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Patrick B. O'Sullivan
TOWN CLERK

Orange Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Town Hall Meeting Room– 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 26, 2020

(Unapproved)

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present: Vice Chairman James O'Connor, Stephen Bospuda, Dave Corris, Chuck Stackpole, James Ronai, Linda Kantor, and Jack Pritchard

Commissioners Absent: Chairman Joseph Lembo and Deborah Davis

Staff: Scott Bendell, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation; Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

Guest: Mr. Tom Pisano, President of the Orange Soccer Association

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Vice Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. PUBLIC DIALOGUE

- Mr. Pisano, who has been involved in soccer for over thirty years, reported that the number of children living in the Town of Orange is on the rise. As a result, sports fields will continue to be a priority within the town.
- Mr. Pisano spoke of a pilot program that might begin on a trial basis at Mary L. Tracy School. As an after school program that will be a part of the School of the 21st Century, this program will encourage "free play" for children. He would like to show a video about this program to the members of Parks and Recreation at a later time.
- Mr. Pisano discussed Fred Wolfe Park and the importance of allowing all of the fields to continue to rest during this time. He also spoke of the proposed playground and possible tennis courts on the property. Mr. Pisano stressed the importance of ongoing maintenance of a future playground at this site and encouraged the Parks and Recreation Department to get involved. Mr. Pisano also mentioned the desire for pickle ball and a possible dog

park in the future. Currently, the biggest issue on the fields is the bird droppings from the geese, as this can create quite a mess on the fields.

- Mr. Pisano felt that handicap parking and wheelchair access should be provided at Fred Wolfe Park. He can also foresee in the future a fenced in free play area for children.
- Ms. Kantor inquired about safety gear for soccer. Mr. Pisano advised that head hitting is banned until the High School level. All coaches have background checks and are required to take mandatory online classes for sexual harassment. The Coaches are also classified as Reporters by the State of Connecticut. Mr. O'Connor added to Ms. Kantor's safety concerns by noting that coaches follow much stricter guidelines today regarding potential concussions. For example, helmets are worn for girls' lacrosse.
- Lastly, Mr. Pisano appreciated the signage on Hollow Road encouraging safe driving. He looks forward to a second entrance/exit into the property in the future.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 22, 2020

Mr. Corris made a motion to approve the January twenty-second, 2020 Orange Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Mr. Bospuda seconded the motion. All were in favor with Linda Kantor abstaining. The motion PASSED.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Bendell indicated that there was no old business to discuss at this time.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Grounds and Facilities – Steve Bospuda

- Mr. Bospuda had nothing to report at this time. It was noted that the Town fields are open as of April first.

C. Personnel – James O'Connor

- Vice Chairman O'Connor had nothing to report at this time.

D. Budget

- There were no questions or concerns regarding the budget at this time.

E. Director's Report

- Mr. Bendell spoke on the progress of the Adult Volleyball League and the Men's Basketball League. The Ski Bums program concluded on Friday, February fourteenth and was very successful. Registration of April Vacation Camp is open and camp will be held

from Monday, April thirteenth to Friday, April seventeenth, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. In addition, there are still openings for the Ski Trip to Butternut Mountain and Thunder Ridge for anyone who might be interested.

- Mr. Bendell indicated that the Aquatic Report was included in the Commissioners' packets.
- Lastly, Vice Chairman O'Connor reported that the Parks and Recreation budget presentation was made before the Board of Finance on Friday, February seventh. Mr. O'Connor will continue to give budget updates.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bospuda moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m., seconded by Mr. Stackpole. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary