

MINUTES of a meeting of the **SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION** held Thursday, April 16, 2009 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
Steven Fuerst
Joanne Jaeger
Christopher Paladino
Dot Paluck
Rick Fontana, Freeholder Liaison

ABSENT

John Gillen
Walter Hansen
Rose McConnell
Gary Walsh

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, Manager, Property Mgmt.
Stuart Lederman, Counsel
Dan Livak, Deputy Dir. Business Admin.

Darrell Marcinek, Director Golf Maint.
Marge Margentino, Manager, Stable
Alex Mathew, Manager, Info. Mgmt.
Karren Newman, Manager, Recreation
Bob Ransone, Director, Golf Operations
Cathy Schrein, Manager, Environ. Science
Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director
Dina Trunzo, Manager, TR

Also in attendance: Brian Newman

OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment from the public.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting held March 19, 2009. **MOVED BY:** Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Jaeger. **YEAS:** Commissioners Consiglio, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, and President Fuerst. **NAYES:** None. **ABSENT:** Commissioners Gillen, Hansen, McConnell, and Walsh.

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes of the Work Session held April 9, 2009. **MOVED BY:** Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. **YEAS:** Commissioners Consiglio, Jaeger, Paladino, and President Fuerst. **NAYES:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Commissioner Paluck. **ABSENT:** Commissioners Gillen, Hansen, McConnell, and Walsh. Due to the lack of votes, the minutes did not pass.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Resolution R09-041 - Payment of Claims

Resolution authorizing payment of bills for \$993,640.82 comprising of check numbers 155232-155235, 155570-155576, 155159-155231, 155430-155504, 155694-155748, and 156112-156175. **MOVED BY:** Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. **YEAS:**

Commissioners Consiglio, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Gillen, Hansen McConnell, and Walsh.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Brown submitted a report for the month of March 2008. Ray commented that he and staff members have met with some citizens regarding the proposed Asian garden. A presentation will be given at the May 21st meeting.

COMMISSIONER CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from the Cranford Rod and Gun Club informing the Park Commission that in appreciation for including the Club in the wildlife management program in Branchburg, on March 28th the Club assisted in the cleaning of debris from the County property along Station Road as a way of saying thank you.

REPORT OF TREASURER

Brian Newman provided the Treasurer's report having a book balance of \$868,830.08 as of March 31, 2009.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Resolution R09-042 – Authorizing Sale of Surplus Equipment and Vehicles

Resolution authorizes the sale of surplus property that has been declared to no longer be of use to the Park Commission. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Jaeger. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Gillen, Hansen McConnell, and Walsh.

Resolution R09-043 – Award of Contract to JML Landscaping, Inc.

Resolution awards a contract for installation of an irrigation system at the outfield of the Torpey Athletic Complex. The total cost is \$14,545.00. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Jaeger. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Gillen, Hansen, McConnell, and Walsh.

Resolution R09-044 – Awarding Contract to All Clean Services, Inc.

Resolution awards a contract for the third year of a five year contract for janitorial services effective May 1, 2009 for one year and may be extended one additional year. The total annual price is \$36,115.00. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Gillen, Hansen, McConnell, and Walsh.

Resolution R09-045 – Award of Contract to Warnock Fleet and Sanitation Truck Repair Company, Inc.

Resolution awards a contract for the purchase of a 2009 Ford F-350 cab/chassis from Warnock Fleet for \$24,998.93. The purchase and installation of the rugby eliminator dump body will be purchased through Sanitation Truck Repair Company, Inc. for \$8,197.00 for a total cost of \$33,195.93. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Jaeger. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Gillen, Hansen, McConnell, and Walsh.

Resolution R09-046 – Authorizing State Contract to Warnock Fleet & Leasing

Resolution awards a contract for purchase of three 2010 four wheel drive Ford Escape hybrid vehicles. The total cost not to exceed \$85,491.00 or \$28,497.00 each. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Gillen, Hansen, McConnell, and Walsh.

