

AGENDA
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 9, 2023
7:00 p.m., Town Hall

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
 - A. Matthew Sather
- III. Acceptance of Minutes
- IV. Correspondence
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business
- VII. Superintendent's Report
- VIII. Division Reports
 - A. Recreation
 - B. Park Rangers
- IV. Any other business that may rightly come before this Commission
- X. Adjournment

MEETING MINUTES
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission
Monday, December 12, 2022

In attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

Mast D'Amico, Assistant Superintendent of Parks

Not in attendance:

Ken Martin

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Mr. Bellows requested that the October 12 minutes be amended to reflect that he, not Mr. Martin, attended a meeting with Chief Lombardo and Assistant Chief Byrnes.

MOTION to approve October 12 minutes with the requested amendment made by Ms. Lamy, seconded by Mr. LeClerc.

VOTE: 5-0-2 (O'Brien, Ritacco)

Motion carried.

The Commission discussed the request made by resident Mr. Carl Wachter that he be allowed to practice flying his drone at the softball field on Madison Avenue. A motion to approve Mr. Wachter's request on a provisional basis and barring complaints from neighboring properties was made by Mr. Ritacco. The motion was not seconded and was subsequently withdrawn.

After further discussion, and clarification on the policy from Mr. D'Amico, Mr. Travisano made a motion to approve Mr. Wachter's request to practice flying his drone at the softball field on Madison Avenue, provided he calls to inform the Parks and Recreation Department, and with the understanding that his activity is secondary to permitted events on the field. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lamy and passed by unanimous consent.

Mrs. Walsh questioned why out-of-town pickleball players were being ticketed contrary to department policy. Mr. D'Amico will bring the issue to Mr. Paris. He also suggested the reason may be that the games were pickup as opposed to permitted.

Ms. Lamy will follow up with Mary Isaac to see if any of the nip bottle funds can be used in the parks system. She also asked about rec basketball for girls in grades 7-12. Previously there had not been enough girls registered, so it has been run as co-ed to avoid eliminating the age group altogether. The recreation director is willing to run a clinic for girls in grades 7-12, and if there are enough players, they will be able to play games as part of the clinic as well.

She also noted that a resident has asked if pickleball players can bring their own nets now that the Town nets have been taken down. She received clarification that the pickleball courts are closed and residents cannot bring their own nest to play.

Mrs. Walsh and Ms. Lamy attended the ARPA meeting. Some funds have been allocated to the PArks and Recreation Department.

Parks Department crews worked for a month to prepare for the tree lighting, which was well-attended despite the cold.

Restrooms at all parks have been winterized, and tennis and pickleball have been shut down for the season.

A bridge support on the Old Mine Park portion of the rail trail has failed and so the trail between Whitney Ave and Old Mine Park is currently closed.

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Lamy, seconded by Mr, Ritacco. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

From: Sather, Matthew <msather@fairfieldprep.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2022 11:37 AM
To: Kevin Bellows <kbellows@msn.com>
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Unity Skating Ponds

Thanks. I would like to speak at the next meeting if allowed.

Matthew S. Sather
English and Social Studies Teacher

Fairfield College Preparatory School
A Jesuit, Catholic School of Excellence

1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, Connecticut 06824-5157

On Dec 28, 2022, at 9:07 PM, Kevin Bellows <kbellows@msn.com> wrote:

Mr. Sather,

I am sorry that you were put in that situation with your family. However, the ranger was correct in his enforcement. There is a town ordinance against any recreational activity on frozen services in the town parks, unfortunately due to a liability exposure. If you view the last two- or three-months Parks and Recreation Commission minutes, you will see that ice skating in town has been one of Commission's major topics of discussion. We currently have a proposal to install a town-supported temporary outdoor skating rink for the winter months in Twin Brooks Park. However, due to the present construction project we are unable to install it this winter.

The webpage that lists Unity Park as a skating venue is most likely old and not part of the current web page. This page may appear when performing a "google type" search.

If you'd like to further discuss this matter, you are welcome to attend the public comment portion of our next Park and Recreation meeting to be held on January 9th in the town council chambers.

Sincerely,

Kevin Bellows

From: Sather, Matthew <msather@fairfieldprep.org>

Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 6:14 PM

To: kbellows@msn.com <kbellows@msn.com>

Subject: Unity Skating Ponds

Mr. Bellows,

This morning my family and I were booted off the Unity skating ponds by a park ranger. The ranger stated that liability was the issue, not safety. I drilled the ice on the lower pond and measured 4 inches of ice.

I subsequently emailed Mr. Paris who hinted that the ponds would be closed all winter no matter what the temperature ... although he was coy on the specifics.

Please let me know whether my family can skate on Trumbull ponds this winter ... especially ponds designed for skating and advertised on the town website as amenities.

If the answer is no, I would like a clear response why.

Thank you for your time.

Matthew Sather
328 Booth Hill Rd.

RECREATION REPORT

January 2023

With approximately 800 participants in the various basketball leagues, we are happy to be bringing back the adaptive basketball program starting mid-January. Games for grades 4-12 will start at the end of the month and the younger age groups have settled into a nice routine.

Roller skating (now at the Center at Priscilla Place), badminton, yoga, Pilates, karate, and volleyball have all resumed this winter along with the addition of indoor pickleball. Indoor tennis lessons and youth cooking classes also start mid-January with ukulele lessons returning this spring.

We're busy planning for the summer concert series, various camps, swim lessons, etc. We expect the majority of our 2022 seasonal staff to return, but within the next few months we will start the hiring process.

Other:

- Office closed January 16 and February 20, 2023.