Meeting Minutes
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting - Monday, June 8, 2025

Present: Kevin Bellows – Chairman, Mike Travisano, Nancy Walsh, Jonathan O'Brien (left at 8:03PM), Rodney Arganese (arrived at 7:19PM & left at 8:18PM), Bruce Pine, Debra Kroszner, Art Bradshaw, Steve Gardiner
Also Present: Abigail Relkin – Clerk, Dmitri Paris – Superintendent of Parks

Call to Order at 7:00 PM

Suspend the meeting for public comment

Public Comment

1. Robin Bieber – Dunk Tank Request at Old Mine event – Did not attend

2. Gabriella Longobardo (Rocky Hill Road), Refine Fitness – 5K Trail Run Update – Trail Run in Twin Brooks (first choice) or Indian Ledge for anyone in or out of town (200+ people), Sunday morning in Spring/Summer 2027, about 30-90 minutes of length. Would not need to close the road but would need parking spaces. Insurance - Request was submitted. EMS Comments – It will be dependent on weather conditions, 1-2 ambulances at the event, incident action plan, EMTs around the trail. It would be nice to have kids 11+ and at the very end have owners walking their dogs.
    Question: K. Bellows - Where would the run go? Any roads? The trails tend to get narrow. What happens then?
        Response: Starting by the bathrooms, loop around the lake, behind the lake to the far parking lot then down and back on the path (not on the road). We would use chalk or lawn signs to direct through the trail. As the trails narrow, the faster runners move ahead and for slower runners to stay to the right side so other can pass. Can also break up runners into groups to lessen the amount of people at one time.

    Comment: D. Paris – I have some concerns with Twin Brooks. I am not sure it would go well at Twin Brooks, but the trails and parking at Indian Ledge would be much better for this type of event. Have you considered any other parks and what are your thoughts? If the commission were to approve, would you have the volunteers meet to ensure they know where to be and what is happening. Our emergency services are well versed in rescues on the trails and in the parks.
        Response: Indian Ledge (it is more challenging) but for an event like this, Twin Brooks would be better with the grass area. I have been running in Indian Ledge, and the smallest loop is 4 miles long, but also more flat with rocks.

3. Gerald Mensah and Mason Natale-Svelnys – Youth Fishing Derby (not May request) – "Real Future Initiative" – Trying to get kids (under 16 does not need a license) outside in nature again and fishing is a great way to do this. We think Twin Brooks would be the best for the event fishing and for parking. We are expecting a maximum of 40 cars, parents and children (60+ children). 10-12 adult and additional student volunteers will be present at the event. This is the first event of a series of events we would like to host throughout the summer. Looking for a permit, pond confirmation/access, parking exemption, and restroom access.

Question: R. Arganese – Has recreation ever run a fishing "camp?"

Response: K. Bellows – No, not yet.

Response: D. Paris – The previous event proposed in May went through the process, but this was conceptual versus a true event. It would be nice if we could work collaboratively on this, integrating what you're trying to do and a town run event. The Parks and Recreation Department is very interested in running a fishing derby type event. Right now, the schedule is set about 1 year in advanced, and it may be difficult to happen right now.

4. Krista McNamara – Dog Bag Receptacles - Unable to attend

5. Subhang Prabala & Gerald Mensah – Pickleball Tournament Request – We are a part of the (FBLA) Future Business Leaders of America and want to fundraise for our competition costs (state competitions) and cost of membership, etc. Looking to use Tashua Knolls (first choice) or Unity Park for the tournament. We have gotten about 32 people (16 teams, doubles), would need 2 to 4 courts. $10 per person (about $320), may buy drinks and snacks to sell to the participants, the money is kept with the advisor.

   Comment: D. Paris – Being a fundraiser, it's great you've come to the commission first. If the commission approves, we can work with the Parks and Recreation Department to schedule.

   Question: R. Arganese – Who is the advisor and when would you like to have this?

   Response: Mrs. Southard is our advisor, and we would like to have this sooner than later as everyone is excited about it.

6. Deborah Weiss, Old Dyke Road – I want to discuss the larger number of vehicles that were driving around, causing a disturbance. I heard something about the images not being clear enough for anyone to identify. The cars flying through the parking lot/roads about every night. We want to have the parking lot closed after hours. We have never gotten a good response from the commission about why closing the lot is not possible. We would like your recommendation that the park be closed off after hours.

   Comment: D. Paris – It was organized getting into the park and station themselves for what looked like an orchestrated event to perform stunts. We are aware of what the neighborhood and park experience with this. From the Parks and Recreation side, we are trying to figure out the true issue to solve. Isolating the area is not as simple as it seems. Even if cars were blocked from entering, people would get out of their cars and walk in. There are so many challenges that need to be worked out, but the Director of Public Works, Chief Lombardo and the First Selectwoman are in conversation.

   Response: K. Bellows – I know Chief Lombardo is working with George and Vicky to resolve this issue. We are seeing what is happening thanks to the cameras and your concerns are being heard more.

Motion to return to the Meeting
Motion by R. Arganese, 2nd by A. Bradshaw, Unanimous Vote

Acceptance of Minutes

Motion to Approve May Meeting Minutes

Motion by J. O'Brien, 2nd by D. Kroszner, Unanimous Vote

Correspondence – Attached

1. Basketball Court Request – This has been addressed in previous years. The clerk will reach out to him via email with notes from the commission. Parts will not be sold for the unit, we have tried fabricating and it was rebuilt again. We would have to excavate the original unit and put in a brand new one.

Old Business

1. N. Walsh - 5K Trail Run – Indian Ledge would be a much better option for this type of event. There has obviously been a lot of preparation for this, and she has done everything that the commission asked.
   Response: D. Paris – If the commission is comfortable with the fundraising idea, then it could work. Twin Brooks is not the best location for the event and would be difficult to find the best time to have this done.
   Question: D. Kroszner – Has the town ever sponsored a type of trail run like this?
   Response: D. Paris – No, we have not. Runs are typically on the paths or road.
   Question: S. Gardiner – Isn't Indian Ledge uphill and rocky?
   Response: D. Paris – I think that's what they are looking for with a "trail run." Liability is a concern especially because we all know the trails are not "ideal."
   Question: M. Travisano – Where is the money going if only 10% of profits are being donated?
   Response: D. Paris – I would connect with the attorney.

Motion to approve the concept of a Trail Run at Indian Ledge Park with the contingency that the logistics, field use/facilities policies and insurance are met provided an account of the potential funds is presented to the commission at least 3 months in advanced of the event.
Motion by N. Walsh, 2nd by R. Arganese, Unanimous Vote

New Business

1. Geocaching Request

Motion to approve additional geocaching sites at Twin Brooks and Beach memorial Park, provided a map is shared with the Parks and Recreation Department of the locations.
Motion by A. Bradshaw, N. Walsh, Unanimous Vote

2. Pickleball Fundraiser
   Comment: D. Paris – Scheduling is difficult, especially this time of year. I would suggest connecting with the Parks and Recreation Department
   Question: M. Travisano – Would you do it in the fall?
   Response: Yes, we would but we'd like to do it immediately.

Motion to approve a Pickleball Tournament for the students based on the Parks and Recreation schedule, availability.
Motion by M. Travisano, 2nd by D. Kroszner, Unanimous Vote

3. Fishing Derby

Motion to approve the Real Future Initiative to work with the Trumbull Parks and Recreation Department to host a Fishing Derby within a Trumbull Park.
Motion by D. Kroszner, 2nd by N. Walsh, Unanimous Vote

4. Dog Waste Receptacles
   Comment: K. Bellows – this has been approved in the past, but I don't think it went well.
   Response: D. Paris – These were added to Twin Brooks Park in the past and the items were vandalized multiple times over a year. They were eventually removed.

Superintendent's Report – Attached to agenda

- There was an issue with the water at Beaches Pool, there was an issue in the surrounding area with muddy water.
- Indian Ledge sprinkler park was PACKED! People were having a great time.

Division Reports - Attached to agenda

Any other business that might rightly come before the Commission

Motion to adjourn
Motion by M. Travisano, 2nd by S. Gardiner, Unanimous Vote

Adjournment at 8:32

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