheim, Deputy Director Park Maintenance reported that he has been working with Adam on the Buck Garden dredging of the ponds. A bid will be available on December 4. The Duke Island Park canal walk and river walk has been repaired by the County. Pierce is proud of his staff that worked on it. The repairs where necessary due to the flooding last year. Wires are being cleaned up at Skillman Village and the cemetery is being cleaned. Staff has been busy preparing for several special events and are now preparing for the winter.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Brian Newman reported that a bid will be available in mid to late November for auditing services.

FREEHOLDER'S REPORT

Freeholder Scaglione reported that work has begun on the Capital Budget. The Press Conference for the Thompson parcel, which is 350 acres in the Sourland Mountain Preserve, was held on October 16. The County will be partnering with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation to manage and program the property. The County will have ownership of the property and grants will be solicited for future trail improvements.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Counsel Lederman mentioned that the date for the Close-Out meeting should be discussed soon.

Resolution R12-066 – Closed Session

Resolution adjourning into closed session at 6:43 p.m. in accordance with the Sunshine Law, Chapter 321, P.L. 1975 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq.) to discuss a pending contract. MOVED BY: Commissioner Walsh; seconded by: Commissioner Crosby. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Jaeger, Paladino, and Paluck.

A motion to re-enter the regular meeting was made by Commissioner Walsh and seconded by Commissioner Hansen at 7:12 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. was made by Commissioner Walsh seconded by Commissioner Hansen. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Florio, Hansen, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Jaeger, Paladino, and Paluck.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond A. Brown
Director

Joanne Steinruck
Executive Assistant