

MEETING MINUTES
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
October 17, 2022

In attendance

Kevin Bellows, Chairman
Mike Travisano, Vice Chairman
Cat Lamy
Brian LeClerc
Ken Martin
Nancy Walsh

Not in attendance:

Jon O'Brien
Ed Ritacco

Also in attendance:

Dmitri Paris, Superintendent of Parks

Guests:

Jacob Liebowitz,

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Chairman Bellows suspended the regular meeting to allow for public comment.

Mr. Liebowitz appeared before the Commission to inquire about taking steps to rename Indian Ledge Park. He cited proposed legislation that schools with mascots or team names relating to Indigenous peoples be required to change those names and mascots. His feeling is that there is a better way to honor Indigenous heritage. Mrs. Walsh asked if he had any thoughts on an alternative name, however, Mr. Liebowitz replied that he doesn't feel it would be within his right to make that decision, but rather a committee could be formed to do that. Mr. Bellows asked if Mr. Liebowitz is aware of any complaints regarding the name of the park. Mr. Liebowitz replied that he is not, but that he sees this as an opportunity for the Town to be proactive.

MOTION to close public comment made by Ms. Lamy, seconded by Mr. LeClerc. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

MOTION to accept meeting minutes of September 12 made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Travisano. VOTE: 5-0-1 (Walsh). Motion carried.

Mr. Martin reported that he met with Chief Lombardo and Assistant Chief Byrnes regarding fine revenue collected from Ranger-issued tickets. The Chief has no way to redirect those funds. Mr. Martin noted

that Director of Finance Maria Pires indicated she is open to meeting with interested parties to discuss the matter.

Mr. Paris is scheduled to meet with the Town Attorney and the Town's insurance broker to discuss the issues surrounding ice-skating on Town property. Mr. Paris noted that his department does want to provide space for the activity, but that it is important to understand all aspects. In response to Ms. Lamy's question, he added that the liability exposure would likely be similar to other activities, however, ice-skating conditions are more variable than permanent structures like tennis courts.

Mrs. Walsh asked if a temporary rink in Twin Brooks Park is still an option, to which Mr. Paris replied that it is, once paving and other works is complete. His department wants to be able to conduct the activity in a safe, managed manner.

Ms. Lamy met with Mr. Paris and Recreation Director Mrs. Wilpizeski regarding pickle ball. They reviewed proposed plans to be implemented next year, including league options, designated times for groups, and scheduling. Mr. Paris corrected some misinformation regarding parking permits for nonresidents that has been put out on the app. He added that the Team Reach app will be replaced by a version managed by the Recreation Department. New policies and regulations will be shared with the Commission when they are finalized.

The Commission discussed Mr. Liebowitz's proposal to rename Indian Ledge Park. Members agreed that understanding the origin of the name, as well as any historical value, is important. Several members noted that it might not be within the Commission's purview to propose renaming a Town park. They concluded the discussion by agreeing to direct Mr. Liebowitz to contact the Town Council.

Mr. Bellows inquired about funding for the new field at Indian Ledge Park. Mr. Paris replied that his department has applied for ARPA funding and awaiting the decision. He encouraged members of the Commission to speak in favor of projects the support.

All park restrooms have been closed for winterization, and portable toilets provided. The seeding of field 3 was successful, as well as the remediation of field 7, which will add another competitive field for scheduling.

MOTION to adjourn made by Ms. Lamy, seconded by Mrs. Walsh. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Submitted by Laura Shiel