Meeting Minutes
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting - Monday, **April 13,** 2025

Present: Kevin Bellows – Chairman, Mike Travisano, Nancy Walsh, Jonathan O'Brien, Bruce Pine, Rodney Arganese, Art Bradshaw
Also Present: Abigail Relkin – Clerk, D. Paris - Superintendent
Absent: Debra Kroszner, Steve Gardiner

Call to Order at 7:04 PM

Public Comment – None

Acceptance of Minutes

Deletion: K. Bellows – Adjustment to remove helicopter from LivFree in "New Business."

Make a motion to accept the March meeting minutes.
Motion by J. O'Brien, 2nd by B. Pine
4 approvals, 1 abstention

Correspondence – Attached to Agenda

Old Business

1. Amputee Awareness 5K
   Comment: K. Bellows - Glad to see they found a home at Seaside Park in Bridgeport.

2. Beaches Park Signage
   Comment: D. Paris – The signs will be made before the season starts. They will go on the kiosk at the corner of the parking lot and Beaches Park Drive going towards Hedgehog. It will mention 24-hour surveillance/stickers/etc.
      Question: K. Bellows – Some residents were concerned about who can access the footage as needed.
         Response: D. Paris – PD, myself, and the IT Director all can access the footage. It is best to contact me (D. Paris) if you are looking to access. Knowing the date and time of an issue makes it much easier to figure out what is going on.

3. Camp Age Restriction

Comment: D. Paris – As much as it would be nice to keep friends together. There are standards that most orgs go by that take a closer look at developmental growth versus age or class. Once you get to a certain point of a mix of individuals it begins to change radically. We are not comfortable making a change to the age groups at this point.

Question: K. Bellows – Is there a need for an additional age group to add 13-14 year olds?

Response: D. Paris - Once we get to 13-14 years of age, there are a lot of changes to the requirements, supervision, individual independence, etc.

Question: K. Bellows – Is there a point we open enrollment to out of town?

Response: D. Paris – Yes, there's a window for only Trumbull residents to sign up and if the camps do not fill, it is opened to out of town residents.

Question: B. Pine – When will the fields behind Hillcrest be closing for the construction of the new school? Do we think leagues are aware and thinking about how this is happening?

Response: D. Paris – The loss of field space will start after July 4. I sent a letter to all leagues a few months back with a general idea of the timelines. As we move forward – field availability will be radically different. Unsure if everyone realizes how different everything will be and how difficult Spring 2027 will be to field.

New Business

1. Correspondence on Old Mine Park (Debris and Park Stickers)

Comment: D. Paris – the project over there is to repair and restore the piece that goes around the green. We started the project last year and the material in the lot is for the project. There is new signage up there that prohibits us from taking larger vehicles over the bridge. There was a structural analysis that it is no longer safe to take equipment of any sort past a weight limit to cross. Until that is resolved, there is no easy way to remove the material. Eventually, it will be moved/used.

Question: K. Bellows – Are we able to ticket? The resident was having trouble finding parking because of out-of-town residents (so he parked in the counseling center).

Comment: D. Paris – We can ticket over there, similar to Twin Brooks. If the rangers aren't there at the time the out-of-town cars are parked, they won't be ticketed. There is signage indicating you need to have a sticker. If there is an issue, a town resident can call the park ranger to come out.

2. Parking Stickers

Comment: D. Paris – When this was started, there was a fee (about $3.00) – which was adjusted to the cost being covered. Costs have increased with printing the stickers as time has gone, especially adding each specific license plate ($26,000-$27,000 a year). Options to cut costs of this include:

- Label them and track which resident receives
- Make stickers for 2-year periods

Question: N. Walsh – How do other towns do this? Is the plate number a necessity? Would it be less expensive?

Response: D. Paris – I do not believe so but at one point we were told the plate would be required. It would be less expensive, I'm not sure how much would be saved. The printer doing the work is unable to provide a weather resistant ink that can go on the outside of your car. Many other towns do place stickers inside but also have gates at all parks.

3. E-Bikes/Vehicles/Scooters on the Trails

Comment: N. Walsh – I was surprised about the e-bike because they are all different. Personally, mine is a pedal-assist and requires me to pedal as I ride.

Response: D. Paris – There are several categories. The problem is these can be quiet; some riders operate in unsafe ways. There was a growing safety concern leading to including all on the trails.

Superintendent's Report

- The barn at the Woods Estate is just about done. We've done a lot with the small barn, and we are growing into the facilities we've built.

Division Reports – Attached to Agenda

Recreation Report – It's exciting to see there will be a new skateboarding group among others that are being created by the rangers.

Any other business that might rightly come before the Commission

Make a motion to adjourn.
Motion by A. Bradshaw, 2nd by N. Walsh
Unanimous Vote

Adjournment at 8:07 PM

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