

MINUTES of a meeting of the **SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION** held Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 8:00 AM 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
John Gillen
Christopher Paladino
Dot Paluck
Gary Walsh

ABSENT

Walter Hansen
Joanne Jaeger
Rose McConnell

Other staff members present were:

Raymond Brown, Director
Joanne Steinruck, Executive Assistant
James Avens, Manager/Horticulture
Tom Boccino, Principal Planner/Land Acq.
Dave Dendler, Manager, Park Rangers
Pierce Frauenheim, Deputy Dir. Park Maint.
John Kitchen, Deputy Dir. Golf Mgmt.
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, Mgr., Environ. Science
Jim Shelley, Principal Engineer
Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director
Dina Trunzo, Manager, TR
Donna Van Deursen, Manager, HR

Also in attendance: Rich Reitman and Brian Newman

OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment from the public.

PRESENTATION

Dr. Tulsi Maharjan, Chairman of the Somerset County Culture Diversity Coalition, gave a presentation on the Asian Garden concept. A field trip to the Japanese Stroll Garden in Long Island was held on May 15th. The population in Somerset County is changing and the idea of an Asian Garden would teach diversity and be a community outreach effort. This would be an attraction for the Park Commission and help promote diversity and a friendly community. Director Brown commented that the process continues to be a learning one. A Capital Facilities Committee meeting was held on May 18th and the County Engineer will contract with a design firm to assist with the preliminary drawings. The best location for the proposed new garden would be Colonial Park where the Horticulture staff is on site. There are approximately three to five acres available. The

location also must be ADA accessible. Dr. Maharjan and the Coalition have offered to work with the Park Commission on fundraising. Ray will continue to work with the Asian Garden Committee to get a better understanding of what design features we should try to accommodate in our plan.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting held April 16, 2009. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Hansen, Jaeger, and McConnell.

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes of the Work Session held April 9, 2009. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Hansen, Jaeger, and McConnell.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Resolution R09-048 - Payment of Claims

Resolution authorizing payment of bills for \$1,916,714.92 comprising of check numbers 156490-156497, 156696-156699, 157651-157670, 156405-156489, 156708-156793, 156794-156862, 157381-157447, and 157718-157791. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Gillen. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Hansen, Jaeger, and McConnell.

Commissioner Walsh questioned if the Golf Division was satisfied with Quail Brook Golf Course irrigation system and Commissioner Paluck responded yes, with the exception of the pump house which has yet to be completed. Overall, however, the Golf Committee and the Capital Facilities Committee are pleased that we are now able to open the course and resume play. Ray reminded the Commissioners that the contract with the contractor includes a 2% retainage for any items that must still be completed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Brown submitted a report for the month of April 2008. Ray also reported that the 19th annual Pro/Celebrity Golf Tournament was held on May 11th. It was very successful and included 40 foursomes (historically there have been 25 to 30 foursomes). Even during these poor economic times, the strength and support from the community was strong and Ray felt this was an indication of the popularity of the event and particularly the beneficiary of the outing.....the Commission. Commissioner Paluck thanked all the staff who worked on or at the event.

COMMISSIONER CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Neal and Carolyn Katz thanking the Park Commission for the assistance they received through the Community Inclusion Program. Their son attended the "Playgrounds" program through the Bridgewater Recreation.

2. Letter from Warren Township informing the Park Commission that a 150' x 80' 12,000 square foot prefabricated steel building on the East County Reserve Pop Warner site has been approved by the Township Committee. This building will be funded by the Watchung Hills Wrestling Association.

Director Brown will meet with Warren Township to discuss the possibility of using the Gaiser barn and will report back to the Commission after the meeting.

3. Letter from Millie Carra requesting to donate a bench at Duke Island Park in memory of her father who spent many a happy hour at the park fishing and practicing his golf swing.
4. Letter from an attorney representing a neighbor (Hodges) of the EEC asking authorization for the residence at 177 Lord Stirling Road to connect their sewer system to the Environmental Education's system.

Prior to Ray responding to this request, he will have the County Engineer's Department look into this. A copy of the request has been sent to the County Engineer and County Counsel.

REPORT OF TREASURER

Brian Newman provided the Treasurer's report having a book balance of \$980,026.00 as of April 30, 2009.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Commissioner Gillen, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of April 2009.

Resolution R09-049 – Award of Contract to Circle Rubbish Removal, Inc., Raritan Valley Disposal, Waste Management, Kohler Waste Services, Sakoulis Brothers Disposal, Inc., and Grant Sanitation

Resolution awards a contract for the first year of two years for refuse disposal services. MOVED BY: Commissioner Gillen; seconded by: Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Hansen, Jaeger, and McConnell.

Resolution R09-050 – Award of Contract to Best Uniform, Flemington Industrial Uniform, NJ Distribution Center, and Specialty Graphics

Resolution awards a contract for the first year of two years for the purchase of uniforms. MOVED BY: Commissioner Gillen; seconded by: Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Hansen, Jaeger, and McConnell.

HUMAN RESOURCES

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

Donna VanDeursen, Manager, Human Resources reported that all the seasonal positions are filled. Many of the seasonals have returned from last year which makes training easier on the departments. Donna has been working with the County Human Resources Department on the July 1st conversion of the payroll system.

