

MEETING MINUTES
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission
February 8, 2021

In attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

Dmitri Paris, Superintendent of Parks
Kathleen McGannon, Chief Administrative Officer
Bill Chin, Meeting Facilitator
Katie Dunn, Trumbull Community Television

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Public Comment

Joe Gerics, 1011 Washington Ave, Stamford; Mr. Gerics appeared before the Commission to request approval to plan a comedy summer series at Indian Ledge Park. The Commission and Mr. Gerics agreed that Mr. Gerics should communicate with Mr. Paris regarding specific dates taking into consideration historical park use by other groups and come before the Commission again with a concrete plan for the series.

Mike Buswell, 94 Greyrock Road; Mr. Buswell appeared before the Commission to request approval to host Babe Ruth New England Regional Tournament from July 23-28 at the Trumbull High School fields. The tournament was approved by the Commission in 2020, however it was cancelled by the organization due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Tony Scinto, 32 Lindbergh Drive; Mr. Scinto, a Town Council representative, appeared before the Commission regarding the Asplundh trucks and employee cars Unity Park, specifically how long they would continue to park in and deploy from the park. Mr. Paris shared that he has been in communication with the company and the arrangement will only continue until approximately mid-March. The issue was also discussed at the Commission's January meeting.

MOTION to accept January meeting minutes made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Brown; motion carried by unanimous consent.

New Business

The Commission discussed Mr. Gerics' request to plan a summer comedy series at Indian Ledge Park. Concerns were raised about the idea of hosting two shows in one day, particularly as it relates to other user groups and pandemic regulations. Mr. Gerics explained that setup for the shows is minimal and his staff would not need to be in the park earlier than about one hour prior to the first show. In regard to crowd control, Mr. Gerics believes it is a question of traffic concerns rather than COVID concerns. It was agreed that Mr. Gerics will come back before the Commission with a detailed plan for approval.

MOTION to approve comedy series in concept, pending specific plans and dates for approval made by Mr. Ritacco, seconded by Mr. O'Brien; motion carried by unanimous consent.

Regarding Mr. Buswell's request to host the Babe Ruth New England Regional Tournament, Mr. Paris noted that the only difference to this year's request is that the Town would contract with the field maintenance company and Babe Ruth would then reimburse the Town for services provided during the tournament.

MOTION to approve Babe Ruth New England Regional Tournament made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. O'Brien; motion carried by unanimous consent.

In response to Mr. Scinto's inquiry about the Asplundh trucks, Mr. Paris reiterated that he is in conversation with Asplundh, and they will move the trucks out in the next 2-3 weeks. Mr. Paris has been exploring the possibility of allowing the company to deploy from lower Indian Ledge while it is under construction, provided there is no impact to regular activities. Mr. Martin expressed concerns about resulting traffic at the park, particularly in relation to water park/playground usage, traffic on Whitney Avenue, and use of the dog park. He suggested that Asplundh might want to explore more industrial location for parking

Mr. Brown plans to attend a walkthrough of the proposed Vietnam Veterans Memorial and will report back to the Commission.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Paris discussed his department's responsibilities during and after snow events. Unity Park remains a high priority because of its function as a COVID testing site; in addition, the Senior Center is now also a priority as a vaccination site; personnel needs to be there to keep sites passable and safe.

Mr. Paris also provided an update on the open program manager position: Civil Service approved the request to put the job posting back up for an additional two weeks, including on industry-specific sites.

Ranger Report

Mr. Bellows asked about ice skating on Unity Pond. Mr. Paris responded that there are concerns with that site, particularly areas that do not fully freeze because of ecological activity, as well as variable depths; the pond at upper Beaches is safer due to depth and consistent freezing. Mr. Martin suggested removing Unity from the website to avoid confusion.

Mr. Martin inquired as to whether the state DOT can assist with plowing walkways on state roads.

In response to Mr. Martin's question about Ranger staffing, Mr. Paris answered that all Rangers are still employed, however they are working on a reduced schedule.

MOTION to adjourn made by Mrs. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Brown; motion carried by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by Laura Shiel