

MINUTES of a meeting of the **SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION** held Thursday, June 18, 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
Walter Hansen
Joanne Jaeger
Dot Paluck
Gary Walsh

ABSENT

Rose McConnell
Christopher Paladino
Rick Fontana, Freeholder Liaison

Other staff members present were:

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, Property Mgmt. Coordinator
Stuart Lederman, Counsel
Dan Livak, Deputy Director, Bus. Admin.

Marge Margentino, Manager, Stable
Alex Mathew, Manager, Info. Mgmt.
Karren Newman, Manager, Recreation
Bob Ransone, Director, Golf Operations
Cathy Schrein, Manager, Environ. Science
Jim Shelley, Principal Engineer
Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director
Dina Trunzo, Manager, TR
Donna Van Deursen, Manager, HR

Also in attendance: Brian Newman

OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment from the public.

SERVICE AWARDS

President Fuerst presented a ten year service award to Wayne Berry.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting held May 21, 2009. **MOVED BY:** Commissioner Consiglio; **seconded by:** Commissioner Hansen. **YEAS:** Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. **NAYES:** None. **ABSENT:** Commissioners McConnell and Paladino.

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes of the Work Session held May 14, 2009. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Jaeger. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners McConnell and Paladino.

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes of the Work Session held June 11, 2009. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Jaeger. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners McConnell and Paladino.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Resolution R09-054 - Payment of Claims

Resolution authorizing payment of bills for \$1,951,207.72 comprising of check numbers 158068-158075, 158955-158984, 158076-158198, 158488-158542, 158891-158954, 159219-159288. MOVED BY: Commissioner Walsh; seconded by: Commissioner Jaeger. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Gillen. ABSENT: Commissioners McConnell and Paladino.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deputy Director Dan Livak provided the report in Secretary-Director Brown's absence for May 2009. Some of the highlights for the month were the tour of the construction of the garden and restaurant at Virgin Spa at Natirar and a tour of the Japanese Stroll Garden in Long Island. Work continues on the Capital Budget and union contract negotiations.

COMMISSIONER CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter of thanks and appreciation from Vincent Menci of the USBHOF for the support of the "Super Saturday Cycling Classic, and the Frank "Nap" Torpey Memorial "Hills of Somerset" race.
2. Letter from Mark Krane, Warren Township Administrator informing the Park Commission that Chuck DeTorres from King George Plumbing has offered, at no cost to Watchung Hills Pop Warner, the installation of a 50 amp sub panel to the existing barn and an 80,000 BPU propane heater.
3. Letter from the Executive Director of the Printmaking Council notifying the Park Commission of its election to exercise the option to extend the lease on the Ralph T. Reeve Cultural Center Building, which expires on October 31, 2009, for an additional ten years.
4. Letter from the Borough of Millstone informing the Park Commission that Millstone has begun the Plan Endorsement process to ensure that all plans for the Rezem property will be consistent with the goals of the County and State to preserve the historic and cultural heritage of the area.

REPORT OF TREASURER

Brian Newman provided the Treasurer's report having a book balance of \$104,238.07 as of May 31, 2009.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

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

Resolution R09-055 – Authorizing Purchases Under State Contract

Resolution authorizes utilization of open-ended contracts for routine, recurring items to be purchased through State Contracts. MOVED BY: Commissioner Gillen; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners McConnell and Paladino.

Resolution R09-056 – Award of Contract to Action Fast Print, East Coast Media, Courier Printing, and Payne Printery

Resolution awards the second and final year of contract for printing of the Annual Report, park brochures/maps, Duke Island concerts, Golf Magazine, golf score cards, and EEC birthday party brochure. MOVED BY: Commissioner Gillen; seconded by: Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners McConnell and Paladino.

Resolution R09-057 – Trust Funding for the 2009 SCPC Preservation Trust Project Plan

Resolution authorizes the acceptance of Somerset County Preservation Trust Funding for the Park Commission's Preservation Trust Project Plan for \$3,973,000.00. MOVED BY: Commissioner Gillen; seconded by: Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners McConnell and Paladino.

HUMAN RESOURCES

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

Donna VanDeursen, Manager, Human Resources reported that she has been working with the Manager of Information Management, Alex Mathew and the County on the P2K payroll system conversion. Union contract negotiations are on-going.

LEISURE SERVICES

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

Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director reported that she and Environmental Science Manager, Cathy Schrein attended a symposium on the Garden State Preservation Trust. Ray Brown is active with Senator Bateman and Assemblyman Biondi in coordinating continued support for this Trust. There is a bill pending to continue funding. The Garden State Wine Growers Blues and Wine Festival was a big success and many positive comments were received. Cindie thanked the Park Rangers and Park Maintenance for their assistance during the event. The Bocce Invitational will be held on June 20th and the summer concert series will begin on Sunday, June 28th. The Somerset County United Way will work with the Park Rangers on a volunteer clean up project. Cindie also reported that in American City and County Playgrounds magazine there was an article stating that in 1989 Chicago spent \$15 million on purchasing playground equipment which makes the amount the Park Commission spent on their playgroup equipment seem inexpensive.

Dina Trunzo, Manager, TR reported that the Fishing Derby was held on June 6th. 107 children participated and earned a revenue of \$749.00. Dina thanked the Park Rangers and Park Maintenance staff for helping with the parking. Parent orientation for Camp was held June 17th. Law Enforcement day will be held on July 16th and Dina has been working with the Somerset County Chiefs of Police on that event. Patriots Day will be held on July 31st and the staff is looking for lunch donations for that day.

Marge Margentino, Manager, Stable reported that the team tournament was held with many outstanding riders and a side saddle demonstration. The Friends of Lord Stirling Stable held a Spring Adult Horse Show in conjunction with the Stable Open House on June 14th. Registration has started for the summer lessons. This summer there is a new extended day program which will showcase other parks, such as Warrenbrook Pool, Colonial Park miniature golf, and paddle boats. There will be a Father's Day Horseback Ride on June 21st and three groups are filled. Staff is preparing for the Salute to Horse Power Car & Motorcycle Show on August 16th.

Karren Newman, Manager Recreation reported that the Green Knoll tennis programs are full with waiting lists. Colonial Park tennis program has a few openings. Warrenbrook Pool will open full time on June 26th. Plans for the July 4th event continue. Karren thanked Dave Dendler and the Park Rangers for their assistance at the Girls on the Run 5K race held at Duke Island Park on June 8th. 1,200 young girls participated running and is co-sponsored by the Prosecutor's office and the County Youth Shelter.

Cathy Schrein, Manager, Environmental Science thanked Don Korbobo for his help in clearing the waterways at the EEC. The EEC partnered with the Somerset County United Way and Scholastic Publishing to distribute over 20,000 books. The EEC was the depot and the books were distributed to non-profit groups within two hours. The deck is being replaced with recycled wood and should be completed by July 3rd. Daryl Anne Villard has been named recipient of the John J. Papas Art Educator of New Jersey award. She was nominated by a teacher that works with Daryl Anne on the Children's Art Show. The Go Green Committee has reached out to employees to help with a go green program and the enthusiasm from the employees has been great. Examples of suggestions are; installing

set back thermostats, hand dryers in restrooms and sensors to turn lights on and off. Cathy is working with the County on an energy audit.

Resolution R09-057 – Renewal of License with the Environmental Montessori School, Inc.

Resolution renews the License Agreement for use of Classroom No. 3 at the EEC. This License will expire on June 15, 2012. MOVED BY: Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners McConnell and Paladino.

Resolution R09-058 – Recognizing Dr. Alan Cooper

Resolution recognizes Dr. Cooper and his 25 years of service as the archeologist for the Lord Stirling Park Environmental Education Center. MOVED BY: Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners McConnell and Paladino.

Resolution R09-059 – Award of Contract to Mountain Top Associates, Corp., Somerset Grain, Feed & Supply

Resolution awards the second and final year of the contract for animal feed and supplements. MOVED BY: Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner Hansen. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners McConnell and Paladino.

GOLF MANAGEMENT

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

John Kitchen, Deputy Director, Golf Management reported that Quail Brook Golf Course is below normal in rounds due to the delayed opening of the course.

Bob Ransone, Director Golf Operations reported that Neshanic Valley hosted the USGA's Men's Public Links qualifier on June 11th, and on June 15th Neshanic Valley hosted the Women's US Open sectional qualifier and four players qualified to play in the Open. The players complimented how nice the course is. Junior golf began on June 15th and a demo day was held on June 14th and \$9,000.00 was received in revenue.

Commissioner Paluck commented that several spectators at the Women's US Open sectional qualifier had never been to Neshanic Valley Golf Course before and that was a great way to advertise the course.

Commissioner Walsh asked Golf Operations Director Bob Ransone if he has spoken to the First Tee group about the Junior golf program and Bob responded that they have been contacted but never returned the calls. Gary would like Bob to try again to promote the program to them. He also questioned if the qualifying events are revenue producing and was told in some cases they do produce revenue directly and in others indirectly.

