



ORANGE, CONN  
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2023 JUL 28 AM 11:16  
M. Bespuda

## Orange Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Town Hall Meeting Room– 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday June 28, 2023

Approved

### ATTENDANCE

**Commissioners Present:** Chairman James O'Connor, Vice Chair Stephen Bspuda, William Nicoletti, Deborah Davis, Dan Zapatka, Chuck Stackpole, Jack Pritchard, and James Ronai

**Commissioners Absent:** Dave Corris

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

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. and asked the members to introduce themselves.

### 2. PUBLIC DIALOGUE

- There was no public dialogue at this time.

### 3. MINUTES – May 24, 2023

- Mr. Bspuda made one revision to the minutes.

*Mr. Bspuda made a motion to approve the revised May 24, 2023 Parks and Recreation minutes, seconded by Mr. Pritchard. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.*

### 4. OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Bspuda reported that there will be sufficient handicap parking spaces in the new parking lot at Fred Wolfe Park. The playground is fabulous and new residents have moved into the area and are excited about the playground. In addition, the trails at THP are well kept.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### B. Grounds and Facilities - Mr. Bspuda

- There was nothing to report at this time.

### C. Personnel

- Mr. Bspuda advised that all the summer help is doing well.

### C. Budget

- Mr. Lynch reported that they purchased a new mower at Knights, as their mower is over eight years old. The new mower was needed. There were some overexpanded line items and transfers have been made to cover these items.

### D. Director's Report

- Mr. Lynch reported that the Finance Department approved the 2024-2025 budget as presented. All the summer programs have begun, and Day Camp is full. Travelin Teens has some openings weeks 3,4,5, and 7. Weeks 1,2,6, and 8 are full.
- Mr. Lynch reported that the crew is extremely busy with mowing, trimming, cleanup work, and ball field maintenance. The concert and fireworks are scheduled for July 2, with the concert beginning at 6:30 p.m., followed by fireworks at 9:30 p.m. The rain date is July 9<sup>th</sup>. Both the front and back pavilions are booked almost every weekend.
- People are enjoying pickleball every day before and after camp is finished. The wind screens are on backorder and Mr. Lynch was asked to inquire about the liner for the nice rink. Disc golf continues to be very popular, and the groups and clubs maintain the property. Also, the trails at THP are well kept.
- Mr. Lynch reviewed the Aquatic Report, mentioning that there are two new programs being offered this summer: stroke clinic and a diving class for springboard diving participants. The pool will be closed on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> and the weekend of the carnival in August.

## 6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Mr. Bspuda spoke about the Fred Wolfe Park development. Currently, the traffic flow is being analyzed, with safety as a priority. There are high curbs and a wide access road, with double fencing for added safety. Grant money would be an avenue for possible future expansion for the property. Mr. Ronai reminded the Commission members that a resident suggested enlisting someone to help with grants. He suggested that the town consider hiring a "grant writer" to research available grants. Chairman O'Connor

mentioned that Public Works often has more access to grant money, and he suggested that Parks and Recreation collaborate with the Public Works Department.

- Mr. Lynch reported that organizations using town properties are required to provide updated insurance, Board membership, tax returns, bylaws, and in-kind service by July 5<sup>th</sup>. There have been no complaints with this request from the First Selectman.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

*Mr. Bspuda made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m., seconded by Mr. Pritchard. All were in favor and the motion **PASSED**.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deborah Satonick,  
Recording Secretary