

MEETING MINUTES  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 9, 2022

In attendance:

Kevin Bellows, Chairman  
Mike Travisano, Vice Chairman  
Jon O'Brien  
Ed Ritacco

Also in attendance:

Dmitri Paris, Superintendent of Parks

Not in attendance:

Bill Brown  
Brian LeClerc  
Ken Martin  
Nancy Walsh

Guests:

Nancy Novak, American Artist, LLC; 59 Hilltop Drive  
Richard Post, Sustainable Trumbull; 40 Saxony Drive  
JP Favretto, 213 Pinewood Trail

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Mr. Bellows informed members of the public that as there was no quorum at the meeting, the Commission would not be voting on any items, however, public comment was opened to allow those present to speak.

Ms. Novak expressed her gratitude to Mr. Paris and Ms. Wilpiseski for their efforts in helping her run the Audubon Art program at Abraham Nichols Park. She also suggested considering using the barn on-site to run concurrent events in the park in future.

Mr. Post presented an update to the Commission on his group's efforts to roll out informational QR codes in various locations throughout the town. Three signs will be in place next week. Mr. Post also noted that the Sustainable Trumbull survey received approximately 535 responses.

Mr. Favretto appeared on behalf of local pickleball players to request the installation of windscreens to reduce wind interference with play. He stated that he contacted a vendor and was given a quote of \$8,000-10,000. He also asked that the Commission consider installing signs to deter use of the courts for

activities other than pickleball. He mentioned skateboarding specifically as it damages the playing surface.

Mr. Bellows closed public comment at 7:25 p.m.

Several members of the pickleball community sent emails to the Commission in support of windscreens (attached).

There has been no update from the town attorneys regarding fundraising in the parks.

There is currently no funding for windscreens for pickleball. The department can send out an RFQ and request a special appropriation, or the pickleball club can fundraise to purchase the screens.

The Parks Department is handling some mechanical failures related to the pools. CO<sub>2</sub> tanks, which help balance the pH, are leaking. The vendor is responsible for maintaining the tanks. Repairs to the splash pad at Beach Pool are beginning. Grass cutting and landscape tasks are underway. Work has been completed on the Town Hall Green, including improving pedestrian walkways. The first concert was held on Sunday, May 8. Installation of the new kiosk outside Town Hall is also beginning. Mr. Paris also noted that a major project will get underway at the police department.

Mr. Bellows noted that the first movie night at the Town Hall green was held on a very cold evening. Mr. Paris agreed, but noted that if the event was cancelled, the department loses the money paid to the event company, so the decision was made to go forward.

Park restrooms are opened to the public for scheduled events. Portable toilets are available to the public when the restrooms are closed.

Mr. Bellows inquired about issues at Quarry Road as noted in the Ranger report. Mr. Paris said there are still problems with dumping and vandalism, but not the previous issues with parties, etc.

There was another vehicle crash in the area of the Vietnam Memorial on White Plains Road; the sign was not damaged in this incident. Mr. Paris also shared that the Long Hill Garden Club donated \$5,000 earmarked for planting around the memorial.

As there was no further business, Mr. Bellows adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Submitted by Laura Shiel

**Laura Shiel**

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**From:** Kevin Bellows  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 8, 2022 7:15 AM  
**To:** Laura Shiel  
**Subject:** Fwd: Windscreens

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Nancy Lucas  
**Date:** May 7, 2022 at 6:53:53 PM EDT  
**To:** kbellows  
**Subject:** Windscreens

I am in favor of adding windscreens to the Pickleball courts at Unity park  
Thank you  
Nancy Lucas

Sent from my iPhone

## Laura Shiel

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**From:** Kevin Bellows  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 8, 2022 4:53 PM  
**To:** Laura Shiel; Ken Martin; Mike Travisano; Jon O'Brien; Edward Ritacco; bill and/or nancy walsh; billbrown · halligan96  
**Subject:** Fw: Pickleball Courts

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**From:** Robert C. Abercrombie  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 8, 2022 2:29 PM  
**To:** kbellows  
**Subject:** Pickleball Courts

Kevin

I know you are having a meeting tomorrow. I would like to add my support to purchasing windscreens for the pickleball courts. It would be helpful. In addition, I was very surprised there are basket ball hoops at the end of the tennis court. I have noticed there is a conflict on the tennis courts with people who want to shoot baskets. The town should consider adding a basketball court separate from the tennis.

If you have any questions please email me. Also, where is the meeting on Monday? I might be able to attend.

Regards

Bob Abercrombie

## Laura Shiel

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**From:** Kevin Bellows  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 8, 2022 5:00 PM  
**To:** Mike Travisano; Laura Shiel; Edward Ritacco; Jon O'Brien; billbrown  
bill and/or nancy walsh; halligan96 Ken Martin  
**Subject:** Fw: Unity Park Pickleball Windscreens Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

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**From:** Allan Shindell  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 8, 2022 4:56 PM  
**To:** kbellows Dmitri Paris  
**Subject:** Unity Park Pickleball Windscreens Request

Dear Trumbull Recreation Commission: I am writing to you urging for windscreens to be installed on the 6 pickleball courts at Unity Park. The Unity pickleball courts are great and very heavily used by the Trumbull community. I go there several times per week and they are often fully occupied. Since the pickleball is very light weight similar to a wiffle ball it is highly impacted by moderate winds and not as enjoyable to play when it is windy. The windscreens would reduce the impact for windy conditions and further improve the enjoyment of the pickleball courts. Thank you in advance for your consideration and efforts for the continual improvement of Trumbull's excellent park facilities. Sincerely,.

Al Shindell  
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## Laura Shiel

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**From:** Kevin Bellows  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 8, 2022 6:58 PM  
**To:** bill and/or nancy walsh; billbrown ; Mike Travisano; Ken Martin; Jon O'Brien; Edward Ritacco; Laura Shiel; halligan96  
**Subject:** Fw: Pickle ball Courts Windscreen

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**From:** Matthew Zemanick  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 8, 2022 6:56 PM  
**To:** kbellows ; dparis  
**Subject:** Pickle ball Courts Windscreen

Dear Trumbull Recreation Commission:

I am writing to you urging for windscreens to be installed on the 6 pickleball courts at Unity Park. The Unity pickleball courts are great and very heavily used by the Trumbull community. Since the pickleball is very light weight similar to a wiffle ball it is highly impacted by moderate winds and not as enjoyable to play when it is windy. The windscreens would reduce the impact for windy conditions and further improve the enjoyment of the pickleball courts. Thank you in advance for your consideration and efforts for the continual improvement of Trumbull's excellent parks.

Sincerely,

**Matt Zemanick**

## Laura Shiel

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**From:** Kevin Bellows  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 8, 2022 7:04 PM  
**To:** Mike Travisano; Jon O'Brien; billbrown; bill and/or nancy walsh; Edward Ritacco; Laura Shiel; halligan96; Ken Martin  
**Subject:** Fw: Windscreens at Unity Park Pickleball courts

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**From:** MARIA VARONE  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 8, 2022 7:01 PM  
**To:** dparis@trumbull-ct.gov  
**Cc:** kbellows@msn.com  
**Subject:** Windscreens at Unity Park Pickleball courts

Dear Trumbull Parks and Recreation Committee:

The pickleball courts at Unity Park are much appreciated and are being enjoyed inter- generationally as they unite the community. Grandparents and parents are playing with children and grandchildren, teachers are playing with former students, spouses are playing with each other, and neighbors are playing together. New friendships are being formed at the pickleball courts, and these friends are supporting one another in other aspects of community life throughout Trumbull. One of the very few drawbacks at the pickleball courts, however, is the high wind that comes through the area. Given the light weight of the ball, the wind can really frustrate a game. Windscreens would be a lasting investment that would greatly enhance the pickleball experience that is being enjoyed by Trumbull residents of all ages.

Maria Varone

Maria Varone

**Laura Shiel**

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**From:** bill and/or nancy walsh  
**Sent:** Monday, May 9, 2022 9:57 AM  
**To:** Laura Shiel  
**Cc:** Bill Brown Brian LeClerc; Dmitri Paris; Edward Ritacco; Jon O'Brien; Ken Martin; Kevin Bellows; Mike Travisano  
**Subject:** Re: Agenda for 5/9/22

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I will not be present at tonight's meeting and unable to vote on any motions. For what it's worth, here is my opinion on the many pickleball emails that we have received recently. I have played on those beautiful courts a number of times and play would definitely benefit by having windscreens installed (we seem to be having more very windy days perhaps due to climate change?). Since this has not been a budgeted item, I liked Mr. Favretto's idea of a fundraiser to pay for them.

Has this been done before? I know the leagues pay for some of what they use but since there is no Pickleball league, not sure how this would work.

Looking forward to reading tonight's minutes...

Nancy

On Fri, May 6, 2022 at 11:05 AM Laura Shiel wrote:

Good morning, Commissioners,

Attached are the agenda and related documents for Monday evening. We will be meeting in Council Chambers again. Please note there are two sets of minutes for approval this month (March and April).

Thanks,  
Laura

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Laura Shiel

Administrative Assistant

Mary J. Sherlach Counseling Center

121 Old Mine Road

Trumbull, CT 06611