

MINUTES of a meeting of the **SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION** held Thursday, January 29, 2013 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
Steven Fuerst
Helen Haines
Walter Hansen
Doug Ludwig
Christopher Paladino - Telephone
Dot Paluck - Telephone
Patricia Walsh, Freeholder Liaison

ABSENT

Dale Florio

Other staff members present were:

Raymond Brown, Director
Joanne Steinruck, Executive Assistant
Jim Avens, Manager Horticulture
Mike Ballow, Manager Park Maintenance
Dave Dendler, Manager, Park Rangers
Betsy Flanagan, Counsel
Don Korbobo, Property Mgmt. Coordinator
Dan Livak, Deputy Dir. Business Admin.

Darrell Marcinek, Director Golf Maint.
Alex Mathew, Manager Info. Mgmt.
Bob Ransone, Deputy Director Golf Mgmt.
Cathy Schrein, Manager, Envir. Science
Adam Slutsky, Principal Engineer
Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director
Dina Trunzo, Manager TR
Jane Bodnar
Jeff Van Pelt

Also in attendance: Yvonne Childress and Rich Reitman

OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment from the public.

SERVICE AWARDS

President Fuerst presented a 10 year service award to Jane Bodnar and a 30 year service award to Jeff VanPelt.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Consiglio reported that the Nominating Committee met and their recommendation for Commission President was Steven Fuerst. YEAS: Commissioners Crosby, Haines, Hansen, Ludwig, Paladino, Paluck, and Consiglio. NAYES: None. ABSTAIN: President Fuerst. ABSENT: Commissioner Florio.

Commissioner Consiglio reported that the Nominating Committee had two nominations for Vice President. Commissioner Florio nominated Commissioner Crosby and Commissioner Paluck nominated Commissioner Hansen. A vote was taken for Commissioner Crosby as Vice President. YEAS: Commissioners Crosby, Haines, Ludwig, Paladino, and Consiglio. NAYES: Commissioners Hansen, Paluck, and President Fuerst. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Florio.

Commissioner Crosby was elected Vice President.

President Fuerst then asked Commissioner Consiglio for the Committee's recommendation for Secretary. Commissioner Consiglio reported that the nominating committee recommended Raymond Brown as Secretary. A vote was then taken for Raymond Brown as Secretary. YEAS: Commissioners Crosby, Haines, Ludwig, Paladino, Consiglio, Fuerst, Paluck and Hansen. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Florio.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting held December 27, 2012. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Crosby. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Ludwig, Paladino, Paluck, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Haines. ABSENT: Commissioner Florio.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Resolution R13-001 - Payment of Claims

Resolution authorizing payment of bills for \$641,704.35 comprising of check numbers 227460-227565. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Hansen. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Ludwig, Paladino, Paluck, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Haines. ABSENT: Commissioner Florio.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

COMMISSIONER CORRESPONDENCE

1. Consultation Comments from New Jersey DEP regarding the Neshanic Valley Golf Course Final Cultural Resource Survey Report, Van Camp Rural Historic District, Opie Road, Block 77, Lots 23, 23.01, 23.02, 23.03, 23.04, 24, and 27.
2. Letter from Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, Inc. requesting the name of the appointment of voting representative to the Partnership for 2013.
3. Notice of 2013 Public Meeting dates for the New Jersey Water Supply Authority.
4. Letter of thanks from a family that participated in the Pictures with Santa program.
5. Letter for congratulations to Peter Palmer on being selected Freeholder Director from Mayor of Branchburg, James Leonard. Mayor Leonard also asked that the Freeholder Board work with him on developing a hiking trail along the Raritan River.
6. Packet received from Stuart Lederman that included correspondence on issues that current counsel should be aware of, as well as, past correspondence.
7. Article in The Sunday Star-Ledger announcing that the Freeholders awarded a \$142,000.00 contract to RBA Group to design the loop trail at Skillman Park.

8. Letter and photographs from someone in Australia that has a timber antique mantel clock with a plate that reads Washington's Rock, NJ and wanted to know if the Park Commission has any information on the clock or would be interested in the clock.
9. Letter from Gary Walsh extending his thank you and goodbye.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

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

Resolution R13-002 – Thanks and Appreciation to Joanne M. Jaeger

Resolution expresses thanks and appreciation to Joanne Jaeger for her service as a Commissioner and Vice President of the Somerset County Park Commission.

Resolution R13-003 – Thanks and Appreciation to Gary Walsh

Resolution expresses thanks and appreciation to Gary Walsh for his service as a Commissioner with the Somerset County Park Commission.

