

MEETING MINUTES
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission
January 10, 2022
Via Zoom

In attendance:

Kevin Bellows, Chairman
Mike Travisano, Vice Chairman
Bill Brown
Brian LeClerc
Ed Ritacco
Nancy Walsh

Also in attendance:

Dmitri Paris, Superintendent of Parks
Kathy McGannon, Chief Administrative Officer
Bill Chin, Director of Technology (meeting facilitator)

Not in attendance:

Ken Martin
Jon O'Brien

Guests:

Joshua Shain, 6 Ash Circle
Mary Isaac, 50 Skating Pond Road
Matt Baglio, 10 Copper Kettle Road
Rodney Arganese, 23 Glenbrook Road
Bill Mecca, 31 Skyview Drive

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

Joshua Shain appeared before the Commission to request that it explore the possibility of an archery practice range in one of the Town parks. He noted that currently, one needs to be a member of an archery club in surrounding towns to find space to practice. Archers would provide their own equipment if the Town will reserve an area for practice.

Mary Isaac spoke in support of Girl Scout Troop 36215's proposal to install dog-waste bag dispensers and undertake a community awareness campaign.

MOTION to close public comment made by Mr. Ritacco, seconded by Mr. LeClerc. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

MOTION to accept December meeting minutes made by Mrs. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Travisano.

VOTE: 5-0-1 (LeClerc)

Motion carried.

MOTION to allow Girl Scout Troop 36215 to install dog-waste bag dispensers under the direction and supervision of the Superintendent of Parks made by Mr. Travisano, seconded by Mrs. Walsh. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Regarding the comments/request made by Trumbull Youth Lacrosse representatives at the December meeting, Mr. Paris informed the Commission that one of the priorities in the capital plan is the conversion of the softball field at Indian Ledge into a multipurpose field. The field would serve as a full-size soccer and lacrosse field as well as baseball field when complete. Mr. Bellows asked about timing for completion, to which Mr. Paris answered that the field could be ready as early as the fall of 2022, or if there are delays, spring of 2023.

Mrs. Walsh noted that TYL was initially looking for a dedicated space, and Mr. Bellows added their request for storage space and "home base." TYL representatives Matt Baglio and Rodney Arganese were both in attendance and invited to address the Commission by unanimous vote.

Mr. Baglio explained that an ideal situation would see TYL having a dedicated field for its practices and games; however, TYL is willing to work with other teams as well in order to have that home base. He added that the organization is trying hard to grow lacrosse in Trumbull in order to compete with programs in surrounding areas. Mr. Arganese added that the biggest challenge comes from sharing lacrosse spaces with off-season sports, and TYL would like a more consistent field location when they are in season.

Mr. Baglio also inquired about indoor spaces for off-season programming, and Mr. Paris offered to help coordinate securing those spaces.

The Commission moved on to discuss the request for an archery practice area. Mr. Paris noted that one of the challenges is how to manage the space. Mr. Paris will gather more information and report back to the Commission. Mrs. Walsh mentioned issues of safety, including the potential such as liability waivers, and consideration of what ages will be using the space. The item will be discussed further at a later date.

Mr. Paris provided his Superintendent's Report, including ongoing tree work and guardrail installation at Indian Ledge Park. Roofing work on park system restrooms is currently on hold due to weather conditions, and the community garden is ready for tilling. Mr. Bellows relayed a question from Mr. Martin regarding \$100,000 for upgraded security, which Mr. Paris clarified was in the capital plan rather than the department budget, and was not in reference to additional personnel. He also noted that Chief Ranger Chapman is out on medical leave and the Parks Department and Rangers are working closely together in his absence.

Mr. Paris also informed the Commission that the contractor for the pickleball courts is aware of the issues raised by Mrs. Walsh. The courts are still under warranty and will be repaired in the spring.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.