



ORANGE, CONN
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECORDS & FINANCE
2021 SEP 27 PM 3:48

MEETING MINUTES
TOWN CLERK

Orange Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Town Hall Meeting Room– 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday August 25, 2021

Approved

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present: Vice Chairman James O'Connor, Stephen Bspuda, Deborah Davis, Jack Pritchard, James Ronai, Chuck Stackpole, William Nicoletti, and Linda Kantor

Commissioners Absent: Dave Corris

Staff: Dan Lynch, Director of Parks and Recreation; Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

Guests: Tom Pisano, Director of the Orange Soccer Association

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Vice Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:44 p.m. and asked the Commission members to introduce themselves. He reviewed the fire exits on behalf of the in-person audience.

2. PUBLIC DIALOGUE

- There was no public dialogue.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 28, 2021

*Mr. Bspuda made a motion to approve the April 28, 2021 minutes, seconded by Ms. Davis. All were in favor and the motion **PASSED**.*

4. OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Lynch advised that he would discuss any old business under his Director's Report.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Orange Soccer Association – Tom Pisano

- Mr. Pisano spoke on the need of a safety fence at Fred Wolfe Park and was advised by Chairman O'Connor that the fence would be installed. Mr. Pisano also discussed the long term plan and

development of this property and would like to have the Parks and Recreation Department more involved in this process.

- The Commission advised Mr. Pisano that they have been involved in the development of Fred Wolfe Park and have been in consultation with the First Selectman on a regular basis. They were aware of the purchase of the new scoreboard at Brinley Field as well as the plans for the playground, parking lot, and potential tennis/pickle ball courts at Fred Wolfe Park. It was noted that the original plans for \$75k had to be altered due to the wetland issues.
- Mr. Pisano advised that the current fields at Fred Wolfe Park are unsuitable for soccer due to incorrect measurements. He felt that the Parks and Recreation Department should have determined the correct size of the fields and tennis courts. He also mentioned that access to the property is possible by Hemlock Road and felt that this would be a good location for future soccer fields.
- Ms. Dede Lebov, 666 Broadview Road, spoke in regard to the location of the proposed playground. She felt that the selected location for the playground will place young children in a dangerous place with the parking lot and road so close. She also felt that the parking lot was too small to accommodate vehicles for the playground, fields, and tennis.
- Mr. Zeoli addressed numerous issues that were mentioned. He explained that professional contractors determined the size of the fields and tennis courts. He explained the need for a playground that can be open to the public, as the town currently does not have one available when school is in session. He also stated that it is ludicrous to believe that he would ever put children at risk or in a dangerous situation, noting that the playground will have proper fencing around it and will be setback 10 feet from the road. He also suggested that parents should supervise their young non-school children, as this is basic “parenting.”
- Lastly, Mr. Zeoli noted that the original intention was to move some of the soccer from Mary L. Tracy to Fred Wolfe Park, due to parking issues at the school. He noted, however, that Mr. Pisano appears not to be interested in using the current fields at Fred Wolfe. It was suggested that the Orange Soccer Association, which has a substantial amount of available funds, help to offset some of these costs at Fred Wolfe Park, just as the Orange Little League helps financially at the Old Tavern Sports Complex.

B. Grounds and Facilities – Steve Bospuda

- Mr. Bospuda indicated that the fields are now resting and the Parks Department continues to be busy.

C. Personnel – Jim O’Connor

- Mr. O’Connor indicated that there was nothing to report at this time.

D. Budget

- Chairman O’Connor suggested that a Commission member volunteer to review the budget each month. He noted that as it is the beginning of the fiscal year there is little to report.

E. Director’s Report

- Mr. Lynch reported that all summer programs concluded on August 13th. He thanks all of the staff, including Day Camp Director Stephanie Middleton, Traveling Teens Coordinator Mike O'Brien, Sue von Rabenstein, Lynn Plaskowitz, office staff, aquatics staff, camp counselors, maintenance and custodial staff, and parks staff for another successful summer. He added that with the absence of an Assistant Director, other staff members have been assuming greater responsibilities. He is very appreciative of their hard work.
- Mr. Lynch gave a brief update on the summer programs, noting that a more complete update will be presented at next month's meeting by Stephanie Middleton. The programs followed all the required safety protocols and COVID was a nonissue.
- Chairman O'Connor mentioned some of the work that has been successfully completed, including the new locker rooms, repairs on the HVAC system, and the new classroom wing.
- Mr. Lynch reported that the Chili Chili Run received automatic approval for 2022 New Year's Day and proceeds will go to the Amity Teen Center. He also mentioned that Ms. Novicki has 2022 Bicentennial Commemorative Bricks that may be purchased to be placed around the High Plains Community Center Gazebo. Lastly, Mr. Lynch noted that Fall programs will be offered online at the end of the week.

F. Addition of a Safety Fence at Fred Wolfe Park

- Ms. Kantor recommended that a topper be placed on the fence at Fred Wolfe Park to prevent children from climbing over it. Mr. O'Connor indicated that this could be in a recommendation to the fencing company.

Mr. Ronai made a motion to approve the installation of a 5-6 foot fence at Fred Wolfe Park to replace the temporary fence around the newly constructed field. Mr. Bospuda seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

6. Chairman's Report

- Chairman Lembo concluded the meeting by sharing his desire for continued transparency and open communication. He is pleased that everyone can work together for the betterment of the town of Orange.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m., seconded by Mr. Ronai. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary