MEETING MINUTES
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
February 14, 2022

In attendance:
Kevin Bellows, Chairman
Mike Travisano, Vice Chairman
Ken Martin
Jon O’Brien
Nancy Walsh

Also in attendance:
Dmitri Paris, Superintendent of Parks

Not in attendance:
Bill Brown
Brian LeClerc
Ed Ritacco

Guests:
Lisa LoBuono, 5 Channing Road

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

Mrs. LoBuono appeared before the Commission representing Trumbull Babe Ruth. The organization is requesting permission to host two tournaments in July of this year: the 14-year-old state tournament at Unity Park from July 8 through July 15, and the 13-year-old regional tournament at Trumbull High School from July 22 through July 27. Trumbull Babe Ruth will work with American Legion to ensure there are no scheduling conflicts on those dates. Mrs. LoBuono also conveyed the organization’s thanks to the Commission, the Town, the Board of Education, and Mr. Paris for their efforts and support of past tournaments.

MOTION to close public comment and return to regular meeting made by Mr. Travisano, seconded by Mr. Martin. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

MOTION to accept January meeting minutes made by Mrs. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Travisano.
VOTE: 4-0-1 (Martin)
Motion carried.

Correspondence was received from Trumbull Babe Ruth, Girl Scout Troop 36215, and Mr. Bill Mecca of Trumbull Youth Lacrosse.
Mr. Paris updated the Commission on the status of Hillcrest pool. The final engineering reports have been received and to date there are three available options for the pool. The first will repair what is broken to make the pool operational, but will not bring the facility into compliance, at a cost of approximately $3 million. The second will address additional issues including HVAC, but will not remediate all concerns (e.g., locker rooms) at a cost of approximately $6 million. The third will address all issues and result in a fully compliant, operational aquatics facility at an approximate cost of $17 million. Mr. Martin asked for copies of the final reports, which Mr. Paris will forward.

Mr. Bellows asked about the status of the softball field at Indian Ledge. Mr. Paris said that the field has been removed from bonding consideration, but may be eligible for ARPA funding. He encouraged the Commission to voice their support for the repair of the field. The current field has multiple issues, including nonfunctional lighting, which renders it unusable for evening activities. An upgraded, multipurpose field can address multiple user groups and provide the Town with a better return.

MOTION to approve of Babe Ruth 14 year-old state tournament from July 8 through July 15, 2022, and the 13-year-old regional tournament from July 22 through July 27, 2022, made by Mrs. Walsh, seconded by Mr. O’Brien. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Mr. Paris reported that work in the apple orchard has been completed and the community garden is ready for tilling. He mentioned that Sustainable Trumbull has requested the community garden model to be altered; however, he noted that many of the gardeners there are novices, and that perhaps a sectioned could be provided to more experienced gardeners to maintain in a different way.

Sustainable Trumbull would also like to install QR codes. Mr. Paris suggested they work with the Commission to ensure consistent and appropriate messaging. Mr. Martin suggested they also speak to the Commission about the changes they would like to see in the community garden.

Mr. Paris also informed the Commission about the new MyRec software program that is being implemented. The software will allow for online registration and permitting, and an improved user experience. The department is working hard to get the software up and running for use by mid-summer. A short list of spring and summer programming is now available on the Parks and Rec website.

The commission discussed possible locations for ice-skating in town. As was mentioned at a previous meeting, several ponds in town are unsuitable due to irregular depth and bioactivity under the surface that can create warmth in the water. The pond at the entrance to Beach Memorial Park is the only area that freezes properly. Mr. Paris discussed his thoughts for a plan that could be implemented next year, and Mr. Martin suggested again that Dogwood Lake be explored as a site, though access could be a challenge given its neighborhood location.

MOTION to adjourn made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. O’Brien. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.
Submitted by Laura Shiel