HUMAN RESOURCES

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

LEISURE SERVICES

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

Marge Margentino, Manager, Stable reported that spring registration was held for 78 classes. There were 463 riders who registered. Marge thanked Alex Mathew and Steven Crofts for their assistance with the on-line registration. The Dressage Show was held on March 29th and there were 52 riders from beginners to a qualifier for the Olympics. The Pleasure Drive was cancelled due the weather and the Private Horse Hunter Pace had 63 teams; 140 horses and riders. This was the largest one day Hunter Pace held. Family Fun Day will be held on Sunday, April 19th and 50 riders have registered. Marge participated in a Somerset County Office of Emergency Management disaster drill in Franklin. She was the coordinator between the disaster site and the emergency shelter. The Patriots parade will be held on April 21st and Marge has three horses in the parade. Marge was also asked to be a host on the Horse TV channel.

Cathy Schrein, Manager, Environmental Science reported that the second annual Project E.A.R.T.H. will be held on April 26th. The day will consist of environmental activities and displays. The Eco-Rally, which is part of the event, consists of corporations, scouts, schools, families, and individuals that were asked to track their “environmentally correct” activities for two weeks. Then they are to design a display showing the results which will be displayed on April 26th. Of the 29 teams that were formed (representing over 1,000 people), four teams are from J&J. Commissioner Jaeger was thanked for encouraging J&J employees to participate. The Courier News had a front page article about this event. The marketing for school programs on the website has added 20 new schools in 2008/2009 which includes 75% out of county and a school from New York City.

Dina Trunzo, Manager, TR reported that the grant from the Garden Club of Somerset Hills grant, for which the department was seeking funds, was approved for the full amount requested of \$800.00. The grant will be used to expand the horticulture program currently done in collaboration with Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center (RHCMHC). The new program will be for adolescents receiving services at RHCMHC and will include horticulture activities in their new building and courtyard. The Teen Scene program which is for ages 14 to 17 and is a two week program held at the end of the summer will be conducting registration on April 20th. The Fishing Derby will be held on June 6th at the Sourland Mountain Preserve and registration will begin the week of April 20th. A new program, Take A Bow, will be a new collaborative program between the TR and Recreation Departments. This program will be an attempt to fill the gap in types of programs being offered at the municipal level, which tends to be more sports. The program will be an acting/drama based program for TR participants, ages 10 to 14, and a friend or sibling. Dina accepted an award from the Hillsborough Township on April 14th for the Park Commission’s Camp Okee Sunokee and the efforts given to children with autism.

Karren Newman, Manager Recreation reported that registration for the tennis programs is going well. On opening day, there were 57 people that registered in person and 48 who registered on-line. The first two weeks of youth lessons are full with waiting lists and there are a few openings in the adult tennis program. Spring Yoga will begin on Wednesday, April 22nd. At this time there are 31 paid registrants with a class capacity of 35. The Putting Course will open on April 18th. Warrenbrook pool is exceeding revenue for the season pass registration as compared to this time last year. The second phase of the pool renovations will begin on April 20th, with new skimmers and returns being installed in the main tank.

Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director reported that the annual Bocce Tournament will be held at Colonial Park on June 20th and the Wine Festival will be held at Natirar on May 23rd and 24th. The first concert of the summer will be sponsored by the Somerset County United Way with the annual Party in the Park. United Way volunteers will work with the Park Rangers on the trail clean up. The summer Park Guides will be printed this week and the Arts and Leisure Guide, which lists all the events and activities, has been distributed. The guide is published in conjunction with the Business Partnership, the county, and the Courier News. The Volunteer Recognition dinner will be held at Neshanic Valley on June 18th. Cindie thanked Alex Mathew and Steven Crofts for their assistance with the new server.

Commissioner Consiglio asked if representatives who received a scholarship from funds from the Pro/Celebrity Golf outing could attend the event in the evening. Dina responded she would look into that request.

GOLF MANAGEMENT

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

Commissioner Paluck reported that the golf report shows Quail Brook had some income due to the use of the driving range. Quail Brook has yet to open due to the work being done on the irrigation system. The project is behind schedule and should be completed shortly. Director Brown reported that the project will be discussed at the next Capital Facilities meeting to be held on April 20th.

Darrell Marcinek, Director Golf Maintenance reported that the Neshanic Valley Golf Course River Friendly case study will be published on the Environmental Institute's website within the next month. The spring aeration will be completed next week.

Bob Ransone, Director Golf Operations reported that the golf revenue is \$30,500 less than last year. The weather has not been cooperative. On April 18th Callaway Golf will hold a demo day. There will be special prices on that day and anyone that purchases a Callaway driver will receive a fairway wood for \$1.00. The event will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The annual Welcome Back Tournament will be held on April 18th with reduced greens fees at all the golf courses. The first tour event of Somerset County will be held on April 25th. There are over 140 people registered for this event. Golf Digest selects the top 100 golf courses in the U.S. each year and then selects the top 20 golf courses in each state. This includes private and public golf courses. Neshanic Valley was selected number 19 in the State of New Jersey and it is the only county owned and operated course on the list. Zagats also rates golf courses and every two years they list new ratings. This year, Neshanic Valley has moved to number three in the State of New Jersey.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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

Dan Livak, Deputy Director/Business Administration reported that training has been set up for the FMS system to assist in tracking the 2009 appropriation balances. The Shooting Range Ad-Hoc Committee meetings continue each month. Currently the Committee is working with Park Planner, Tom Boccino to identify possible land parcels. Dan has been working with Alex Mathew on the long and short term Information Management projects. The quarterly IT Focus meeting will be held on April 21st. Don Korbobo has been busy evaluating properties and Dave Dendler has been ensuring public safety. Dan met with the Records Management Committee regarding record tracking and retention.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Alex Mathew, Manager, Information Management reported that in the past, customers were experiencing some difficulty registering on line for the EEC and Stable programs. With the installation of the new server and the software update, the problem has been resolved. Last month the Stable and tennis registration was successfully completed. Work continues in finding a solution to speed up the network connection between the county and the Park Commission headquarters. Alex thanked Steven Crofts for his assistance in that process.

VISITOR SERVICES

Dave Dendler, Manager Park Rangers reported that six seasonals from last year will be returning and two additional seasonals will be hired. The Mountain Bike Clinic will be held on April 18th and Eastern Mountain Sports and JORBA will be assisting. Trail work was done in March. During the next two weeks the Rangers will be trained on the GIS system. Dave is working with the Montgomery Middle School on creating a kiosk at the Sourland Mountain Preserve. He discussed the project at two assemblies that were held at the school. Dave also met with several teachers on how to expand the program. The project of the kiosk will be completed through a grant the school received and is expected to be done in June with updates every year.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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

Don Korbobo, Manager, Property Management reported that he demonstrated how to fell a tree for the Park Rangers at the Sourland Mountain Preserve. Some of the logs were given to the Old Millstone Forge Museum to mount their anvils. Don is working on a problem with horse manure in a flood plane area. The new NJDEP regulations regarding animal waste management may be to be addressed in our farm licenses.

PLANNING AND LAND ACQUISITION

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

Tom Boccino, Parks Section Principal Planner, Land Acquisition reported that he has received a notice that a grant has been received for \$1 million from the NJDEP Green Acres. The Festa property was a donation of 3.8 acres and will be appended to the Sourland Mountain preserve. The GSA property acquisition is 370 acres and the Rezem property is 65 acres. The abutments for the bridge across the D & R Canal at Colonial Park have been constructed and the bridge is expected to be put into place in June.

CAPITAL FACILITIES – CONSTRUCTION and ENGINEERING

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

PARK MAINTENANCE & HORTICULTURE

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

Pierce Frauenheim, Deputy Director Park Maintenance reported that the staff is preparing for the spring events. The gardeners are working in the parks and the Special Projects crew has installed the boards for the plaques in the Commission meeting room. Pierce thanked Alex for his assistance at Buck Garden.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

No report.

FREEHOLDER'S REPORT

Freeholder Fontana reported that he, Jack Ciattarelli, and Ray Brown will be half of the six-member committee to oversee the plans for the GSA Depot property. Rick also reported that he attended an event at Neshanic Valley and was impressed with the improvements Merri Makers has done to the property.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Brown reported that the Pro/Celebrity Golf Outing will be held on Monday, May 11th.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report.

Resolution R09-047 – Closed Session

Resolution adjourning into closed session in accordance with the Sunshine Law, Chapter 321, P.L. 1975 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq.) to discuss labor contracts and potential litigation. MOVED BY: President Fuerst; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Jaeger, Paladino, Paluck, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Gillen, Hansen, McConnell, and Walsh.

A motion to re-enter the regular meeting was made by President Fuerst and seconded by Commissioner Consiglio at 6:55 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. was made by President Fuerst; seconded by Commissioner Consiglio. The motion was carried by affirmation with no opposition.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond A. Brown
Director

Joanne Steinruck
Executive Assistant