

Parks and Recreation Commission
July 10, 2023

Present: Kevin Bellows - Chairman, Nancy Walsh, Cat Lamy, Mike Travisano, Ed Ritacco

Absent: Brian LeClerc, Jonathan O'Brien

Also present: Abigail Relkin - Clerk, Steven Chapman – Chief Park Ranger

Call to Order: 7:01 PM

Public Comment Opened:

Gloria Manna – Westfield Drive
Trumbull Republican Town Committee

Comment: The committee submitted permit request a request for pickleball courts and we are curious about processes. We are not permitted to submit a reservation until end of July for August 23rd at Island Brook (the social club is scheduled to be at unity) due to scheduling limitations online. The group is 28 players broken down into teams, needing all 6 courts for about 2.5-3 hours (5:30 to 8:30). What is the cost of the courts?

- Response: Cat Lamy - \$20 an hour per basketball/tennis court, so for pickleball the pricing would likely be similar. Generally cost would be \$360 for all courts for 3 hours, but would depend on the type of group as determined by the Recreation Department.

Kaya and Rhea Patel – Villa Court
Dream Beyond Limits Fundraiser

Comment: We are looking to use the Old Mine Park Trail on August 27th for a one mile through the trail from 11:00-2:00 to raise awareness and money for amputees. Looking at about 50 people and not everyone would be starting at the same time. This is the first year so we think mainly family members and friends would be joining.

- Question: Kevin Bellows – How much will people pay to register?
 - Response: \$6 to join in/participate.
- Comment/Question: Steven Chapman – We would have to keep an eye on parking, only about 40 spots if we do it at the trail. Logistics need to be worked out an we would want to have at least 1 ranger for gate access, bathrooms open, etc. There are also some areas that are steep or rocky. Might be hard to get emergency personnel up there if there was an issue.
- Comment: Cat Lamy – Have you thought about going from the beginning of the path to Whitney and turning around? It's mostly flat and paved.
 - Response: We're willing to adjust for safety.
 - Comment: Steven Chapman – We might need to put up notifications but we would have trouble preventing people from being there at the same time.

Motion to add an additional person the the public comment

Motion made by Ed Ritacco
Second by Cat Lamy
Unanimous Vote

- Pat Morkizon – Scattergood Circle

Comment: I'm here to compliment the town and Parks Department on the re-fit of twin brooks park. It is a great space and I think improves on what was already there. The commitment to our natural infrastructure takes thought and patience/money.

- o Comment: Cat Lamy – Heron sculpture is going to be put back up.

Motion to move into regular meeting

Motion made by Ed Ritacco

Second by Nancy Walsh

Unanimous Vote

Acceptance of Minutes – Motion to approve June minutes

Motion made by Mike Trivisano

Second by Ed Ritacco

Unanimous Vote

Correspondence

Dan Viera, LIVFree Softball Tournament

Comment: Kevin Bellows – I've talked with Dan and there has been such an overwhelming response that he needs more fields. He is requesting the high school fields, already approved by Mr King and the schools sports department. LIVFree will pay a la cart for the field use. No further approval needed.

- Question: Ed Ritacco – Will they be under same restrictions on the high school fields (maintenance wise)? The fields are in better shape and may be able to do more games on the high school fields.
 - Response: Kevin Bellows – it should be the same as was determined before the approval. Only the baseball diamonds would be limited
- Comment: Kevin Bellows – There may be a parking conflict if pickle-ball is happening at the same time. Dan is considering seeing if he could have pickle-ball join in on the fundraiser.
 - Response: Steven Chapman - Maybe talk with police about no parking signs along the road so no one is parking on the road way leading up to Unity Park. We could set up a section for the pickle-ball parking to avoid any issues. We can plan for it.

Theater Group

Comment: Kevin Bellows – Group reached out to thank us for listening to the proposal. The fine details will be worked out with Dmitri/Parks.

Old Business

Pickle-ball – Questions gathered by Cat Lamy listed with answers from Noreen W (Recreation Department)

Question – Can a non resident purchasing pass can make reservations? *No.*

Question – Is there a waitlist for the club? *As of 7/1, the recreation department is taking all residents off the list and approving their request to join the club.*

Question – When we were originally talking about a club, there was going to be signage with rules and days, what happened with the signs? *Yes, they are planning on them but ironing out details and what they will say.*

Question – Are you finding different members of households making many reservations? *No.*

Question – Can “myrec” do real time reservations? Many have complained that they’ve seen it open, making a reservation, then it’s decline. *No the app cannot do that. It would lead to anyone booking at anytime without limitations.*

Woods Estate

Question: Cat Lamy – Did Genevieve get all of the answers she was looking for?

Response: Kevin Bellows – Yes, she got the answers.

Old Mine and Twin Brooks

Question: Nancy Walsh - Are Old Mine and Twin Brooks open yet?

Response: Cat Lamy - Yes and there’s a dedication this weekend at Twin Brooks.

New Business

Trumbull Republican Town Committee Pickle-Ball Fundraiser

Comment: Kevin Bellows – No one is currently booked, it would need to be pre-reserved.

- Response: Cat Lamy – As long as people are aware in advanced, it should be fine. It could be on the website or town alert that there will be an event as so many people do drop ins.

Motion to allow the Trumbull Republican Town Committee use of the courts at I Island Brook Park on August 23 from 5:30 to 8:30

Motion made by Mike Travisano

Second by Cat Lamy

Unanimous Vote

Dream Beyond Limits Fundraiser

Comment: Nancy Walsh – We never received guidelines from the attorney about fundraisers. We’ve denied someone in the past. I’m wondering what guidelines we will use.

- Comment: Cat Lamy – we just approved a fundraiser for TRTC and for LIVFree.
- Response: Ed Ritacco – The past fundraiser was denied because of timeliness as she wanted to hold the event to weeks later.
- Comment: Kevin Bellows— the attorney wanted to get with the others before coming back. Judging who should and shouldn’t be able to do fundraisers.
 - Response: Cat Lamy - I will follow up with the attorney.
- Comment: Nancy Walsh - As long as we can keep the trail open we should be okay.
 - Response: Cat Lamy – There may get more donations if the public is walking by/in the area. Maybe have a Venmo or QR code for anyone who wants to join.

Motion to allow the Dream Beyond Limits fundraiser to have a 1-mile walk on August 27th from 1-2:30 at Rails to Trails.

Motion by Cat Lamy
Second by Ed Ritacco
Unanimous Vote

Superintendent's Report

- Matt sent out a report.

Division Report

- Ranger Report, Steven Chapman
 - Question: Kevin Bellows – How has pickle-ball parking been outside the park.
 - Response: there was an issue with 2 players and the cops were called. This had nothing to do with parking. No one is parking outside of the gate. One was town, one was out of town. Social pickle-ball had started, we were checking a roster but no longer needed to do so after some time
 - Comment: Cat Lamy– I frequent the courts to play tennis and pickle-ball. Most days there are people parked outside of the gates.
 - Question: Kevin Bellows – how is manpower?
 - Response: I had 5 that were supposed to come back that didn't. Our full time ranger will start working the night shift (2:00-10:00). It's been tough to get new rangers, the recruiting pool isn't what it's been in the past.
 - Question: Kevin Bellows – Do you guys go down where people have graffiti?
 - Response: We can get down there and monitor as often as we can.
 - Question: Kevin Bellows – Has Quarry Road been a problem?
 - Response: Occasional incidents but the hangouts and issues are not like they used to be. Fencing does help to prevent people and the water level isn't as high as it used to be.
 - Question: Kevin Bellows – How's the Bill property?
 - Response: It's an old house and has it's challenges but it's going well. Hoping to get AC in there in the future. Nice location for wildlife.
- Noreen sent out her report.

Any other business that might come before the commission

None Presented

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by Nancy Walsh
Second by Cat Lamy
Unanimous Vote

Meeting Adjourned: 8:03 PM