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Orange Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Town Hall Meeting Room– 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

(Unapproved)

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present: Chairman Joseph Lembo, Stephen Bspuda, Dave Corris, Chuck Stackpole, James Ronai, and James O'Connor

Commissioners Absent: Linda Kantor

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

Guests: Mr. Bill McNeil, President of the Amity Girls Lacrosse

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Lembo called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. and asked the Parks and Recreation Commission members to introduce themselves. He reviewed the emergency exits and mentioned that Dan Lynch was not in attendance due to a death in the family.

2. PUBLIC DIALOGUE

- There was no public dialogue.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 19, 2018

Mr. Corris made a motion to approve the December nineteenth, 2018 Orange Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Mr. Bspuda seconded the motion and all were in favor, with Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Ronai abstaining. The motion PASSED.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Questions from the Previous Meeting

- Mr. Lynch was not in attendance to address previous questions from last month's meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Amity Girls Youth Lacrosse Update – Bill McNeil

- Mr. McNeil, Rolling Ridge Road, distributed a handout outlining some of the lacrosse programs currently being offered. He explained that the Amity Girls Lacrosse is a member of the Conny US Lacrosse Association. While everyone wants to play with their friends, Amity makes every attempt to conform to the established guidelines so that games are fair and balanced based on age categories.
- Mr. McNeil discussed last year's fundraisers with the specific goal of installing benches at Mary L. Tracy this spring. He also would like to install a higher fence to stop balls from going into the parking lot. The fence could then be used to advertise and bring in additional revenue. Advertisements could be removed at the end of the season. Chairman Lembo suggested that Mr. McNeil discuss these ideas with Dan Lynch. Mr. McNeil added that they paid \$2700 last year to lay out the fields at Mary L. Tracy. Lastly, Mr. McNeil reported that there is a mentoring program for older teenagers to earn money as referees for children two years younger than themselves.
- The fields at Mary L. Tracy are used exclusively for lacrosse, just as the fields at Old Tavern Road Complex are used for baseball/softball. Amity has a program called League Athletics that schedules the games automatically. Parents volunteer as coaches for the lacrosse teams.
- Mr. John Coughlin, President of the Amity Boys Youth Lacrosse, was unable to attend the Parks and Recreation meeting. In his absence, Mr. O'Connor gave a brief update. Practices are typically held at Pease Field. Mr. O'Connor mentioned that Amity hired a new Coach, A. J. Raccio, from Cheshire Academy. He stated that they have a few paid coaches, but most of the coaches are parent volunteers.

B. Grounds and Facilities – Steve Bspuda

- There has been some skating at Wright's Pond. Outside of this, there was nothing new to report at this time.
- Mr. Ronai expressed some concern that the parties using the fields at Old Tavern Road are not raking, laying tarps, and doing the routine maintenance after the games are over. The Parks and Recreation Commission members discussed the idea of installing security cameras in the hope of deterring this type of negligence.

C. Personnel – Jim O'Connor

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

D. Budget

- There were no issues or concerns at this time.

E. Director's Report – Scott Bendell

- Mr. Bendell highlighted some of the upcoming programs, including the Ski Bums program and the two Ski trips to Catamount and Butternut.
- The Orange Lions Club requested use of the Gazebo area and pavilion for the 2019 Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 13th, with a rain date of April 20th.
- The locker room renovations should begin the first week of March and take approximately four months to complete. For additional information, the Aquatic Report has been included in the Commissioners' packets.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Mr. Lembo advised that the Ad Hoc Capital Planning Committee will consider and prioritize all capital requests. There is an estimated amount of \$500k to use on Capital projects. The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to have the two tennis courts at High Plains Fairgrounds repaired. They have also requested a Sand Pro Machine and a trailer. The trailer, which costs approximately \$5k, will not go to Capital projects, as the money must be found within the budget.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ronai moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m., seconded by Mr. Stackpole. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary