

MEETING MINUTES - AMENDED  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
June 13, 2022

In attendance:

Kevin Bellows, Chairman  
Mike Travisano, Vice Chairman  
Brian LeClerc  
Ken Martin  
Jon O'Brien  
Ed Ritacco  
Nancy Walsh

Also in attendance:

Dmitri Paris, Superintendent of Parks  
Noreen Wilpieszski, Program Manager, Recreation  
Kathleen McGannon, Chief Administrative Officer

Not in attendance:

Bill Brown

Guests:

Arvind Kalidindi, 160 Palomino Pass

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION to hear Public Comment made by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. LeClerc. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Mr. Kalidindi appeared before the Commission representing a group of residents who regularly play volleyball. On the group's behalf, he requested some improvements to the volleyball courts, including some routine maintenance, as well as future considerations to improve safety and add another court.

Mr. Bellows closed public comment at 7:08 p.m.

MOTION to approve regular meeting minutes of March 14, 2022, made by Mr. Ritacco, seconded by Mr. LeClerc. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

MOTION to approve regular meeting minutes of April 11, 2022, made by Mrs. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Travisano. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

MOTION to approve regular meeting minutes of May 9, 2022, made by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Ritacco.

VOTE: 4-0-3 (LeClerc, Martin, Walsh)

Motion carried.

The Commission received updates from Girl Scout Troop 36215 (included with agenda), as well as a request from JP Favretto on behalf of pickleball players (attached).

Mr. Ritacco has been in touch with Mr. Favretto regarding windscreens for the pickleball courts. He provided Mr. Favretto with vendor contact information. Mrs. Walsh asked if it will be the responsibility of the Park Department to install them. Mr. Paris answered that there should be a clear agreement in place between the group and the Town regarding installation, maintenance, removal, and storage.

Mr. Bellows asked Mr. Paris to update the Commission on the renovations at Island Brook Park. Mr. Paris explained that the Town received pushback from neighborhood residents on the removal of the basketball court, and so the court will remain and receive a surface renovation. In addition, three new pickleball courts will be installed and one tennis court will remain as well. Mr. Paris added that new security cameras will aid in a more rapid response to incidents. Mr. Martin inquired about the timeline, to which Mr. Paris responded that the courts will be poured this week and cure over the next month, leading to functional courts within the next two months.

Mr. Martin asked for an update on the Rails to Trails connection project, however, that is under the direction of Economic Development Director Rina Bakalar.

The damage in the Babe Ruth press box at Unity Park was found to be a faulty valve, which has since been repaired. The press box is still functional, as the water damage occurred in a lower storage area.

Mr. Martin complimented Public Works Director George Estrada, Mr. Paris, and his department on the swift removal of graffiti from the bicycle and walking path located at the Route 25 underpass and Rocky Hill Road.

The Commission addressed Mr. Favretto's request for a pickleball social on July 2, however Ms. Wilpizeski noted that scheduled baseball tournaments would make the request impossible.

Mr. Paris explained that some of the volleyball group's requests fall under routine maintenance and will be performed as soon as it is feasible to do so. An additional court would need to be a future consideration rather than coming out of the department's operating budget. Snow fencing is a possible solution available to prevent volleyballs from rolling into the stream, however fencing to prevent baseballs from entering the volleyball court is a larger matter.

Rugby is growing in popularity in town and practices and games have been taking place on the fields at Trumbull High School.

Mr. Paris will meet with user groups regarding the turf field at Indian Ledge. ARPA funding may be an option for remediation.

Beach pool opened on Memorial and was at full capacity for the following three to four days. Tashua pool opens Saturday, June 18.

The splash pad at Indian Ledge Park suffered a failure of its primary CPU. The company that created the CPU can build a new one within the next 2 weeks. The CPU will then need to be installed in the park.

The sidewalks at Twin Brooks Park from Brock Street to the beachhead are complete.

The pay rate for lifeguards was raised to be comparable to surrounding towns, which resulted in a larger number of applications and subsequent hires. Pool opening hours will be based on user data from 2018, 2019, and 2021. Adaptive swim and lap swim times will also be scheduled.

The Town has hired an Assistant Superintendent to join the Parks Department. Matthew D'Amico previously worked under Mr. Paris in a seasonal capacity in the 1990s. He is a graduate of Tulane University and his most recent position was in Manhattan's Central Park.

MOTION to adjourn made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Ritacco. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Submitted by Laura Shiel