

Parks and Recreation Commission

June 12, 2023

**Present:** Kevin Bellows - Chairmen, Ed Ritacco, Cat Lamy, Jonathan O'Brien, Mike Travisano

**Absent:** Nancy Walsh, Brian LeClerc

**Also Present:** Abigail Relkin – Clerk, Dmitri Paris – Superintendent

**Call to Order:** 7:05 PM

**Public Comment Opened:**

**Daniel Viera, Buttercup Lane, Shelton**

**LIVFree Tournament –**

Comment: Last month I proposed a charity youth baseball/softball fundraiser (for children with cancer) at Unity Park on September 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>. I spoke with Babe Ruth and Trumbull is putting a team in the tournament. Little League is willing to move around fall ball to accommodate and will also be partaking in the tournament. We will cover the field maintenance, follow all rules, and ensure the park is cleaned after the tournament is over.

- Response: Dmitri Paris – The fields must be groomed after every second game. The town will oversee the contractors (there is no more independent hiring). You may need to have wait times or call people back in depending on sequencing of games. We can help connect you to speak concerning the grooming. Depending on the number of people, there are requirements for security, and you may need 1 or 2 rangers based on participation.
- Response: Kevin Bellows – Fees?
  - o Comment: Daniel Viera – We hope it can be free. When we did the movie at Indian ledge (2019), we were given a 50% discount.
    - Response: Ed Ritacco – Can we do anything to make this free?
    - Response: Dmitri Paris – we have established rates and apply them to everyone and would have to learn how to divide the differences. Shutting down a park means only the group renting can use it.
- Comment: Daniel – What are the fees?
  - o Response: Dmitri Paris - It's \$1500 a day to shut down the park.
- Comment: Daniel – Are there field restrictions? If 2 teams come in for a double header, then only 6 games are played in one day. I thought we'd get games in based on a time slot. Can this be extended to 4 games? Could we do an extra maintenance between the games?
  - o Response: Dmitri Paris – 2 games a day per field. No changing this. (You can play on dirt fields more than the 2 times).

**Eli Newsom, Bungalow Avenue, Fairfield & Steve Benko Flintlock Road, Southport**

**Fairfield Centerstage –**

Comment: We are inquiring about the use of Indian Ledge Park pavilion area (amphitheater) to present a concert/musical production in Summer 2024. Each summer we do a large production but there have been problems with the venues (surrounding residence not liking noise/crowds and competing noise). Looking at June and July, but what conditions would need to exist for us to be able to come in?

- Response: Ed Ritacco – How many people?
  - o Comment: Eli Newsom – 250-300 people per show. Tickets are typically \$25 apiece. Maybe 1000 patrons total over 3 shows.
- Response: Paris – How did you manage the logistics in Fairfield?
  - o Comment: Steve Benko – We have storage space provided by the town (holding lights and sound equipment). When we did musicals on the green, we rented a mobile stage that had everything.
  - o Comment: Eli Newsom – We could bring lights in; we own sound equipment. We would probably rent a truck (and ask to park on site) for the weekend and have limited scenery to use for the show. We would ask for a few nights leading up for rehearsals as well as a rain date.
- Response: Mike Travisano – Any set dates in time?
  - o Comment: Eli Newsom – Could we do the weekend after the Fourth of July 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> (we are aware of Trumbull Day)? We’d like to attract as many people as possible. Would we have to rent the entire park?
    - Response: Dmitri Paris – thinking about adding another event – it would be a lot going on at the same time. But it sounds like the group would be self-sufficient.
    - Comment: Eli Newsom - Would the council consider Friday, Saturday day, Saturday night, Sunday Rain date?
    - Response: Kevin Bellows – You would need to rent the entire park for the weekend.

**Thomas Broderick, Woosley Avenue  
Twin Brooks Park –**

Comment: I am hoping to urge the commission to keep Twin Brooks Drive “car free” as it’s been for the last year. It became a rare sight in Trumbull to not have cars coming through and with the completion of the paving, a lot more people seem to be using the park. The only reason to keep it open to traffic could be because it was before which isn’t a great reason. This isn’t an important thoroughway and having it closed off did not cause any safety issues.

**Motion to close public comment**

Motion to close by Ed Ritacco

Second by Mike Travisano

Unanimous Vote

**Acceptance of May minutes**

Abstained by Cat Lamy

Motion to approve by Mike Travisano

## Second by Jonathan O'Brien

**Correspondence** – Articles by Thomas Broderick and Questions from Genevieve answered by Dmitri Paris were emailed out.

### **Old Business** – Great Oak Park

Comment: Cat Lamy – What do we need to do to try to get those bridges repaired? It keeps coming up on social media.

- Response: Dmitri Paris – The connection “boardwalks” were made in response to the residents of the park neighborhood resistance to a formalized development over the years. It took about 1.5 years to build the boardwalks (20 years ago). We would have to attempt to do a more formalized project that would require engineering and be remarkably expensive (there would need to be deconstruction and rebuilding). You can't impede how the area functions.

### **New Business** – LIVFree

Comment: Mike Travisano – I want to do something for free, but I can't see how we could change fees when someone could come next week with a similar situation.

Question: Cat Lamy – Do we have a structure where a for-profit group pays one price, and a nonprofit group pays another price?

Question: Ed Ritacco – The group covers the cost of everything?

- Response: Dmitri Paris – Yes, the cost to rent (\$1500 per day), rangers (if needed), porta potties and maintaining the fields. The major concern is the field use. Safety is first and foremost.
  - Question: Kevin Bellows – The field use per day is the main issue?
    - Response: Dmitri Paris - If they play back-to-back and weather isn't good – there could be a remediation bill. I don't think the town should have to pay for possible damage if incurred.
    - Response: Daniel Viera – I would hope for an 8:00 and 10:00 / 4:00 and 6:00, just 2 games on the Babe Ruth field then more games on others. If it were limited to a 6-hour window and we weren't playing 2-hour games, we could get more games out of the window.
  - Question: Dmitri Paris – What happens when there's bad weather
    - Response: Daniel Viera – Last year the event was rained out. We understand that it's the towns/Greensfee's call to cancel if the event needs to be cancelled.

Question: Kevin Bellows – Will there be concessions or a food truck?

- Response: Daniel Viera – That will be a question for Vazzano, we'd prefer to use what's there. If we get food trucks, they will need to be approved by the town.

Question: Ed Ritacco – What about parking?

- Response: Daniel Viera – I can stagger the games so there aren't as many people there at once, but I also have a relationship with Abriola if I need to talk with them about additional parking.

**Motion to allow the LIVFree tournament by decreasing the times to hold the games as well as an agreement with Greensfee contract to hold the event**

Motion made by Ed Ritacco

Second by Mike Travisano, Jonathan O'Brien

Unanimous Vote

**Motion to charge the fee for Saturday and Sunday (\$3000), and the Friday games individually**

Motion made by Mike Travisano

Second by Cat Lamy

Unanimous Vote

**Theater Group**

Comment: Kevin Bellows – This could be a great way to bring more culture into town. It will be \$4500 for 3 days or \$3000 for 2 days (if they do 2 shows on Saturday). They will be responsible for rangers.

Comment: Dmitri Paris – It's just seeing what they will need vs what they will want. Indian ledge has its own challenges. We will need to have more conversations with them, but I think the concept is great.

Comment: Mike Travisano – the best thing may be the Week of the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion to approve the concept of a summer weekend performance in summer 2024.**

Motion made by Cat Lamy

Second by Jonathan O'Brien

Unanimous Vote

**Twin Brooks**

Comment: Dmitri Paris – Twin brooks was only a road at one point and has evolved since then. I understand the idea but we've spent this time creating pathways to get people off the road. I don't see us removing cars from the area in the near future.

Comment: Kevin Bellows – There isn't a lot of traffic, but it depends on the time of day.

**Superintendent's Report, Emailed out**

Comment: Dmitri Paris – Last week Beach Memorial Park was vandalized including pots being thrown into the pool and smashed beer bottles. There was not a clear picture of who did this. We also experienced a failure of pump 1 (currently running on auxiliary pump).

- Question: Ed Ritacco – Does this affect the pool being open?

- Response: Dmitri Paris - Right now the auxiliary pump is going, and we usually go back and forth between the pumps. It appears it was an electrical failure.

Comment: Dmitri Paris – Old mine is a week out from full completion and will be open. We are days away from Tashua opening (tennis/pickleball courts).

#### **Recreation Report, Emailed out**

Question: Cat Lamy – Do you have an update on how many people signed up for the social club?

- Response: Kevin Bellows – 190 people.

Question: Cat Lamy - What is the plan for the new courts?

- Response: Dmitri Paris – This isn't a part of the club yet; I don't know if we have a plan right now. Will most likely be by reservation.

Question: Cat Lamy - Are there many people enrolled in social play *and* will reserve a spot? We do see people from out-of-town parking outside of the park then coming into it.

- Response: Dmitri Paris - Yes. But those people also do not seem overwhelming.

#### **Park Ranger Report, Emailed out**

**Any other business before the commission:** None

#### **Motion to adjourn**

Motion made by Cat

Second by John

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM