

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION** held Thursday, October 15, 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  
William Crosby  
Steven Fuerst  
John Gillen  
Walter Hansen  
Joanne Jaeger  
Dot Paluck  
Gary Walsh  
Rick Fontana, Freeholder Liaison

**ABSENT**

Christopher Paladino

Other staff members present were:

Raymond Brown, Director  
Joanne Steinruck, Executive Assistant  
Tom Boccino, Principal Planner/Land Acq.  
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.  
Alex Mathew, Manager, Info. Mgmt.  
Karren Newman, Manager Recreation  
Bob Ransone, Director, Golf Management  
Cathy Schrein, Manager, Envir. Science  
Donna Van Deursen, Manager, HR

Also in attendance: Rich Reitman

**OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comment from the public.

**SERVICE AWARDS**

President Fuerst presented a 20 year service award to Don Korbobo.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes, as amended, of the last regular meeting held September 17, 2009. **MOVED BY:** Commissioner Paluck; seconded by: Commissioner Crosby. **YEAS:** Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. **NAYES:** None. **ABSENT:** Commissioner Paladino.

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes of the last Work Session held on October 8, 2009. **MOVED BY:** Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner

Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Paluck. ABSENT: Commissioner Paladino.

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

### **Resolution R09-087 - Payment of Claims**

Resolution authorizing payment of bills for \$1,128,875.66 comprising of check numbers 164185-164199, 164551-164580, 164125-164184, 164447-164502, 164503-164550, and 164968-165030. MOVED BY: Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Gillen. ABSENT: Commissioner Paladino.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Brown submitted a report for the month of September 2009. Ray reported that he has received more than 15 positive responses from local recreation directors and park program participants to the Commission's invitation to attend the GSA Depot design charrette on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## **COMMISSIONER CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter received regarding planting a memorial tree in Colonial Park.
2. Letter from VILLEtv thanking Cindie Sullivan and her staff for negotiating with the performers of the Summer Concert Series so VILLEtv could broadcast the concerts.
3. Letter of thanks to the Park Rangers for their professional participation during the services for a local serviceman killed in action.
4. Township of Warren's Certificate of Liability Insurance has been received for the deer hunt by the Blue Ridge Sportsman Club.

## **REPORT OF TREASURER**

Commissioner Gillen provided the Treasurer's report having a book balance of \$806,015.99 as of September 2009.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE**

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

### **Resolution R09-088 – Confirming Rolling Stock Purchases through County Contracts**

Resolution confirms purchases from Lawrenceville Auto Group, Inc. and Storr Tractor Co. The cost is not to exceed \$145,014.00. MOVED BY: Commissioner Gillen; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Gillen, Hansen,

Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Paladino.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

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

Donna Van Deursen, Manager, Human Resources invited the Commissioners to attend the employee Health and Safety Fair to be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> at the Somerville Elks from 8:00 to 11:00 A.M. All annual employee performance evaluations are due in November.

### **LEISURE SERVICES**

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

Cathy Schrein, Manager, Environmental Science reported that the Courier News did a cover story on the 1770's Festival. The Festival was well attended with approximately 1,600 people. Cathy thanked the County Engineering staff for correcting the leak problem by installing new French drains and downspouts.

Karren Newman, Manager Recreation reported that the Putting Course will close on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The Tennis Centers will close on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The Turkey Trot will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> and Mischief Night Madness will be held on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **GOLF MANAGEMENT**

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

Darrell Marcinek, Director Golf Maintenance reported that four golf courses have been aerated and staff is preparing for the leaf clean up.

Bob Ransone, Deputy Director Golf Management reported that on October 17<sup>th</sup> the final Somerset County golf tournament will be held at Neshanic Valley Golf Course. There will be 100 players and Bob invited the Commissioners to attend the barbeque lunch. Warrenbrook Golf Course is scheduled to close on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, unless the weather is conducive to remaining open longer. The golf course revenue increased \$95,000 since September 2008. The golf rounds increased 2,000 and as of October 13<sup>th</sup> the revenue is \$464,000 less than October 13, 2008. Bob remains confident that the budget can be met.

### **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

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

Dan Livak, Deputy Director/Business Administration reported that he continues to work on the Operating and Capital Budgets for 2010. The Finance Committee will be meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Dan participated in a tour arranged by Dave Dendler, Park Ranger Manager with the Peapack-Gladstone and Far Hills Police and emergency service

personnel of the new trail at Natirar so they are familiar with it. The new trail is in Far Hills and the existing trail is in Peapack so there will be two police departments patrolling Natirar. Dan has been working with the County on the Manville landsite intrusion.

### **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

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

Alex Mathew, Manager, Information Management reported that the connection of the T-1 line to speed up the process from the County to the Park Commission is underway. The new firewall has been installed. Work continues converting the part-time data payroll to the P2K.

### **VISITOR SERVICES**

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

Dan Livak reported that Chris Thaler has accepted the position of Supervisor of Park Rangers. Dave attended a Somerset County Police Chief's meeting to explain the Rangers role with the Park Commission and to work together with the police departments on the security of county parks. Adopt-A-Boulder will be held at the Sourland Mountain Preserve on November 7<sup>th</sup> and Eastern Mountain and Blue Ridge Sports Centers will sponsor the event.

### **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

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

Don Korbobo, Property Management Coordinator reported that the Green Acres Compliance officer thanked Don for the pictures of the signage which were requested to be erected by Green Acres. He also thanked Don for the prompt response and again expressed his appreciation of the Park Commission facilities and staff.

### **Resolution R09-089 – Award of Contract to Muentnich Landscaping Hom Repairs**

Resolution awards a contract for furnishing and installation of trees at various parks and golf courses. The cost is not to exceed \$39,831.27. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Paladino.

### **PLANNING AND LAND ACQUISITION**

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

Tom Boccino, Parks Section Principal Planner, Land Acquisition reported that with the acquisition of the Carrier Clinic Foundation, Milich, and Obszanski properties the open space program now has over 700 acres acquired in 2009. Tom is busy working on various planning and design projects.

President Fuerst thanked Tom for supplying the maps at the Work Session which gave the Commissioners a better appreciation for of the properties being acquired. Director Brown commented that in the future he will have a map for all properties proposed for acquisition. Steve also asked about the GSA Master Plan meetings and if the Park Commission will be doing any preparation for the meeting. Tom Boccino reported that the meeting will be for data collecting only. The information from the meeting will then be presented to the County/Township Master Plan Committee. Ray commented that the 20 year capital facilities plan included the GSA property. Ray reminded the Commissioners that the committee's challenge will be to take the many ideas being suggested and to then create a plan that can physically fit within the site boundaries and then to address a long-term funding strategy.

At this point of the meeting Counsel Lederman excused himself from the meeting for the Carrier Clinic Foundation resolution.

**Resolution R09-090 – Purchase of Carrier Clinic Foundation Property**

Resolution recommends the purchase of a 255 acre portion of a 362 acre parcel in Hillsborough and Montgomery Townships. This property will append the Sourland Mountain Preserve. MOVED BY: Commissioner Paluck; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Paladino.

**Resolution R09-091– Purchase of Milich Property**

Resolution recommends the purchase of a 13.57 acre parcel in Branchburg Township. This property will append the South Branch Greenway. MOVED BY: Commissioner Paluck; seconded by: Commissioner Walsh. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Paladino.

**Resolution R09-092– Purchase of Obszanski Property**

Resolution recommends the purchase of a 0.19 acre parcel in Raritan Borough. This property will append the Raritan River Greenway. MOVED BY: Commissioner Paluck; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Paladino.

