

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
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Commission on Aging Meeting
Friday, April 22, 2022
2:00 pm
Council Chambers, Trumbull Town Hall

The Commission on Aging held a meeting on Friday, April 22, 2022 in the Council Chambers at Trumbull Town Hall.

Present: Chairman Michael Ganino, Ron Foligno, Mark Ryan, Alissa Heilbrunn, Debra Gilbert Taylor, Nancy Lucas and Evelyn Wiesner

Absent: Jean DaRold

Also Present: Michele Jakab, Director of Human Services; Paulette Mack, Interim Executive Director, Stern Village; Cindy Katske, Chief Administrative Officer; Dmitri Paris, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation and Noreen Wilpiseszki, Parks and Recreation

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm by Mr. Ganino followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest Speaker

Dmitri Paris and Noreen Wilpiseszki presented to the Commission an overview of the Parks and Recreation programs for the town residents, the department's goals and objectives and answered questions with regard to some of the recreational areas. Mr. Paris noted the department staff is looking at what types of services they can offer as combined services, what services work best with the Senior Center itself and what services have opportunities within the park system.

Mr. Paris gave a brief outline of the Park system. Currently, there are over 1,800 acres of park land and open space, 27 miles of trails, 30 plus fields of various types, 14 tennis courts, 12 pickleball courts, 8 play grounds, 2 splash pads and 2 seasonal pools. The Hillcrest pool provided programs for seniors over the years but that has changed with its loss in June 2020 which stopped many multi-generational opportunities. They are looking for a replacement site but the department is now left without a large component for programming. There are multi-generational programs, various community events, permits for anything in the system and for the current time, they have pickleball and tennis court reservations. They are offering during the summer designated lap swim at Tashua Pool, various outdoor exercise classes, ukulele classes and a concert series at the Town Hall Green on Sunday 4-5pm and Tuesday, 7-8:30 pm. The Town is currently doing construction at the Town Hall Green to improve the site for movement on the campus, adding additional seating for the concerts and handicapped accessible benches and tables. This will allow residents to spend more time on the campus unencumbered.

Mr. Paris discussed the upgrades to provide better accessibility to Twin Brooks Park. This is the Town's premiere passive recreation facility. The trail systems are easily accessible by foot or wheelchair with soft grades. The park is looking at a full year of renovations to deal with the water issues. When the project is complete, the road will be

moved to accommodate eight foot wide sidewalks that will connect one end to the other with benches for people to sit and relax within the park. This will provide miles of walking opportunities. They are putting in six additional pickleball courts in Island Brook Park and upgrading the two tennis courts. Ms. Wilpieszski spoke about the swimming opportunities available with adult swim and lap swimming. Program options have been expanded with gentle yoga and other daytime fitness programs that will have multiple offerings specifically geared towards the population that does not typically come out at night.

Mr. Paris offered the opportunity to meet and discuss program possibilities or any topic related to the park system at any time either by email or in person.

Mr. Ryan discussed some of the problems at the softball field at Indian Ledge including lack of lights and dangerous field conditions. Mr. Paris noted there is a problem with keeping the lights working due to age (over 30 years old) , position of lights and lightning strikes. The field itself prohibits easy access to the lights and damages are made to the field when the required machinery is used for repairs. It has been brought before the Town to change the field and lights but it requires a significant investment to get the field to the standard they had when it was originally put in place. Various funding initiatives have been attempted for this field renovation but it has not come to light. Currently, funding is being discussed for this project. Many of the leagues who use this field have opted not to move elsewhere for games despite the difficulties. Mr. Paris noted residents should make their concerns/suggestions known to the Town as that is how projects move forward.

Question came up about lights on the pickleball courts. At this time, they are systematically updating the tennis courts each year. Court lighting is another project to be considered but it was noted the lights on the baseball fields were paid for by the leagues themselves. Lighting on the pickleball courts would need to be funded in this manner also. It was also noted the permit would not be free, if lighting was available.

Report from Stern Village

Ms. Mack noted a cabinet has been purchased with a lock and she thanked the Commission for their assistance with food items. Distribution is working out fine.

Senior Center Director's Report

Mrs. Jakab noted the following:

1. They are adding a lunch on Mondays and that the program is very successful.
2. A tea party is scheduled this month.
3. A Veteran's lunch is scheduled; please RSVP if you plan to attend. Lunch pick-up is also available if anyone does not wish to stay.
4. Bocce Court was repaired by volunteers and is up and running.
5. Extra toys received during the Christmas holiday have been distributed to area churches.

Resident Comments

Tony D'Aquila commented that, as a member of the Senior Center, he has been having trouble receiving the monthly newsletter electronically. He spoke with various individuals but has been unable to resolve the situation. Mrs. Jakab noted some individuals have difficulty with emails from the town due to their email address and she will look into this and have it resolved.

Mr. D'Aquila also noted commented on a fluorescent light fixture in the basement of the Senior Center that fell from the ceiling and he was concerned about the remaining fixtures with exposed tubes. He will investigate further and report back, if needed but in the meantime, Mrs. Jakab will contact Public Works and have them look at the fixtures for repair/replacement.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Ms. Gilbert Taylor to approve the minutes of March 25, 2022 as written and amend the minutes of February 25, 2022 to include in the list of those present, Wellness Nurse, Tori Benoit who was present but unable to be brought into the ZOOM meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Wiesner and approved unanimously.

Secretary's Report

No report.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Ganino had no report.

Topics of Interest or Concern from Members

Brief discussion was held regarding the timing of the meeting. No change was made.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

1. Mr. Ganino noted he sent a letter to the NIA indicating the Commission on Aging would like a booth at the Farmer's Market this year. He raised approximately \$4,500 in the past for the Senior Center Food Pantry. Question about including a Sunshine Fund as a recipient of some money was held. After discussion, it was felt this would not be appropriate to use the funds to benefit a small, select group of individuals on the Commission even though it would be a thoughtful gesture. Commissioners will decide amongst themselves if they would like to contribute to a Sunshine Fund under certain circumstances.
2. An invitation was sent to all Commission and Board members to attend the State of the Town address to be given by First Selectman Tesoro at Tashua Knolls. Mrs. Katske will check into scholarships for senior individuals who would like to attend.
3. Lunch will be served at the Senior Center Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Volunteers are welcome to assist.
4. The Center is looking for new members. Currently, membership is just under 900 but Mrs. Jakab is certain that number will increase now that the Center is open again after being closed for the pandemic. Discussion was held on how to spread the word to the senior population. It was suggested to send flyers to the religious institutions in town.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mrs. Heilbrunn to adjourn the meeting at 2:59 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Weisner and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk