

MINUTES of a meeting of the **SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION** held Thursday, May 17, 2012 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

William Crosby
Dale Florio
Steven Fuerst
Walter Hansen
Joanne Jaeger
Dot Paluck
Gary Walsh

ABSENT

Paul Consiglio
Christopher Paladino
Patrick Scaglione, Freeholder Liaison

Other staff members present were:

Raymond Brown, Director
Joanne Steinruck, Executive Assistant
Jim Avens, Manager Horticulture
Tom Boccino, Principal Planner/Land Acq.
Pierce Frauenheim, Deputy Dir. Maint.
Don Korbobo, Property Mgmt. Coordinator
Stuart Lederman, Counsel
Dan Livak, Deputy Dir. Business Admin.
Darrell Marcinek, Director Golf Maint.

Margie Margentino, Manager Stable
Alex Mathew, Manager Info. Mgmt.
Karren Newman, Manager Recreation
Bob Ransone, Director Golf Management
Cathy Schrein, Manager Envir. Science
Adam Slutsky, Principal Engineer
Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director
Dina Trunzo, Manager TR
Donna Van Deursen, Manager HR

Also in attendance: Brian Newman, Yvonne Childress, and Rich Reitman

OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment from the public.

SERVICE AWARDS

President Fuerst presented a five year service award to Roberto Agostino and Andrew Hojnowski, and a 20 year service award Barry Krejdovski.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting held April 19, 2012. MOVED BY: Commissioner Crosby; seconded by: Commissioner Jaeger. YEAS: Commissioners Crosby, Florio, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Consiglio and Paladino.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Resolution R12-040 - Payment of Claims

Resolution authorizing payment of bills for \$1,018,257.78 comprising of check numbers 213236-213247, 213000-213042, 213055, 213248-213348, and 213576-213647. MOVED BY: Commissioner Jaeger; seconded by: Commissioner Hansen. YEAS: Commissioners Crosby, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Florio. ABSENT: Commissioners Consiglio and Paladino.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Brown submitted a report for the month of April 2012.

COMMISSIONER CORRESPONDENCE

1. Commendation from Franklin Township for sponsorship and active part in the Career Expo held on April 19.
2. Letter from a Somerset County resident expressing dissatisfaction on what he/she thought was an increase of fees for the roller hockey rink.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were MOVED BY: Commissioner Hansen; seconded by: Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Crosby, Florio, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Consiglio and Paladino.

Resolution R12-041 – Award of Contract to Peter Pan Painting

Resolution awards a contract for the painting and staining of the exterior of Buck Garden main building and garage. The cost is not to exceed \$9,000.00.

Resolution R12-042 – Award of Second Year Contract to The Tower Optical Company

Resolution awards a contract for the coin operated optical viewer concession services for Washington Rock Park. The concession fee is \$1,061.00 for the year.

Resolution R12-043 – Award of Contract to Durawear Glove and Safety, Flemington Department Store, Metuchen Center, and Universal Uniform Sales, Co.

Resolution awards a two-year contract for the purchase of uniforms.

Resolution R12-044 – Rejecting Competitive Contract Proposals for NVGC Restaurant and Catering Concession Services

Resolution rejects the two proposals; one vendor did not provide a Consent of Surety along with cashier's check and the second vendor did not provide least minimum amounts for both the bid guarantee and surety on the estimated annual revenue for the contract and contract amount on the surety.

A new RFP will be revised and advertised shortly. Merri Makers contact expires on December 31, 2012.

The Commission engaged in an extended discussion regarding the anticipated re-bid for the NVGC food and beverage concession. An open exchange among the Commissioners involved various aspects of the prior contract with Merri-Makers / Ryjam Inc., the issues being considered with respect to possible minimum requirements for the new RFP and the impacts of the current economic environment on future concession operations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner Walsh, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of April 2012.

Brian Newman reported that the revenue is 17% more than 2010 and 48% less than 2011 at this time of the year.

Dan Livak, Deputy Director/Business Administrator reported that he has been working with FEMA and the insurance company on recouping funds from the damage due to Hurricane Irene. Dan thanked Don Korbobo for this help with the site inspections.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Donna Van Deursen, Manager, Human Resources reported that she and Lesley Boyd participated in the Franklin Township Career Expo sponsored by the Franklin Township Youth Initiative held on April 19. They spoke with some students about volunteer opportunities. Ridewise provided training on Bike Safety to the Park Rangers.

LEISURE SERVICES

Commissioner Jaeger, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of April 2012.

Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director reported that she has distributed a copy of the Annual Report to each Commissioner. The Duke Island Park Concert Series brochure will be printed shortly and this year there are six sponsors and a \$5,000.00 grant from the NJ Arts Council. Cindie thanked the staff that assisted at the Volunteer Dinner. There were 125 volunteers in attendance. Cindie is working with Pierce Frauenheim on bid specifications for signs. The annual New Jersey Wine Festival will be held at Natirar May 26 and 27.

Dina Trunzo, Manager Therapeutic Recreation reported that Camp Okee Sunokee begins in approximately five weeks and has 39 registered campers, 15 of which are new to Camp. Dina will be conducting the last assessment of the new campers today. Registration has begun for the Fishing Derby which will be held on June 2. This weekend is the Jersey Shore Weekend Escape trip to Wildwood and Cape May.

Cathy Schrein, Manager, Environmental Science reported that final payments for camps were due on May 7th. Yesterday was a work day with Goldman Sachs and a donation of \$850.00 was received from them. The solar panels are near completion and Cathy will keep everyone informed of a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Marge Margentino, Manager Stable reported that Family Fun Day was held last weekend with 1,400 people in attendance (700 hayrides and 30 pony rides were given). Mother's Day Horseback Ride was a success with four groups riding. Johnson and Johnson will be holding a volunteer work day on the sensory trail today.

Karren Newman, Manager Recreation reported that the Duke Island walkers have selected a logo and the tee shirts are being printed. Karren has been working with Adam Slutsky on the Warrenbrook Pool to insure that it will be in compliance with the new ADA requirements for Aquatic Facilities prior to opening day on June 22. The putting green replacement is moving slowly due to the weather. The course opens May 19 for the season. Spring Yoga is going well and Karren thanked the Park Rangers, Permit Coordinator, and Maintenance Department for the cooperation on assisting with events.

GOLF MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Paluck, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of April 2012.

Darrell Marcinek, Director Golf Maintenance reported that staff continues to do a great job on preparing the golf course at Neshanic Valley for the WAPL. Staff is also busy preparing the other golf courses for Memorial Day weekend play.

Bob Ransone, Deputy Director Golf Management reported that in four weeks the players for the WAPL will begin to register. Committee meetings are held monthly and everything is on target. Verizon will be at Neshanic Valley to set up separate lines for the event. The Learning Center has hosted a Juniors and Ladies' Day and this weekend will be Seniors Day and Memorial Day will be Veterans Day. May 15 was Media Day for the WAPL and News 12 taped the entire event and was going to air it that evening. Callaway has updated the entire Learning Center including the fitting booth which is now done virtually. Golfweek Magazine, May 11 edition contained the Top 50 Municipal Courses in the US and Neshanic Valley moved to number 30 which was the only New Jersey course on the list.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Hansen, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of April 2012.

Alex Mathew, Manager, Information Management reported that work continues on the upgrading of the Gasboy system for Golf Maintenance. RecTrac training will be given to all users on May 24 to 29.

VISITOR SERVICES

Commissioner Crosby, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of April 2012.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Crosby, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of April 2012.

Don Korbobo, Property Management Coordinator reported that FEMA should be completing their work on May 18 regarding the damage caused by Hurricane Irene. The inspector that Don has been working with has been very thorough.

PLANNING AND LAND ACQUISITION

Commissioner Paluck, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of April 2012.

Tom Boccino, Parks Section Principal Planner, Land Acquisition reported that he has been working with the County MIS Department to update the GIS system for Open Space which has not been done in a few years. This update will give a more accurate account of the actual acreage in Open Space. The system is also being converted to a spreadsheet.

CAPITAL FACILITIES – CONSTRUCTION and ENGINEERING

Adam Slutsky, Principal Engineer, reported that the Morgan Pellowski Playground at Colonial Park has been completed. The bid for the Howe all-purpose athletic fields at Colonial Park will be advertised in May and bid on June 14. Repair work to fix the flood damaged Duke Island Park band shell has been completed. Widening the driveway at the Warrenbrook Senior Center has also been completed. Bids have been received and the contract awarded for the Raritan River Bikeway-Peters Brook connection. This multi-use path will extend along the Raritan River from Route 206 east to the existing Peters Brook Greenway. The Gerber Field press box has been demolished and a contract for demolition of structures on five properties was recently bid. The Merrill House renovations should be completed next week.

PARK MAINTENANCE & HORTICULTURE

Jim Avens, Manager, Horticulture reported that the Buck Garden Plant Sale was a great success and grossed over \$20,000.00 and the remaining plants are being sold at the co-sponsors Rock Garden Society meetings. Preparations are underway for the 38th Annual Rose Day at Colonial Park Gardens on June 9. Horticulture staff is planning a series of garden tours and lectures. Both Colonial Park Gardens and Buck Garden will participate along with twelve NJ public gardens, in a state wide joint programming in June. The theme will be Fragrance in the Garden and will involve garden tours, container displays, and lectures highlighting fragrant plants. Buck Garden was included in an article on Spring Garden Tours in the New Jersey Countryside Magazine.

Pierce Frauenheim, Deputy Director Park Maintenance reported that the Colonial Park Playground is extremely busy and thanked the Engineering staff for a great job. The pavilion and tennis courts at Colonial Park look great and the Howe complex with the development of walking trails and five new fields will give Colonial Park a new look. The Gerber Field press box was removed to eliminate future liability problems. The Somerset County JIF organization will conduct a risk assessment of the new Skillman Park. Several special events are scheduled for several of our parks during the end of May and early June.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Brian Newman reported that the auditors are currently at the county building going through the 2011 books. The auditors will be at North Branch Park within the next two weeks. The audit should be completed by the end of June.

FREEHOLDER'S REPORT

No Freeholder report.

OLD BUSINESS

Ray Brown reported that the national ranking of Neshanic Valley GC by Golf Magazine was accomplished by the staff doing a great job and he thanked the everyone for their dedication and professionalism. The Colonial Park playground will be re-dedicated in the near future. This years' Pro/Celebrity Golf Tournament was the most successful in all 22 years. There were more than 40 foursomes and Ray thanked all who participated. Ray has a meeting this afternoon to go over the draft State Strategic Plan with representatives of the State of New Jersey and the Somerset Co Planning Board.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 a.m. was made by President Fuerst; seconded by Commissioner Hansen. YEAS: Commissioners Crosby, Florio, Hansen, Jaeger, Paluck, Walsh, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Consiglio and Paladino.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond A. Brown
Director

Joanne Steinruck
Executive Assistant