**CAPITAL FACILITES – CONSTRUCTION and ENGINEERING**

Ray Brown reported that the EEC deck is completed and the drainage problem at the EEC has been resolved. There are on-going projects at Buck Garden. Torpey Athletic Complex restrooms, locker room, and office will be completed in November. The parking lot was recently paved and there has been appreciable progress on many Commission projects. The East County Park ,although relatively underdeveloped, faces increased user demand as the two local athletic complexes within the park increase its popularity. Ray also announced that the former Gaiser barn is a developing project which may become a new community center.

## **PARK MAINTENANCE & HORTICULTURE**

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

Pierce Frauenheim, Deputy Director Park Maintenance reported that the County Engineering office has completed many projects which includes the pole barn at Colonial Park, the Rose Garden renovation is 30% to 40% complete, the restroom at Colonial Park is near completion, and the walkways at Duke Island Park have been paved. A new walkway has been developed at Duke Island Park which allows easy access to the Park. The Gaiser Barn heat is working and the new trees will be planted near the bleachers and playgrounds offering shade. The Torpey Athletic Complex two lower soccer fields have been well received. Commissioner Consiglio commented that the new pavilion at Duke Island Park is splendid and complimented Pierce and his staff.

In Jim Avens' absence, Pierce reported that the bridge at Buck Garden has been repaired and a new railing and steps have been installed. The visitor center entrance will have improvements and will be completed for the Garden Association tour at Buck Garden in 2010.

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

No report this month.

## **FREEHOLDER'S REPORT**

Freeholder Fontana apologized for not informing the Open Space Committee and Commissioners of the dedication for the new synthetic turf fields in North Plainfield and Somerville. The events were incredible and the Open Space funds used to fund the fields has been greatly appreciated by those municipalities. The fields will be used by multiple groups from high school football to pop-warner, and soccer, as well as lacrosse. These facilities expect to get more use by such groups due to the improved and extended playing time resulting from the synthetic surface. The new Natirar Park trail does have a few remote segments and there was some discussion of possibly locating emergency response devices along the trail. Dan Livak reported that an emergency phone has been installed at the far end of the trail. Freeholder Fontana also commented that he watched the recent PBS special series on National Parks and felt the show was indicative of the vision we have shown here in Somerset County. He highly recommended watching the show and again thanked the Commission and staff for their diligence in fulfilling their mission.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Cathy Schrein reported that the Go Green Committee continues to meet and is currently looking into the cost of energy audits for several buildings. A year-end report will be prepared and made available in early 2010.

Director Brown commented that he would like to hold another tour of park properties beginning in Hillsborough. Since late Fall options were rapidly dwindling and weather less than cooperative, Ray suggested we might better opt for a Spring tour.

Counsel Lederman reported that those municipalities that host a County Park facility have been requested to adopt the Park Commission's Rules and Regulations as a means of allowing the municipal Police Departments to enforce compliancy issues while they are patrolling the properties. In Hillsborough there was a recent case involving trespassers driving ATV's on County property and erecting hunting stands within a park. The trespassers were issued several warnings from the Park Rangers but eventually the police were notified. Multiple tickets were issued to the violators based upon Park Commission rules and regulations. The trespassers subsequently filed a claim against the Park Rangers. At the time of the trial, the local prosecutor chose not to prosecute the violations; a matter that apparently has some significant case law. Eventually the case was tried and the presiding judge imposed penalties on the violators. Commission counsel will be conferring directly with County Counsel Miller to work with the local prosecutors in reminding them that the Rules and Regulations of the Park Commission are, in effect, the laws of the municipality as well and are to be enforced for the safety of the public.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Director Brown reported that on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. there will be a public design charrette hosted by the Commission regarding the Belle Mead GSA Depot Master Plan.

Counsel Lederman asked that the Commissioners to look at their calendars and think about a date in December to hold the annual year-end meeting.

Commissioner Walsh commented that the next Work Session will be held on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> and not Friday as noted on the agenda.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. was made by President Fuerst; seconded by Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Gillen, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Paladino.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond A. Brown  
Director

Joanne Steinruck  
Executive Assistant