AGENDA
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, July 11, 2022
7:00 p.m., Council Chambers

I. Call to order
II. Public Comment
III. Acceptance of Minutes
   a. Regular meeting of June 13, 2022
IV. Correspondence
V. Old Business
VI. New Business
VII. Superintendent’s Report
VIII. Division Reports
   a. Recreation
   b. Park Rangers
IX. Any other business that might rightly come before this Commission
X. Adjournment
MEETING MINUTES
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 Wilpiszeski, 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 Commission addressed Mr. Favretto’s request for a pickleball social on July 2, however Ms. Wilpiszeski 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
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My home email is

Thanks,
Vinny
Hi Laura Shiel, June 22, 2022

I am writing to ask for an appeal to the recent decision that was made concerning school children’s ability to crack rocks and collect them at Old Mine Park. I have been taking students to Old Mine Park for over thirty years. It all started with my connection to geology professor Dr. John Nicholas, Doc Rock, from the University of Bridgeport. He took his students there for many more years than I have. He has since retired to Florida.

John’s passion for geology and teaching changed me as an educator. Because of John, I took my students to New York State for fossils and to an underground mine in New Jersey. My passion for geology and space ignited a passion in so many of my students. When one of my old sixth grade students was a senior in high school, he came by to tell me that he got early acceptance from Duke University. He was going to become an astrophysicist. Last September my old fourth grade student, Brad, invited me to his wedding in Virginia. Brad was only nine years old when I had him. Now Brad is a doctor with the National Cancer Institute in Virginia. In my 33 years of teaching, I have taken over a thousand kids on my geology trips. I have so many stories of changed lives.

I shared the rich background of Old Mine Park with my fellow teachers. I encouraged them to borrow my hammers and take their students there. It wasn’t until this year that two other sixth grade teachers took me up on the offer. I got my permit from Parks and Recreation. When my two colleagues got their permits, they were told that they couldn’t take any rocks. That was latter changed from cracking and collecting to just collecting rocks. I called Christina Periero. I have known Christina for a few decades. She told me about the policy change since a few adults took jack hammers into the park one night. She told me to contact Dmitri Paris to discuss the situation.

I asked Mr. Paris to reconsider because my students were already excited about going. I didn’t know about the change until later after I sent permission slips home. I emailed a letter to Mr. Paris on May 20th and then I called him on the 23rd. He said he could not make any exceptions because then Trumbull would have to do it for others.

I few things weren’t adding up for me. This was the first time we were charged $75 or $100 for a Friday date. In our conversation, Mr. Paris complained about the great amount of traffic on the trails. I thought that was a weird comment to make. And, I thought to myself, “Is that a bad thing? Don’t you want to see people hiking and biking the trails?” In addition, we could not park the two buses in the park. The buses could not park outside the park entrance when I inquired. The buses needed to park somewhere like Home Depot. I immediately knew what this was about. Some or one of the neighbors must be complaining about the noise level from the trails. I asked Mr. Paris if the neighbors were complaining. He said that wasn’t the case. I told him that it wasn’t fair that my students were going to lose out because a few adults brought jack hammers to the park at night. My students along with future students were bearing the consequences of a few adults. I told him that the town has lost their vision for their youth.

I couldn’t believe schools were the problem. I let it go until the last week of school. I called Christina from Parks and Rec. I asked her how many schools go to the park other than my class. She said that I was the only class to go there since Dr. John Nicholas retired a few years ago. John and I were the only classes going there. No one else goes to the park.
I was angry and disappointed. A few neighbors who live by the trails are complaining about the noise. If they lived by the Trumbull pool or beach, would the town try to curtail the visitations to keep the noise levels down? My students would have been at the park from 8:30-1:00 on a week day. I don’t think our group would have disturbed any peace. The neighbors need to see kids’ noise as a nuisance but as a blessing. Trumbull needs to find ways to encourage their youth along their educational journey. Some of those noisy kids will one day turn out to be amazing adults like Brad.

I am dedicated to pursue opportunities for my students. I was in a car crash in 2015. I was out of work for two and a half years. I had to learn to walk again and it is still very painful. I had 31 surgeries, 20 broken bones, and so much more. I wrote a book titled; Distracted Driving Crosses... the line. My wife and I were hit by a distracted driver. In the book, I wrote about wanting to one day take my students to Old Mine Park. I did it. I brought a folding chair up the hill and sat every few feet, but I made it. I no longer can make the loop on the trail. I am in excruciating pain, but I do it for the kids. Students’ interests get tweaked. I am hoping that the neighbors would consider enduring a little noise during the work week for the kids. Allow kids 13 and younger access to the park to crack and collect rocks. It would be a pleasure to have you come on one of my trips. Old Mine Park is like an open geology book waiting for its story to be told.

Sincerely, Vinny Carbone 203-516-8476 cell

Fairfield Woods Middle School

1999 Barrick Goldstrike Mines Elementary Earth Science Teaching Awards

2002 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Distracted Driving... crosses the line
Hi Laura
Please submit this email as correspondence for the Commission
Thank you much
D

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: dakota thomas
Date: Jun 23, 2022 10:23 AM
Subject: Re: Flea market in Trumbull park
To: Dmitri Paris <dparis@trumbull-ct.gov>
Cc:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Dimitri,
you can forward my email to them thank you so much.
Best,
Dakota Thomas

On Thu, Jun 23, 2022 at 8:02 AM Dmitri Paris <dparis@trumbull-ct.gov> wrote:
Hi Dakota
Your inquiry is interesting to us but really will have to be considered by the Parks and Recreation Commission. I can forward this email to them or you can write to them directly.
Let me know your preference. Regards
Dmitri

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get Outlook for Android

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From: dakota thomas
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 6:07:46 PM
To: Dmitri Paris <dparis@trumbull-ct.gov>
Subject: Flea market in Trumbull park

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Hello Dmitri,
I hope this message finds you well. My name is Dakota Thomas, I am a Trumbull resident who resides at 263 Broadbridge Rd., Trumbull, CT. 06611. I am contacting you in regards to an idea I was hoping to begin to
bring into fruition. I am home for the summer after finishing my second year of college, and I was hoping to organize a flea market where myself and other young people in the town could set up stations to sell clothes and other accessories. This is become a very popular means of income for young people, especially using online websites or social media, but I think an in person flea market for Trumbull residents would be very rewarding.

