

MEETING MINUTES
Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
August 8, 2022

In attendance:

Mike Travisano, Vice Chairman
Brian LeClerc
Ken Martin
Jon O'Brien
Nancy Walsh

Also in attendance:

Dmitri Paris, Superintendent of Parks
Kathleen McGannon, Chief Administrative officer

Not in attendance:

Kevin Bellows, Chairman
Ed Ritacco

Guests:

Cat Lamy, 47 Fawn Meadow Drive
Janet Barker, 57 Rollingwood Drive
Jeff Jacobson, 17 Saranee Circle

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

MOTION to open public comment made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. LeClerc. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ms. Lamy thanked the commission and Mr. Paris for their work on the pickleball courts. She appear before the Commission to request that the courts at Island Brook Park be restricted for use by residents only. She also asked if an association of some type should be created to facilitate court reservations and communication among players.

Ms. Barker appeared as a representative for Mr. Favretto, who has appeared at previous meetings to discuss windscreens for the pickleball courts. Ms. Barker presented a request that sponsorships be allowed on the inside of the screens facing the courts, similar to the signs at Unity Park baseball fields. Ms. Barker also clarified that while open court times are posted in the Team Reach app, those times are first secured by residents using the Parks and Recreation reservation system.

Mr. Jacobson spoke in support of the windscreens and request for advertising. He also mentioned the pickleball association in Milford model, in which members pay a nominal fee and courts are open at scheduled times for members who belong to the group. He also noted that restricting courts to

residents would be difficult to police given that a Trumbull resident could be traveling with someone whose car does not have a Trumbull sticker.

Vice Chairman Travisano closed public comment.

MOTION to accept July 11 meeting minutes made by Mrs. Walsh, seconded by Mr. LeClerc.

VOTE: 4-0-1 (Martin)

Motion carried.

Mr. O'Brien brought up the requests from the volleyball players. Mr. Paris said that building more courts would need to be built into budget or capital plan requests. The two existing courts are playable, and Mr. Paris' department will add more sand to them as the schedule permits.

Mrs. Walsh asked Mr. Paris about installation and storage of windscreens if the group purchases them. Mr. Paris notes there is a way to work with the pickleball group to maintain the windscreens and courts. Mrs. Barker clarified that windscreens don't need to come down, giving Fairfield as an example. Mr. Paris disagreed, citing weather and wear and tear concerns based on his experience. Mr. Jacobson asked if the windscreens at Unity are taken down by the Parks Department, but Mr. Paris clarified that Little League pays to have them put up and taken down every year.

Mrs. Walsh asked if there will be fencing installed at Island Brook between courts. It was noted that fencing has been installed, but there is a question of whether it is high enough.

Regarding sponsorships on the windscreens, Mr. LeClerc cautioned the Commission not to consider the signs at Unity as precedent setting. Both he and Mr. Travisano noted that other organizations have made similar requests that were not granted. Mr. LeClerc also provided details about the Field Use Policy for creating a league. Mr. Paris added that there are a few different options for creating a league or organization and that is one of the things his department is working on.

Mr. Travisano inquired about the Parks Department responsibilities at Town Hall and other Town Buildings. Mr. Paris explained that his department has absorbed many building maintenance tasks in the absence of a building maintenance department. These include troubleshooting and repairing HVAC systems and mold remediation. He also explained that his department takes care of three iterations of the parks system: active recreation areas, passive recreation areas and the trails. The Commission and Mr. Paris discussed the various responsibilities and personnel challenges faced by the department, including prioritizing emergency issues vs. scheduled tasks.

Mr. Travisano asked Mr. Martin about revenue from violations issued by the Rangers. Mr. Martin answered that fines are deposited into the general fund, but there was no resolution to the question of why those funds are not directed back to the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Martin offered to follow up in advance of the next meeting.

Mr. Martin inquired about damage to park property listed on the Ranger report and asked where repair funds come from. Mr. Paris answered that repairs are funded by the department' operational budget. Mr. Martin asked that future reports be more detailed as to the nature of damages, injuries, etc.

Mrs. Walsh asked about incidents at Quarry Road. Mr. Martin noted that the area was unbelievably clean. Mr. Paris explained that the Rangers have a presence on the trail and have had to stop people from swimming, but there have been no cars or large parties or hostile interactions with the public.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Submitted by Laura Shiel