

MEETING MINUTES
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission
April 12, 2021
Via Zoom

In attendance:

Kevin Bellows, Chairman
Bill Brown
Ken Martin
Jon O'Brien
Ed Ritacco

Also in attendance:

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

Not in attendance:

Brian LeClerc
Mike Travisano
Nancy Walsh

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

MOTION to accept March meeting, with Mr. Bellows' correction, made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Ritacco.

VOTE: 3-0-1 (O'Brien)

Mr. Paris shared that Parks and Recreation is putting together their schedule of events and has contacted Mr. Gerics about available dates for his comedy shows. Mr. Gerics will provide the department with a schedule of events based on availability of talent.

Mr. Brown updated the Commission regarding the proposed post-Vietnam-era veterans' memorial. The committee met and visited the site with George Wiles and shared their ideas. Mr. Wiles will draft some designs for the committee to consider. Mr. Brown will continue to update the Commission on further developments.

Mr. Martin inquired as to whether the new memorial is intended to replace the one that was damaged in a traffic accident, and whether funds from any insurance claim can be used for the new one. Mr. Brown replied that it will instead honor post-Vietnam-era veterans and be in addition to the existing memorial. Mr. Paris added that the town filed an insurance claim against the individual who was cited for damaging the Vietnam memorial, and those funds will be used to repair it.

Mr. Martin also asked for an update on the program director hiring process. Mr. Paris has not yet been provided the list of candidates. Mrs. McGannon noted that there were 29 applicants for the position, and they are currently being reviewed by the Human Resources department.

Mr. Martin asked Mr. Paris for his thoughts on charging non-resident events a higher fee to use the parks in order to generate additional revenue. Mr. Paris replied that he is not opposed to the idea, and Mr. Martin agreed to research policies and fee structures of nearby towns.

Mr. Bellows asked if the town attorney had been able to review the proposed smoking/vaping ban. Mrs. McGannon shared that Attorney Schopick said the easiest way to enact the ban would be to amend the existing policy. Mr. Bellows noted that it would be better to discuss any potential amendments with the full Commission present.

Mr. Paris suggested asking Chief Ranger Chapman to help draft the language so it is aligned with existing regulations and policies that his department are responsible for enforcing. Mrs. McGannon added that the town attorney can look at the proposed language before it is adopted; as it would be an extension of an existing policy, it would not need to go before the Town Council for approval.

Mr. Paris reported that thanks to drier weather before the incident, the damage on the Madison fields was not as deep as it could have been. Approximately 75% of the fields have been remediated, however there are 2 areas in particular that had deeper damage. His department is waiting for drier weather to regrade and reseed; Mr. Paris anticipates that they can likely get soccer back on the fields before the area is completely repaired. The Board of Education has been notified that it should replace the security gates to prevent future incidents like this.

Mr. Martin asked if there are any planned events for Memorial Day this year. The Governor has advised that parades will be permitted this year, however, he has not issued any guidelines for holding them. In light of that, Mrs. McGannon is planning two events: a parade and a ceremony. In the event that logistics and/or restrictions make a parade impossible, there will be a ceremony held at the Trumbull High School football field. The traditional wreath-laying at both Town Hall and the Vietnam Memorial will go on regardless of which event is held.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Submitted by Laura Shiel