LEISURE SERVICES

Dina Trunzo, Manager, TR reported that the Fishing Derby will be held on June 6th at the Sourland Mountain Preserve. The maximum number of participants is 125 and additional corporate sponsorship funding will allow for the purchase of fish so that the pond can be stocked. South Bound Brook has indicated that they will become a TR participating municipality allowing township residents to utilize TR services and programs. The only two towns in Somerset County that are not participating municipalities are Peapack/Gladstone and Far Hills.

Cathy Schrein, Manager, Environmental Science reported that the Project Earth Day event was successful with approximately 800 people in attendance. Participating were eight outside vendors and representatives from the county recycling center.

Marge Margentino, Manager, Stable reported that the Family Fun Day was successful. The Friends of Lord Stirling Stable held a Mother's Day Horseback Ride on May 10th and a Father's Day Horseback Ride will be held on June 21st. Registration for summer riding lessons is next week.

Karren Newman, Manager Recreation reported that the Warrenbrook Pool is operational and will open on Saturday May 23rd. The contractor did an excellent job.

Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director reported that the New Jersey Winegrowers Festival will be held Saturday, May 23rd and Sunday, May 24th from noon to 5:00 p.m. The annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be held on June 18th at Neshanic Valley Golf Course. The Summer Park Guides were released in May and distributed.

GOLF MANAGEMENT

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

Darrell Marcinek, Director Golf Maintenance reported that Quail Brook Golf Course opened today and the staff has done a great job preparing for the opening.

John Kitchen, Deputy Director, Golf Management reported that the May Golf Week magazine has named Neshanic Valley as one of the top 50 public courses in the country.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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

Dan Livak, Deputy Director, Business Administrator reported that preparation is underway for union negotiations. Dan thanked Tom Boccino for the identifying possible parcels of land for the firearms range. An updated report will be given at the June meeting. The County has been assisting with the retention, categorization, and destruction of records. The State rules for retention have been followed and prior to any records being destroyed they must be signed off by the Director, the auditor, and the State. The County has an off-site storage facility where the records may be kept.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Alex Mathew, Manager, Information Management reported that he has been busy converting data for the Human Resources/Payroll conversion to the County's system. Alex has also been working with Verizon to increase the network speed between the Park Commission and the County.

VISITOR SERVICES

Dave Dendler, Manager Park Rangers reported that seven seasonal employees have returned from last year. National Trails Day will be held on June 6th.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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

Don Korbobo, Manager, Property Management reported that he spent a day with the inspector from New Jersey Risk Managers on an insurance safety tour of all facilities. The inspector was very complimentary on the way the Park Commission manages its facilities.

PLANNING AND LAND ACQUISITION

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

Tom Boccino, Parks Section Principal Planner, Land Acquisition reported that 450 acres have closed so far this year which exceeds last year's total of acreage purchased. Tom attended a Raritan River summit at Rutgers. Approximately 150 people attended including non-profit groups, politicians, and members of the NJDEP. The summit was to discuss how to control contamination of the Raritan River and keep it clean. This is a summit that will be done on an annual basis.

Resolution R09-051 – Appreciation of John Loos

Resolution recognizes John Loos for his 17 years on the Open Space Advisory Committee. MOVED BY: President Fuerst; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Hansen, Jaeger, and McConnell.

Resolution R09-052 – Award of Contract to Landsite Construction Company

Resolution awards a contract for the purchase of transport mobile bleachers at the cost of \$47,990.00 per set. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Paladino, Paluck,

Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Hansen, Jaeger, and McConnell.

At this point of the meeting President Fuerst requested to go into Closed Session due to time constraints.

Resolution R09-053 – 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 union contract negotiations and potential litigation. MOVED BY: President Fuerst; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Hansen, Jaeger, and McConnell.

A motion to re-enter the regular meeting was made by Commissioner Consiglio and seconded by Commissioner Paluck at 9:47 a.m.

CAPITAL FACILITIES – CONSTRUCTION and ENGINEERING

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

Jim Shelley, Parks Section Engineer reported that the Torpey Athletic Complex Grandstand and Support Building, including the site lighting project, has been advertised for bid. Demolition of the EEC deck is completed and construction of the new deck will begin on May 26th. The roof on the Van Camp farm house will be completed by mid-June.

PARK MAINTENANCE & HORTICULTURE

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

Jim Avens, Horticulture Manager reported that the Plant Sale at Buck Garden was a success. On Saturday there was an excellent turnout for the sale, garden lecture, and tour. The plant sale was continued through the following weekend with assistance of the Rock Garden Society volunteers. Tree work was completed throughout the parks last month including removal of hazardous trees at Duke Island Park. Jim thanked Gregg Snyder from the Somerset County Roads and Bridges Department for his department's assistance with removing three large, hazardous trees at the Stable along Maple Avenue. Upcoming Horticulture programs and events include Herbs for Flavor and Fragrance on June 6th at Buck Garden and the 35th annual Rose Day on June 13th at Colonial Park.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

No report this month.

FREEHOLDER'S REPORT

No report this month.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. was made by Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by Commissioner Paladino. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Paladino, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Hansen, Jaeger, and McConnell.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond A. Brown
Director

Joanne Steinruck
Executive Assistant