



ORANGE TOWN
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Orange Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Town Hall Meeting Room– 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday March 23, 2022

Approved

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present: Chairman James O'Connor, Linda Kantor, Deborah Davis, Jack Pritchard, and William Nicoletti

Commissioners Absent: Stephen Bospuda, Dave Corris, Chuck Stackpole, and James Ronai

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

Guest: Tom Pisano, President of the Orange Soccer Association; First Selectman Zeoli

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and asked the Commission members to introduce themselves.

2. PUBLIC DIALOGUE

- Mr. Pisano, 523 Fairway Road, gave an update on the Orange Soccer Association, which was established in 1986. Over 350 children signed up for soccer this fall, and an equal number of participants is expected in spring. The average age of participants is five year old and younger.
- Mr. Pisano noted that Fred Wolfe Park is the ideal future venue to transfer the soccer games currently being held at the fields behind Mary L. Tracy School. However, he expressed strong concern regarding the lack of parking at Fred Wolfe Park. He added that the installation of the playground will only create added parking concerns and he does not want the soccer games to be negatively impacted. He is more importantly concerned about the safety of young children accessing the playground with the traffic of coinciding soccer games. Mr. Lynch reassured Mr. Pisano that scheduled soccer games would never be cancelled due to lack of parking.

- Ms. Kantor inquired about a shuttle service to reduce traffic and was advised that the special Playground Committee would be invited back to the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to discuss any concerns or questions that the Commission members may have.
- Ms. Leboy, 660 Broadview Road, spoke in regard to the location of the proposed playground. As a former educator, she indicated that the intended location for the playground is not suitable or safe. She recommended that the playground be relocated, adding that there is over eighteen acres of flat land in this same area that can be used. Mr. Pisano explained that this area is currently being leased by a single farmer for \$150 with a two-year lease to grow corn, but their lease expires in March 2023. He also mentioned that Little Peck Lane is a potential egress exit into Fred Wolfe Park. He indicated that he will be publishing an article seeking the public opinion of residents as to the best location for a playground that best meets the needs of the children.
- First Selectman Zeoli stated that additional parking is being planned for the playground in the rear of the playground so lack of parking is not a concern at this time. The playground location is where the proposed tennis courts were originally scheduled to go. Ms. Kantor again expressed her desire for bathroom facilities at this site.

2. **MINUTES –February 23, 2022**

*Mr. Pritchard made a motion to approve the February 23, 2022 minutes, seconded by Ms. Davis. All were in favor and the motion **PASSED**.*

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

- Mr. Lynch will review any old business in his Director’s Report.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Grounds and Facilities**

- There was nothing to report at this time.

C. **Personnel – Jim O’Connor**

- There was no report at this time.

D. **Budget**

- There were no questions on the budget at this time.

E. Director's Report

- Mr. Lynch reported that registration for spring programs, swim lessons, and Summer Day Camp will begin on Monday, April 4th for Orange residents. He noted that swim lessons fill up very quickly. Traveling Teens program signup is on April 18th. Permits for fields begin on April 1st.
- Mr. Lynch mentioned that seasonal maintenance and grounds crew staff will begin working on Monday, April 4th. There are three seasonal staff in addition to Chris and Bob.
- The modified Youth Basketball League is concluded and it was a great success. The full day ski trip to Berkshire Mountain East had thirty participants and went well. Men's Softball Leagues will begin again this year and is expected to start the first week in May. Registration for April Vacation Camp is ongoing and there is still room for signup participation. They can accommodate up to forty children.
- The Fitness Room remains open to residents Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. An Aquatics Report will be emailed to the Commission members after the meeting.

6. Chairman's Report

- There was no Chairman's Report at this time. Chairman O'Connor gave recognition to the volunteerism in the Town of Orange and stressed the importance of everyone working collectively for the common good of the Town.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Kantor moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m., seconded by Mr. Pritchard. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary

