

Meeting Minutes
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting - Monday, **February 9, 2025**

Present: Kevin Bellows – Chairman, Mike Travisano, Nancy Walsh, Jonathan O'Brien, Rodney Arganese, Debra Kroszner

Also Present: Abigail Relkin – Clerk, Steve Chapman - Park Ranger

Absent: Bruce Pine

Call to Order at 7:10 PM

Make a motion for public comment off the floor.

Motion by R. Arganese, 2nd by J. O'Brien

Unanimous Vote

Public Comment

1. William Seskey – Harwood Terrace – Gunther Pond has been dredged and the bench and “Do Not Feed the Wildlife” signs have not been replaced. This is going back a number of years (2021), and we would like to see these items back in place. Many people like to enjoy this park and these items would be

Question: K. Bellows – Do you know whether the sign and bench were destroyed? Or intentionally removed?

Response: I'm not sure but the dredging has made a big difference.

2. Kristofer Kelso – All Breed Dog Show – August 22-23 – Absent

Return to Public Meeting

Acceptance of Minutes

Motion to approve December Meeting Minutes

Motion by D. Kroszner, 2nd by J. O'Brien, Unanimous Vote

Correspondence - None

Old Business

Open Recreation: K. Bellows – There is a lot of support for having an “Open Rec” time. There was a survey sent out for more information. Based on our insurance, there cannot be use an “open rec” – it would need to be official (with potential fees) through the Recreation Department.

Question: J. O’Brien - Do we know what changed since “Open Rec” was available in town?

Response: R. Arganese – Just before 2020 you could show up, show your license/sign in and join.

Comment: Park Ranger – There were “supervisors” that were available during the “Open Rec” times. The Rangers would check in during these times and if necessary, PD would be called. There was no fee at one point.

Response: K. Bellows – We’ve never dealt with this as a commission, so this is new to us.

Beaches Park: K. Bellows – has there been any issue recently? Has there been any discussion on the signage that was mentioned during our last meeting?

Comment: S. Chapman – There have not been many issues any issues raised. Signs may be helpful but there are so many walkable entrances and some may come with ATVs or snow mobiles. Maybe cameras and signage will help to deter the issues. Closing it off could be an issue (and people do not necessarily want it closed off because it’s a cut through), but it is a park road versus a town road.

Question: D. Kroszner – Do we know if signage is in progress?

Response: K. Bellows – I didn’t get a chance to ask today but will find out.

5K Trail Run Request: K. Bellows – This request came through a few months ago. We asked Gaby L to speak with insurance, EMS, etc and have not heard back since. It was suggested that she connect with Recreation and Parks Superintendent has not heard an update as of yet. D. Paris is concerned about the safety of the trails. It looks as though it would start in the lot, around the lake and follow up to beach park road, then come back through another trail.

Response: S. Chapman – I’m trying to visualize. When we do things like the Sun Run, there are usually a number of people involved in keeping everyone safe along the trails, EMS stationed, police presence. We would need to

ensure that no one enters or leaves the parks when the running is happening for safety reasons. Running on natural trails can also be a concern.

New Business

- Field Use During Hillcrest Rebuild: R. Arganese – As far as Hillcrest being rebuilt and the fields that will be out of service – How are we going to provide access to all of the user groups in town that use these fields?

Response: K. Bellows – Right now, space is a problem and we have use of all of our fields. The responsibility will fall on Parks and Recreation as well as the Board of Education.

Response: S. Chapman – I'm not aware of this right now D. Paris and Kyle have been working on these logistics.

Response: N. Walsh – D. Paris did mention this in the November meeting, and it doesn't seem that right now there is a plan.

Comment: D. Kroszner – Maybe sending something proactively for these tournaments or special groups that want to come in – we send something saying it may not be possible.

- Gunther Pond

Motion to “return things as they were” by replacing the bench and wildlife sign.

Motion by R. Arganese, 2nd by M. Travisano, Unanimous Vote

Superintendent's Report – Emailed Out

Question: K. Bellows - How's the new place? How's manpower?

Response: We haven't moved in yet, but they want us in place before the springtime. We will be putting an ad out soon as we have a few people leaving that we will need to replace. We want to make sure we have enough manpower for special events.

Question: N. Walsh – There was something about grass damaged at Beaches in the report?

Response: Yes, it was in the area by the bathrooms where they had re-seeded. I don't think the damage was very significant because of snow, but we won't know until spring. I'm not sure if anyone has checked the cameras.

Comment: K. Bellows – I was surprised with the trees being cut down.

Response: Even with the police being involved, we were unable to figure out who exactly cut the trees down. Luckily the tree went to use in the Ranger Station and was not waster.

Division Reports – Emailed Out

Any other business that might rightly come before the Commission - None

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by M. Travisano, 2nd by J. O'Brien, Unanimous Vote

Adjournment at 7:51 PM

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Clerk, Abigail Relkin at abigailrelkin@gmail.com.