

MINUTES of a meeting of the **SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION** held Thursday, January 21, 2010 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
Walter Hansen
Joanne Jaeger
Christopher Paladino
Dot Paluck
Gary Walsh
Pat Sciaglione, Freeholder Liaison

ABSENT

John Gillen

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.
Marge Margentino, Manager, LSS
Alex Mathew, Manager Info. Mgmt.
Karren Newman, Manager Recreation
Bob Ransone, Director, Golf Management
Cathy Schrein, Manager, Envir. Science
Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director
Dina Trunzo, Manager, TR
Donna Van Deursen, Manager, HR

Also in attendance: Brian Newman and Rich Reitman

OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chip Kloos, a member of the Somerset County Fish and Game Protective Association expressed an interest in continuing to work with the Park Commission on developing a trap shooting range. He would like to have a feasibility study done on possible locations and wanted to know what the next step would be to continue. Commissioner Hansen commented that the Trap Shooting Range Committee had come to the conclusion that it was not of interest to the Park Commission to continue with the idea. There were several issues that concern the Park Commission including public nuisance issues, environmental issues and most important, capital funding issues. Joe Weinkam, also a member of the Association, reported that there are other park systems, although none are in New Jersey, that have such facilities. Chip also reported that the club did have a shooting range on

Milltown Road but that the club decided to close outdoor trap shooting due to the proximity of houses being built near the range. He asked if a site was identified, would the Park Commission support the feasibility study. What role would the Park Commission and the club play, and what were the economic and social issues? President Fuerst responded that the club seemed to have made an assumption that the Park Commission still has an interest. Some of the Commission's concerns involved what support the County was able to provide since budgets are currently being cut and several existing programs offered by the Park Commission may have to be cut. Questions pertaining to operation of the facility are also complicated due to the fact that the Commission is a public entity and must address such services through a public bidding process. The social concerns are based on noise issues and the environmental and economic impacts related to the lead shells. President Fuerst again commented that the Park Commission is going through budget cuts and will most likely not be able to support any new initiatives in the short term. President Fuerst asked that Commissioner Hansen meet with Mr. Kloos and Weinkam and revisit the proposal and to report back to the Commissioners at the February or March Work Session.

SERVICE AWARDS

President Fuerst presented a five year service award to Christian Murray.

SOMERSET COUNTY JOINT INSURANCE FUND

Ray Hughes attended the meeting to present a year end status report on the state of the Somerset County Joint Insurance Fund. A letter was distributed to each Commissioner explaining the insurance program in detail. There were several questions regarding the fund's operations and the distribution policy for yearly dividends. The information exchange helped the commissioners better understand how the fund operates and the restrictions placed upon it by various NJ State regulatory agencies.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting held December 23, 2009. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Crosby. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes of the last Work Session held on January 14, 2010. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Crosby. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Resolution R10-001 - Payment of Claims

Resolution authorizing payment of bills for \$288,873.88 comprising of check numbers 168965-169101. MOVED BY: Commissioner Walsh; seconded by: Commissioner Jaeger. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Brown submitted a report for the month of December 2009.

Resolution R10-002 – Appreciation of Barbara Hann

Resolution in appreciation of Barbara's 30 years of service. MOVED BY: Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

Resolution R10-003 – Appointing Representation to the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County

Resolution appoints Ray Brown as a voting representative and Cindie Sullivan as the alternate to the Partnership. MOVED BY: Commissioner Paluck; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

COMMISSIONER CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letters of apology from two individuals who vandalized the Roller Hockey Rink.
2. Letter from Mayor Liptak requesting a meeting with the Somerset County Open Space Advisory Committee to discuss the denial of 2010 Recreation Grant to improve the wading pool at Frelinghuysen Park.
3. Letter from Timothy R. Hott, attorney for Teamsters Local 469 advising the Park Commission of Business Agent Broderick's application for interim relief and a proposed Order to Show Cause.

REPORT OF TREASURER

The Treasurer's report shows a book balance of \$446,884.54 as of December 31, 2009.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Resolution R10-004 – Establishing the 2010 Petty Cash Funds

Resolution establishes the amounts for petty cash for specific departments. MOVED BY: Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

Resolution R10-005 – Designating 2010 Bank Depositories

Resolution designates the banks for deposits and names Marty J. Nadler as the custodian. MOVED BY: Commissioner Crosby; seconded by: Commissioner Hansen. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

Resolution R10-006 – Establishing the 2009 Temporary Budget

Resolution provides for temporary appropriations for 2010. MOVED BY: Commissioner Hansen; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

Commissioner Walsh expressed concerns about adopting a temporary budget that is based solely on a percentage of the prior year's budget and not upon what had actually been incurred. He would like the temporary budget to be more in line with the actual expenses that are typically incurred during the first quarter of any year. Brian Newman reported that the process of creating a temporary budget is probably more reflective of what local finance laws permit rather than a more detailed assessment of expenses. Brian reported that the agency is, however, very much aware of the limitations of the temporary budget and that it is sensitive to controlling expenses during this period prior to the adoption of the Commission's final operating budget.

Resolution R10-007 – Appointing Purchasing Agent and Designated Qualified Purchasing Agent

Resolution appoints Mary Louis Stanton effective February 16, 2010 for a term to expire on February 15, 2015. MOVED BY: Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner Hansen. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Commissioner Consiglio, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of December 2009.

Donna Van Deursen, Manager, Human Resources reported that training will be held on February 23rd on interviewing skills for all supervisory employees. Donna thanked county payroll staff for their assistance during the payroll conversion.

LEISURE SERVICES

Commissioner Jaeger, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of December 2009.

Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director reported that Springfield Missouri selected the Park Commission as one of 15 park systems nationwide to use to benchmark their master plan.

Dina Trunzo, Manager, TR reported that the registration for winter and spring programs was successful. Programs will begin on January 25th. The department received advertising from the Town Planner Community Calendar at no cost to the department. Information about the department was listed on the back of calendars that were distributed to many towns in the Somerset County area.

Cathy Schrein, Manager, Environmental Science reported that the Nature through a Child's Eye program continues until February 7th. The art work has been created by children throughout the Somerset County school systems.

Karren Newman, Manager Recreation reported that two USTA teams who call Green Knoll Tennis Center home court made it to the USTA Amateur National Championships in Palm Springs, California. The women's 2.5 doubles team was eliminated in the second round but the mixed doubles 3.5 team won the National Championship and was the first team from New Jersey to win a national title in almost 30 years. Winter Yoga has begun with a full roster of 53 participants. Cabin Fever Kids will begin in February.

Marge Margentino, Manager, Lord Stirling Stable reported that the Stable is working with the St. Elizabeth University's intercollegiate equestrian club with lessons and group rides.

Resolution R10-008 – Emergency Replacement of Fire Alarm System at Lord Stirling Stable and Authorizing Final Payment to Fast Fire and Security Technology

Resolution authorizes the emergency need for replacement of the fire alarm system. The cost of the repairs is estimated at \$8,025.00. MOVED BY: Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

Resolution R10-009 – Amending Resolution R09-094 for Hay

Resolution amends R09-094 which had a typographical error in the price. The correct price is \$380.00 per ton. MOVED BY: Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

GOLF MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Paluck, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of December 2009.

Darrell Marcinek, Director Golf Maintenance reported that projects are on-going. The River Friendly program case study at Neshanic Valley is posted on the Environmental Institute for Golf website (eifg.org).

Bob Ransone, Deputy Director Golf Management reported that Quail Brook and Neshanic Valley Golf Courses remain open for the winter. Golf revenue has increased \$35,484 as compared to January 2009. Neshanic Valley Learning Center fittings are being advertised on cable channels News 12, ESPN, and the Golf channel thanks to Callaway Golf who is paying for the advertising.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner Consiglio, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of December 2009.

Dan Livak, Deputy Director/Business Administration reported that the close out of accounts is completed and he is in the process of obtaining the final numbers for 2009.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Hansen, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of December 2009.

Alex Mathew, Manager, Information Management reported that staff continues working with various projects and established goals for 2010. Alex thanked the County MIS for their assistance with the installation of P2K software and testing the program. Commissioner Hansen informed everyone that there will be an Information Management Focus group meeting will be held tomorrow morning.

Resolution R10-010 – Award of Contract to BCI Communications, Inc.

Resolution awards a contract for the second and final year for telecommunications and computer network systems. MOVED BY: Commissioner Hansen; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

Brian Newman thanked Alex Mathew and Donna Van Deursen for the assistance during the P2K conversion.

VISITOR SERVICES

Commission Crosby, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of December 2009.

Dave Dendler, Manager, Park Rangers reported that ice skating was held at Colonial Park for the fourth year in a row. There were approximately 80 skaters during the five days that skating was permitted. The Bridgewater deer management program will end on February 12th.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Consiglio, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of December 2009.

Don Korbobo, Property Management Coordinator reported that he has been preparing bid packets for farm parcels. Currently there are 1,278 acres leased for farming. Don reported there was a false alarm at the Ross house. Pierce Frauenheim reported that the alarm company maintains and monitors the systems.

PLANNING AND LAND ACQUISITION

Commissioner Paluck, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of December 2009.

Tom Boccino, Parks Section Principal Planner, Land Acquisition reported that he will distribute the 2009 OSAC Annual Report at the February Park Commission meeting.

Resolution R10-011 – Appointment to the Open Space Advisory Committee

Resolution appoints Dorothy Paluck as the Commission representative and Patricia Graham as the Citizen Member. MOVED BY: Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

CAPITAL FACILITIES – CONSTRUCTION and ENGINEERING

Commissioner Paladino, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of December 2009.

PARK MAINTENANCE & HORTICULTURE

Commissioner Consiglio, Chair of the Committee submitted a report for the month of December 2009.

Jim Avens, Manager, Horticulture reported that staff is performing the winter pruning, mulching beds, updating the plant records, and placing orders for the plant sale. The Art and Photography Exhibit will be held weekdays February 23rd to March 12th and features photography and paintings showcasing the four seasons at Buck Garden. Jim extended an invitation for all to attend the exhibit.

Pierce Frauenheim, Deputy Director Park Maintenance reported that the Christmas tree chipping continues and the chips are available to the public.

Resolution R10-012 – Rescinding R09-120 and Awarding Purchase of 2011 Ford 250 Pick Up Truck

Resolution rescinds the purchase of a 2010 Ford 250 truck from Lawrenceville Auto Group and awards the purchase of a 2011 Ford 250 truck from Ditschman/Flemington Ford Car & Truck through the Morris County Co-Op. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Jaeger. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

An RFP will be prepared to obtain auditors for 2010. Brian Newman reported that the County will award the contract after the Park Commission reviews the proposals. The costs will remain the same as 2009.

FREEHOLDER’S REPORT

No Freeholder report this month.

OLD BUSINESS

Ray Brown reminded everyone that the Commission’s Corporate Sponsorship Breakfast will be held tomorrow, January 22nd beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the TR Room at Park Headquarters.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report this month.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. was made by President Fuerst; seconded by Commissioner Jaeger. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Gillen.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond A. Brown
Director

Joanne Steinruck
Executive Assistant