Resolution R13-004 – Thanks and Appreciation to Stuart M. Lederman, Esq.

Resolution expresses thanks and appreciation to Stuart Lederman for his service as legal counsel with the Somerset County Park Commission.

Resolution R13-005 – Thanks and Appreciation to Patrick Scaglione

Resolution expresses thanks and appreciation to Patrick Scaglione for his service as Freeholder Liaison with the Somerset County Park Commission.

Resolution R13-006 – Thanks and Appreciation to Rose Evans

Resolution expresses thanks and appreciation to Rose Evans for her service with the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce and Somerset County Regional Center Partnership.

Resolution R13-007 – Award of Contract for Audit and Accounting Services for 2013

Resolution awards a contract to Suplee Clooney for audit and accounting services for 2013.

Resolution R13-008 – Designating Representation to the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County

Resolution recommends Raymond Brown to serve as the voting representative and Cynthia Sullivan to serve as the alternate.

Resolution R12-009 – Award of County Co-Op Contract to Purchase a 2013 Dodge Ram 5500 with Options

Resolution awards a contract to Beyer Chrysler Dodge Jeep and the cost is not to exceed \$53,037.00. The vehicle will be used by the Park Maintenance Department.

Resolution R13-010 – Award of County Co-Op Contract to Purchase a 2013 Gallon 133USD Stainless Steel Dump Body with Options

Resolution awards a contract to Cliffside Body Corporation and the cost is not to exceed \$25,124.00. The vehicle will be used by the Park Maintenance Department.

Resolution R13-011 – Award of Morris County Co-Op Contract to Purchase a 2013 Ford Explorer

Resolution awards contract to Route 23 Automall and the cost is not to exceed \$26,442.00. The vehicle will be used by the Park Maintenance Department.

Resolution R13-012 – Award of Morris County Co-Op Contract to Purchase and Install Fencing

Resolution awards a contract to E.B. Fence, LLC for fencing at North Branch Park Maintenance Yard (\$20,167.50) and Natirar Park (\$23,870.00). The total is not to exceed \$44,037.50.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

A report was submitted for the month of December 2012.

Dan Livak reported that the 2012 surplus is more than two million dollars which is one million dollars more than the projected revenue. Super Storm Sandy caused approximately \$283,000.00 in losses. The Joint Insurance Fund has reimbursed the Park Commission approximately \$32,000 to date. The labor costs for repairs will be submitted to FEMA which will reimburse 75 percent of the total eligible costs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

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

LEISURE SERVICES

Commissioner Ludwig, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of December 2012.

Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director reported that the history book layout (part 1) is completed. One third of the individual parks portion of the book (part 2) is completed. The text for the entire book is completed and the designer is working on the layout. Work continues on the Annual Report. Cindie distributed the Goals and Accomplishments and thanked the managers for their assistance. The Winter Park Guide and Volunteer Newsletter have been distributed. In Karren Newman's absence Cindie reported that Karren has begun processing 2013 permits for events throughout the year. The permits gross \$200,000.00 annually from renting of parks. In Marge Margentino's absence Cindie reported that the Stable staff has done a great job in clearing the debris from trees due to Super Storm Sandy. Cindie thanked the Park Ranges for their assistance in assisting with the cleanup of trees at the Stable. All programs at the Stable have resumed thanks to the extra help from the Park Rangers and Recreation Maintenance. Some trails are still closed.

Dina Trunzo, Manager Therapeutic Recreation reported that winter session programs have started this week. All programs are full with a waiting list. Camp registration will be held on February 20. The department received a \$100.00 from a retired Park Commission employee that is earmarked for the TR garden program. The Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center Horticulture Program has been awarded funding from the Rotary and Rutgers Enabling Garden project to build an Enabling Garden in the courtyard at the center. The Branchburg Rotary will be building the garden which will include a healing component including, but not limited to, sensory garden area and the use of cool calming colors.

Cathy Schrein, Manager, Environmental Science reported that the annual children's art show ended on January 27. The show exhibited kindergarten through six grade art from Somerset County schools and 21 schools participated. Cablevision taped the exhibit and it will be aired on February 10. The cross-country ski trip to Lapland Lakes has full registration and will be held January 31 to February 3. Camp registration will be held on February 16.

GOLF MANAGEMENT

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

Darrell Marcinek, Director of Golf Maintenance reported that Super Storm Sandy clean up continues. The golf courses lost 200 trees. The deteriorating cart paths at Quail Brook Golf Course have been removed and replaced with eight foot paths.

