



Michael B. O'Sullivan
TOWN CLERK

2021 APR 29 PM 3:49

ORANGE, CONN.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FROM RECORDS

Orange Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Zoom Meeting-- 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 28, 2021

(Unapproved)

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present: Chairman Joseph Lembo, Vice Chairman James O'Connor, Stephen Bspuda, Deborah Davis, Dave Corris, Chuck Stackpole, and Linda Kantor

Commissioners Absent: Jack Pritchard and James Ronai

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 7:47 p.m. and asked the Commission members to introduce themselves.

2. PUBLIC DIALOGUE

- There was no public dialogue at this time.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 24, 2021

- Chairman Lembo noted that he attempted to join the meeting from the onset but was not invited in until near the end of the meeting. The March minutes were noted to reflect that he was in the "waiting room."

Mr. Bspuda made a motion to approve the amended March 24, 2021 minutes, seconded by Ms. Kantor. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

4. OLD BUSINESS

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

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Grounds and Facilities – Steve Bspuda

- Mr. Bspuda advised that R & S Paving Company has been hired to repair the tennis courts at High Plains Community Center and to line them for pickleball. This work will begin the end of May or beginning of June. Mr. Bspuda also gave an update on Fred Wolfe Park. He reported that the soccer field has been extended by 75 feet and an outside company was hired to put down grass seed and aerate. In addition, test holes proved that the soil is good for a future bathhouse at this location.
- The Playground Committee has had two meetings to discuss Fred Wolfe Park as a possible location for a playground. There will also be a public meeting sometime in the future to get input from residents. A wire fence has been installed at the site to hang banners and block lacrosse balls from entering the parking lot. Lastly, the Town of Orange will be getting prices for possible tennis courts at this location.

B. Personnel – James O’Connor

- There was nothing to report at this time.

C. Budget

- Vice Chairman O’Connor asked the Commission members to take a few moments to review the budget. It was noted that with the COVID safeguards in place at the pool there were a few adjustments that were needed with increased staffing. This has affected some of the salary line items and transfers will be made to cover the overage. There were no questions at this time regarding the budget.

D. Orange Soccer Association Update-Tom Pisano, Director

- Mr. Pisano reviewed the COVID safeguard measures currently in place, noting that players can choose whether they want to wear a face mask or not. As the Orange population is growing, there are a large number of younger children eager to play soccer. He expressed some concern over potential traffic issues at Mary L. Tracy when there are soccer games, as there can be over 300 vehicles at any given time. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to use Fred Wolfe Park for some of these games. He also appreciated the spirit of volunteerism within the Town of Orange.

E. Director’s Report

- Mr. Lynch reported that the Fitness Room will open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., on May 3rd. Membership renewals will begin on July 1st.
- Mr. Lynch reported that Men’s Softball League will be held on Monday and Wednesday nights. He noted that Spring registration of land based programs began on March 22nd and both the Traveling Teens and Summer Day Camp are filling up quickly. The April Vacation

Camp was held the week of April 12th – 16th and there were 40 participants. Also, a drive in movie was held at the HPCC Fairgrounds on April 24th and 44 cars signed up.

- Mr. Lynch read the Aquatic Report in its entirety with the Commission members.
- The entrance/exit of Fred Wolfe Park was discussed in great detail. Mr. Pisano strongly recommended a comprehensive plan for development of this property with an entrance from Oakview Road. Mr. Lembo also strongly supported another entrance into the property. Both agreed that the development of this property needs to be well planned to avoid future mistakes. Hollow Lane, the only entrance into Fred Wolfe Park, was originally a cul-de-sac and now it has become a busy road. Mr. Pisano felt that residents will financially support the development of this property with donations for sake of the Youth Programs.
- Ms. Davis inquired if a snack bar is being considered at Fred Wolfe Park and Mr. Lynch felt that this was a viable suggestion that she should make at the Public Meeting.

6. Chairman's Report

- Chairman Lembo concluded the meeting by sharing his delight in seeing the Youth Team Sports begin again at Old Tavern Road Sports Complex.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Bspuda moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Mr. Stackpole. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary