

MEETING MINUTES  
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission  
January 11, 2021

In attendance:

Kevin Bellows, Chairman  
Mike Travisano, Vice Chairman  
Bill Brown  
Brian LeClerc  
Ken Martin  
Ed Ritacco  
Nancy Walsh

Also in attendance:

Dmitri Paris, Superintendent of Parks  
Bill Chin, Meeting Facilitator  
Katie Dunn, Trumbull Community Television

Not in attendance:

Jon O'Brien

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

MOTION to accept December meeting minutes made by Mrs. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Ritacco.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Martin)

Motion carried.

Mr. Bellows shared a draft of language addressing First Amendment gatherings in Town parks, written by Mr. Paris, which reads as follows:

Public Assembly: Groups or persons wishing to schedule a public assembly in any of Trumbull's parks, including but not limited to, a rally, demonstration, vigil, speech, march, parade, religious service, or other congregation of persons for the purpose of public expression of a political, social, or religious view must adhere to all the regulations within the Trumbull Municipal Code, including but not limited to Chapter 15—Parks and Recreation. Approval from the Parks and Recreation Commission may be required (per bullet #10).

Mr. Brown asked if there are occasions in which Commission approval is not required. Mr. Paris answered that it is challenging to answer the question, given that information about numbers is not always available. Impromptu gatherings are governed by certain rules, but there needed to be some guideline for traditionally permitted spaces.

Mr. Martin noted that there should be a mention of the Commission being notified before a decision is made. Mr. Travisano added that perhaps there should be language about consequences for violation of policy/guidelines. Mr. Paris suggested the addition of language to indicate that notification of and review by P&R Commission is required. The language would be added to the Parks & Recreation policies available to the public on the website.

Mr. Martin inquired about snow removal in certain areas, specifically for those residents who use the parks/trails for walking/exercise.

Mr. Travisano asked if it is possible to clear the loop around Twin Brooks pond, making it a designated area for walking.

Mr. Paris answered that it is a possibility and that his department could try it and see how it works. He noted that it would likely not be able to be completed for a few days after a snow event, given the snow removal already required by his department (sidewalks, town buildings/lots). He also added that some areas can't be salted, which affects the safety of the pathways, increasing liability.

Mr. Bellows asked Mr. LeClerc and Mr. Paris to reconvene the Field Use Committee to prepare for the upcoming spring season.

Mrs. Walsh inquired about a memorial bench sponsored by Rotary Club, specifically, are they available to be sponsored by residents? Mr. Paris answered that they are available and there is an application and associated fees; Parks and Recreation accepts memorial donations as well.

Mr. Martin asked about applications for the Recreation Program Manager position, to which Mr. Paris responded he has a few applications but no scheduled interviews yet. He added that he does not think he will be granted an extension on the posting.

Mrs. McGannon added that the First Selectman's office and Park and Recreation are in discussion with Human Resources regarding the posting being extended, however, there are very strict Civil Service rules in place that govern job postings. Once an applicant list is promulgated, it is very difficult to discard the list in order to extend the posting.

Mr. Bellows asked if the bobcat machine is a snow removal machine, and if a machine of that size is appropriate for clearing paths/sidewalks. Mr. Paris answered yes, but that this piece of machinery is extremely unreliable. His mechanic will stretch it's usability as long as he can and Mr. Paris will try to put a replacement in the operating budget;

MOTION to adjourn made by Mr. LeClerc, seconded by Mr. Travisano. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Submitted by Laura Shiel