Bob Ransone, Deputy Director Golf Management reported that three golf courses are closed for the winter. Neshanic Valley and Green Knoll remain open. Final golf rounds for 2012 were more than 16,000 than in 2011. Revenue is \$952,741.00 which is a 13.3 percent increase as compared to last year. The weather was a tremendous factor. An RFP was just received for retail sales and supply of technical equipment at the Learning Center. Callaway is holding a demonstration day next month and Bob will work on a press release to advertise the event. Advertising will now be done in Philadelphia to encourage visitation. An RFP will also be done for the food and beverage concession for the original four golf courses and Warrenbrook Pool.

Director Brown mentioned the Pro/Celebrity Golf Tournament will be held on May 6 at Neshanic Valley Golf Course and this event is a major fundraiser by the Park Foundation. This year Steve Kalafer will be the even Honoree.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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

VISITOR SERVICES

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

Dave Dendler, Manager, Park Rangers reported that at this time of the year the Rangers are teaching CPR and First Aid to Park Commission staff. Ranger staff has been at the Stable helping clear the trails of downed trees and debris from Super Storm Sandy.

Preparation has begun for the Adopt-A-Boulder event to be held in April. The Rangers will be working with New Jersey Fish and Wildlife on its Brook Trout program which involves ten schools raising trout from eggs and in April and June the Rangers will assist with the trout being released in the river off Gilbride Road. The Rangers will discuss why that program is so important.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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

Don Korbobo, Property Management Coordinator reported that tree work continues due to Super Storm Sandy. The 256 acres recently acquired from Carrier Clinic will be bid for farm use this spring. The property at the corner of Mettlers and Weston Road currently is a wheat field and will be bid as farmland in August for a contract beginning January 1, 2014.

PLANNING AND LAND ACQUISITION

Commissioner Haines, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of December 2012.

In Tom Boccino's absence, Ray Brown reported that the inventory of property continues to grow. The former Prudential/Exxon property that the County has been working on for a long time has recently closed.

CAPITAL FACILITIES – CONSTRUCTION and ENGINEERING

Commissioner Paladino, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of December 2012.

Adam Slutsky, Principal Engineer, reported that construction continues on the Howe Athletic Complex and is 60 to 70 percent complete. Dredging of the two ponds at Colonial Park are half completed. Demolition on recently acquired properties continues. Completion of the trail on the Raritan River continues with completion in the spring after the bridges have been set. Adam reported that Tom Boccino has been informed that the New Jersey Recreation and Park Association will be presenting a design award at its annual convention for the Morgan Pellowski Playground at Colonial Park. The County has provided approximately two million dollars for capital projects in 2012.

Director Brown reported that he has been working with Mayor Corradino of Manville on the Gerber Field project. Work continues on a concept plan for renovation of the site. This project will complement Torpey Athletic Complex and Ray thanked Adam for his assistance. This property is a former landfill so it will take some time to obtain the necessary State approvals.

PARK MAINTENANCE & HORTICULTURE

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

Mike Ballow, Manager Park Maintenance reported that the recycling of Christmas trees was successful and will end January 31. The trees will be mulched and used throughout

the parks. Staff is in the final stage of cleaning debris from trees due to Super Storm Sandy. Several maintenance employees from each facility have been temporarily working at Skillman Park to clean up debris and remove telephone lines and poles.

Jim Avens, Manager Horticulture reported that Horticulture staff continues cleanup of storm damaged trees from Super Storm Sandy at Buck and Colonial Park gardens. A large amount of tree work has been completed and many tree stumps and debris have been removed from the parks. Staff has been working with Predator and Tamke Tree Experts. Jim distributed a flyer for the Art and Photography Exhibit which will be held February 25 to March 15. Currently there are 14 artists registered to exhibit their art work on Buck Garden.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

No report this month.

FREEHOLDER'S REPORT

Freeholder Walsh reported that she is delighted to be the Freeholder Liaison for the Park Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Brown asked that the Commissioners read the 2012 Goals and Accomplishments. Ray thanked everyone for their assistance with that project. Ray has been contacted by a non-profit group called Project EverGreen. Their goal is to preserve and enhance green spaces. The services are free and are similar to the Arborists Day work done at Skillman Park. The Park Commission has agreed to put together a project list to be submitted to them.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. was made by Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by Commissioner Crosby. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Haines, Hansen, Ludwig, Paladino, Paluck, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Florio.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond A. Brown
Director

Joanne Steinruck
Executive Assistant