I’m emailing you because I would hope to do this kind of event in one of Trumbull public parks, and I was wondering if there were any kind of permits or registrations I would have to do to create such an event. If there’s anything you could think of that I would need to fill out or register please respond to this email, or feel free to call me at 203-816-1521. Thank you so much and have a great day!

Dakota Thomas
Laura Shiel

From: Kevin Bellows
Sent: Wednesday, July 6, 2022 7:19 AM
To: Ken Martin; Mike Travisano; Jon O’Brien; halligan96
Subject: Fw: Permanent QR signs deployed (FYI)
Attachments: QRs_3 sites_7-3-22.pdf

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From: Richard Post <rspost@mail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2022 8:46 PM
To: Mary Issac ; 'Mary Ellen Lemay '<; Tim Coughlin <; Pam Roman
Malone 

Cc: 'John Massari' ; Sara Sterling <don Watson
<tonysilber ; fisher.nancy; dpars@trumbull-ct.gov; 'William B. Chin' <wchin@trumbull-ct.gov>; Matthew Sulzicki <dparis@trumbull-ct.gov>; Cindy Katske <ckatske@trumbull-ct.gov>; Barbara Crandall

schapman@trumbull-ct.gov <schapman@trumbull-ct.gov>; gestrada@trumbull-ct.gov

Subject: Permanent QR signs deployed (FYI)

Greetings,

For your information, John Massari and I deployed the three QR signs that have good content on a Town webpage, as part of the planned Sustainable Trumbull effort. They were deployed at:

- Transfer Station – on right side of entrance gate fence that swings open, aluminum.
- Old Mine Park – on two sides of kiosk, stick-on label.
- Parlor Rock Park – on the wood fence, aluminum.

The attached PDF shows photos of the signs as installed.

I want to thank John, a fellow member of the Conservation Commission, for providing the signs from his sign business, at no expense to the Town.

We plan to deploy additional QR signs as good web content becomes available, and Town managers will be informed in advance of the deployment. The Historical Society also plans to place QR signs at artifacts/historical locations, as that content also becomes available.

Best,
Richard Post
(ST, CC, CERT)
PARLOR ROCK PARK
WELCOME TO THE BRICKSTONE RAILWAY RAILS TO TRAILS
PECKSNECK VALLEY GREENWAY
Hiking - Biking - NO HUNTING
TRAILS CLOSED
Thank you to all who helped make the Fourth of July event a success! The THS We the People team partnered with the department to host the event this year; as a result over 250 people gathered at Town Hall from 10am-noon for the annual Declaration of Independence reading. The addition of crafts and story hour was appreciated by all the families in attendance.

Swim lessons and various camps started at the end of June/beginning of July. We have approximately 1,600 camp participants and over 400 swim lesson registrants this season. The new Travel Camp (ages 10-13) has sold out for both sessions with campers traveling to various destinations around the state. Back for 2022, the Teen Adventure Program with the Counseling Center has completed a successful rock climbing excursion and the other trips are filling up! Adult summer fitness classes have started and are expected to run sessions in both July and August.

The Sunday Cabaret series wrapped up in late June. The Tuesday night and daytime children concerts have begun. Each concert series has seen an influx of audience members.

Fall classes are starting to be organized and we expect the Fall Brochure to go out in early August with classes starting in mid-September.

Other:

- Summer Concert Series Tuesday @ 7pm: Town Hall Gazebo June 28- August 23
- Children’s Concert Series Tuesday @ 10am: Twin Brooks Park June 28 – August 9
- Dive in Movie: July 12 Jurassic Park @ dusk: Tashua Knolls Pool
- Dive in Movie: August 9 The Little Mermaid @ dusk: Tashua Knolls Pool
- Arts Festival September 18 @ 10am-4pm: Town Hall Green
Commissioners,

This report is a summary of the Ranger Division activities for the June 2022. As Summer starts we begin our busiest time of the year, the pools opened with summer hours and sports are in full swing. The parks and Rails 2 Trails were busy with what is expected this time of year. Rangers were busy patrolling the parks, unlocking facilities, controlling the lights for sporting events, maintaining a security presence, and parking enforcement.

In June, Rangers responded and took 60 written reports for issues such as, Damage to Park Property, Injury on Park Property, Conduct and Behavior, camping, Dogs off Leash, and Littering. There were 121 parking violations issued and 19 written parking warnings. There were 18 permitted events which included Cub Scout Events, birthday parties, and company picnics. Rangers checked the pavilions before the use to make sure it is ready to use and after to make sure permit holders followed the clean up policy. They also opened the bathrooms before the event and secured after.

Ranger Grosso finished New Ranger Training and is now working regular shifts and a New ranger, Ken Evans was hired and started training. Ranger Evans is a Military Veteran and has years of experience in public safety. Welcome to Ken.

Respectfully Submitted
Steven Chapman
Chief Park Ranger