Darrell Marcinek, Director Golf Maintenance reported that the staff has been doing a commendable job on all five golf courses. Neshanic Valley was certified on May 24th as an Audubon Sanctuary. There are only 24 courses in New Jersey certified. Commissioner Paluck commented that people are noticing the birds and have positive comments. The staff is doing a great job.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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

Dan Livak, Deputy Director/Business Administration reported that there was vandalism at one of the parks and Dan thanked the Park Ranger staff for their assistance. Alex and the Information Management staff have eliminated the pay telephones and replaced them with emergency telephones. Dan thanked Cindie and Donna for their work on the union negotiations.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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

Alex Mathew, Manager, Information Management reported that emergency telephones have been installed at eight locations. The long distance carrier has been changed from MCI to AT&T. The data will convert from the old system to the P2K program on June 22nd. The P2K system will operate on July 1st for full-time employees only and the part-time employees will run by October 1st. The P2K system will run parallel to the existing system for one payroll period.

VISITOR SERVICES

Dave Dendler, Manager Park Rangers reported that National Trails Day was held on June 6th. This is a project that has been done since 1991 and this year there were 15 volunteers. One trail was closed and a parallel trail was opened at Washington Valley Park. CPR classes continue for TR camp, seasonal Rangers, and pool staff. There are many health fairs in which the Rangers participated.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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

Don Korbobo, Property Management Coordinator thanked Counsel Lederman for his assistance with the Farm License Agreement. Last year two bids were advertised for hay farming at Natirar and there was no response. Stable Manager, Marge Margentino knows a farmer who is interested and Don currently has the 67 acres of hay fields out to bid. There has been some vandalism at a vacant house on County property in Montgomery Township. Jim Shelley reported that the house is scheduled to be demolished within the next four to five months.

PLANNING AND LAND ACQUISITION

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

Tom Boccino, Parks Section Principal Planner, Land Acquisition reported that four parcel closings have occurred which adds an additional 90 acres to open space. There will be over 500 acres acquired this year. The Pizzo property will be used to expand the 4H facilities. The Firing parcel was acquired at no cost to the county due to foreclosure. A grant application for \$500,000 has been submitted for extending the Raritan River Greenway for approximately a half mile from Route 206 to the Peter's Brook Greenway in Somerville.

Brian Newman commented that a resolution was passed on June 16th for allocation of the Preservation Trust Fund to be used for open space.

Resolution R09-060 – Purchase of 3M Properties

Resolution recommends the purchase from Constructural Dynamics, Inc. the properties located in Hillsborough and Montgomery Townships. The 267 acres will become a part of the Sourland Mountain Preserve. MOVED BY: Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner Hansen. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners McConnell and Paladino.

CAPITAL FACILIITES – CONSTRUCTION and ENGINEERING

Jim Shelley, Parks Section Engineer reported that the ground breaking at the Torpey Athletic Complex for the grandstand will be July 2nd. There will be a preconstruction meeting this morning. Advertising for the Quail Brook pole barn, chemical storage building, and washdown building will be done on June 23rd. Construction plans and specifications are complete for the Park Commission resurfacing program.

PARK MAINTENANCE & HORTICULTURE

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

Jim Avens, Manager, Horticulture thanked Jim Shelley for his assistance with the Visitor Center window replacement. The gardens look good and programs and events have been successful. The Herbs for Flavor & Fragrance and the Garden Photography programs at Buck Garden were filled to capacity. A Garden Discovery trip, partnered with the EEC, was recently run to the Mohonk Mountain House near New Paltz, NY. Participants thought it was one of the best trips and requested the trip be run again next year. Rose Day event at Colonial Park was well attended. Staff did a great job of coordinating the lectures and exhibits and participants really enjoyed the event.

Pierce Frauenheim, Deputy Director Park Maintenance reported that the Park Rangers did a great job catching the vandals at the Roller Hockey Rink. The Park Maintenance staff had the graffiti removed within 24 hours of the incident. The Duke Island walking path

continues to be a problem with tree roots. Other than taking the trees down, nothing can be done. Staff continues to fill in the areas which are constantly being washed out by the rain. Jim Avens reported that some of the trees will be taken down but not all of them.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

No report this month.

FREEHOLDER'S REPORT

No report this month.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Jaeger reported that the Volunteer dinner will be held this evening at Neshanic Valley at 6:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report.

Resolution R09-062 – 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 anticipated litigation. MOVED BY: President Fuerst; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners McConnell and Paladino.

A motion to re-enter the regular meeting was made by Commissioner Consiglio and seconded by Commissioner Paluck at 9:27 a.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 a.m. was made by Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by Commissioner Jaeger. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners McConnell and Paladino.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond A. Brown
Director

Joanne Steinruck
Executive Assistant