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Michael S. O'Sullivan
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Orange Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Town Hall Meeting Room— 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Approved

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present: Chairman Joseph Lembo, Linda Kantor, James O'Connor, Dave Corris, and Chuck Stackpole

Commissioners Absent: Stephen Bspuda and James Ronai

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

Guests: First Selectman James Zeoli

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Lembo called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and asked the Parks and Recreation Commission members to introduce themselves.

2. PUBLIC DIALOGUE

- Mr. Zeoli spoke on Fred Wolfe Park. While the Town of Orange received the STEEP grant of \$300k to construct an additional entrance into the park, it has come to his attention that the planned location of the second entrance involves four bridged areas. As this entrance will be too costly to construct, it is no longer possible at this time.
- In light of this new development, Public Works has been working at Fred Wolfe Park to widen the current driveway closer to the existing stonewall. They will be cutting down trees to prevent any potential safety issues in exiting the park. Mr. Zeoli would also like to erect a stone monument as an identifier into the entrance of the park.
- Mr. Zeoli will contact the Office of Policy Management (OPM) to see if the \$300k can be used to erect a barrier free playground, which has accommodations for children of all physical abilities. He would like to have this public playground at High Plains Community Center, citing that the current nursery school playground is closed to the public for most of the day while school is in session.

- Chairman Lembo indicated that it has been the desire of the Parks and Recreation Commission to repair the two tennis courts at High Plains. Ms. Kantor also indicated that she would like the tennis courts relined for pickle ball as well. Mr. Zeoli suggested that the Commission look at the tennis courts in Woodbridge, as they are in very good condition.
- Mr. Zeoli is proud of the Town's great ball fields. He mentioned that the pool would be closed for several months while the locker rooms are being renovated. This pool closure is required for safety and liability issues. He suggested that the Parks and Recreation Department use this time to access any repairs or renovations to the pool area while it is closed for this extended period of time. It was suggested that the Aquatic Director, Ms. VonRabenstein, make a list of pool improvements.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 25, 2018

Mr. O'Connor made a motion to approve the April twenty-fifth, 2018 Orange Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Mr. Corris seconded the motion and all were in favor, with Ms. Kantor abstaining. The motion PASSED.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Questions from Previous Meeting

- Mr. Lynch advised that the Town would be seeking an intern from the University of Connecticut for next summer for the Parks and Recreation Department and Grounds Crew.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Grounds and Facilities

- As Mr. Bospuda is absent, Mr. Lynch gave a brief update. He noted that they have a full staff working on the ball fields, setting up for Town events such as the Boy Scouts, Relay for Life, and the upcoming Memorial Day Parade and The Food Truck Festival, as well as the upkeep of the Town grounds.
- The Peck Place Carnival was very successful and Mr. Ronai is absent from the Parks and Recreation meeting as he is volunteering at the Elementary School Olympics.

B. Personnel – James O'Connor

- There was nothing to report at this time.

B. Budget

- The Commission members reviewed the budget as it is the end of the fiscal year. There were no questions at this time.

C. Director's Report

- Mr. Lynch reported that Summer Camp registration is going well and there are still openings available for Day Camp. Weeks 2, 3, 4, and 5 of Travelin' Teens is filled to capacity, but the other weeks still have limited openings available.
- Mr. Lynch stated that Brinley and DeGennaro Fields have been opened for use and they are in great shape. The foul poles have been painted but need to be installed at DeGennaro Field. The Field Rules and Regulations for Usage have been distributed to all users of the fields, and field use compensation monies will be put into a revolving account, as is the pavilion rentals account. This money will not go into the Town's General Fund, but be used for field maintenance.
- The only food concession at Old Tavern Sports Complex is being handled by Orange Little League. Chairman Lembo would like to utilize volunteers rather than employ a food truck.
- Mr. Stackpole suggested that the Lighting Policy be resent as an addendum to all the users of the fields. He noted that the lights might have to remain on slightly longer for the cleanup maintenance after the games.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Chairman Lembo had no additional information at this time.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stackpole moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Corris. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary