

Draft of the minutes, Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular meeting: March 13, 2023

Town Council Chambers

Present: Kevin Bellows - Chair, Brian LeClerc, John O'Brien, Kat Lamy, Nancy Walsh, Mike Travisano

Absent: Ed Ritacco

Also Present: Abigail Whitmoyer - Clerk, Noreen Wilpiseski- Recreation Department,

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 PM

Public Comment Opened:

- Trumbull Timberwolves (TWolves) - Jeff Dobryney, 30 Hillandale Terrace - Resident for 10 years,
 - I've been a softball coach for Trumbull little league, this will be my 3rd year with the TWolves (only travel team for girls' softball). 40 players on 3 teams, 8-13 years old. The success of the group based on volunteers, the 1 paid coach on staff and the players. Requesting to host the Wolves Den Tournament on Friday June 16th-18th at Unity Park. Looking to begin at 5:00 PM, starting with about 48 players at that time. We are looking to utilize the little league softball fields. There will be 10-12 teams from in and out of the state coming to play (10 teams expected as of now, 12 players per team). We will be recommending local restaurants and hotels for families to go to or make reservations at. We are also looking to put possibly bring in food truck.
 - Question: Bellows - Were the past 2 tournaments hosted in Trumbull successful?
 - Yes - they were at Unity and were successful. if over 10 teams at unity for additional field space.
 - Comment: Noreen - The regular season is wrapping up at the end of may. The Little League tournament is in July. Greensfee is aware of this request as well.
 - Bellows - only thing happening around this time would be practices.
 - Questions: Bellows - Are you aware that as a group 4 (resident playing nonresident teams) awareness there is a fee for spot 4?
 - Yes, we are aware of the fees.
- Jeanine Capecelatro - Barnum foundation, 412 long meadow road, orange. Barnum, 501 C3 in Shelton.
 - We have a group meeting at the Trumbull Marriott on June 16th. After the meeting they are looking to moving to Unity Park for a charity softball event. We will be needing 2 fields, and are interested in getting our questions answered around field rentals. Looking to utilize the fields about 1-6 but are willing to structure around the town's parameters/park availability. There would be about 5-6 teams of 15 players plus spectators. Looking at the possibility of bringing in a food truck.

- Looking at the little league fields (maybe 2 and 3), discussions on other parks/fields available and within proximity. (Island Brook Park - with two fields, hours will be determined with Noreen/Rec Office, looking at 1:00 - 7:00).
- Comment: Noreen - \$87.50 per field per hour, every 3 games there must be a grooming of the fields.
- Comment: Group - No alcohol is allowed. Music is allowed within reason of town's noise ordinance.

Motion to Close Public comment: Mike Travisano, 2nd by Brian LeClerc

Acceptance of Minutes from February Meeting aside from misspelling,

Motion to approve by Brian LeClerc, 2nd by Nancy Walsh, Abstained by - Kat Lamy

Old business -

- Cricket - Noreen - We are waiting to hear back from cricket group after the tour. They are scheduled to continue using what they're currently using but may move over.
- Rugby - Noreen - Group has put in permits for the season, they are a u-10 team using field 11 in front of hillcrest and half of 14 when the HS is using just half for boys OR girls. Group 4 (resident v nonresident). They are aware of fees for the fields.

New Business -

- CT TWolveS
 - Requesting use of Unity Park fields for annual tournament on 6/16-6/18. The group will be assisting with grooming costs.
 - Motion to allow TWolves tournament to play on the Unity Park fields on the dates, 6/16-18 with food trucks adhering to field use policy by Mr. Leclerc
 - Second by Mr. O'Brien
 - Unanimous vote- YES
- Barnum Foundation for Life
 - Requesting use of fields at Island Brook Park on Friday 6/16 from 1:00-7:00 with food trucks and music (within noise ordinance levels)
 - Motion to approve the softball games at island brook park on June 16th from 12-7, with use of 2 softball fields, food trucks approved by town and music (within noise ordinance) by Mr. Travisano
 - Second by Mrs. Walsh
 - Unanimous vote- YES
- Facebook - Kat
 - There have been numerous critical comments about parks, especially that "Twin brooks in disarray, bridges at old mine are not open, complains on Indian ledge." People are talking about tax increases and the "pride in our parks" but parks are

“not up to par”. Question: Do taxpayers know that the information is on the website under “spotlights.”

- Comment: Brian - Do we need to be more up to date on website. Dmitri made a point that things fluctuate currently between weather, etc.
- Comment: Nancy Walsh - Taxpayers may not want to weed through meeting minutes to find updates about parks.
- Question: Is it possible to let Eagle Scouts complete a parks project under the supervision of the superintendent?
- Comment: Kat - Maybe a landing page for “status of parks?” - Is this possible? -
 - Response: Noreen - this would be an IT project if it could be made to happen. (Kat is happy to assist IT with the project)
- What are the pickleball plans, will we be getting updates? - Nancy
 - Answer: Noreen - We are going in a slightly different direction with reservations (last year there were issues with people turning a resident permit into open play). Met with both sides of the issue to find the best option.
 - Social play (for group gatherings) - This will be a club that people have to join. Members will be given a parking permit that matches their license plate. (Using all 6 courts - MWF 9-12 at unity, T/TH 9-12 at island brook). This will be available for nonresidents and residents. (Spring/Summer) - Updates should be coming to website soon. Price - \$25 for resident, \$45 for non-resident. March → May and June → August and Sept → Nov, there will be separate permits for these.
 - There will be an opportunity to do tournaments/ladders.
 - Regular permit will have no charge. (1 permit to a group of 4)
 - Senior pickle ball - will work with the senior center if they come and ask for a permit.
 - Weekends - permit only play.
 - Everything can be done online now. There will be levels per court (beginner, intermediate, advanced).
- Do you have an update on Tashua - Kat
 - Noreen - The lit Courts will be getting renovated. 2 tennis courts and 8 pickleball courts fit within the blueprint.
 - Will hopefully have 20 pickleball courts by the end of the summer.
 - Considered a pickleball camp but have put the idea on hold until next summer with all the changes being put into place this year.

Superintendent's report - Emailed out.

Division Report -

Recreation - Noreen

- Ukelele classes (3) will all be running, and salary will be covered for the teacher.
- 950 registrations for spring and summer courses (since March 1)
 - Activities are paying for themselves.

- Camp has been re-vamped, and price increased, no ill-effects for signups, 10 spots left in camp sessions. Camp will be able to go inside of schools this year instead of needing to cancel the day based on bad weather (talked with BOE). No before or aftercare, instead, hours were extended.
 - Question: Kat - Do we have the capacity to offer more? -
 - Response: Noreen - It's difficult to expand when we only have Indian Ledge to house it.
- Egg-travaganza - April 1st, rain date 8th, 11:00 AM, town hall green

Motion to adjourn Brian LeClerc, 2nd Kat Lamy, Unanimous vote: YES

8:04 PM