



ORANGE, CONN
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2019 SEP 26 PM 3:00

Patrick B. O'Sullivan
TOWN CLERK

Orange Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Town Hall Meeting Room– 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

(Unapproved)

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present: Chairman Joseph Lembo, Stephen Bespuda, Chuck Stackpole, James Ronai, and Linda Kantor

Commissioners Absent: James O'Connor and Dave Corris

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

Guests: Scott Bendell, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Stephanie Middleton, Day Camp Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Lembo called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m., welcoming everyone. He asked the Parks and Recreation Commission members to introduce themselves.

2. PUBLIC DIALOGUE

- There was no public dialogue.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –August 28, 2019

Mr. Bespuda made a motion to approve the August twenty-eighth, 2019 Orange Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Mr. Ronai seconded the motion. All were in favor, with Mr. Stackpole abstaining. The motion PASSED.

- Chairman Lembo requested that the approval of the minutes be reconsidered to add a comment that the Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously approved the Boy Scout Conn Jam 2021, referring this matter to the Board of Selectmen for final approval. The revision was noted and comments were added to the August 28, 2019 minutes.

Mr. Bespuda made a motion to approve the amended August twenty-eight, 2019 Orange Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Mr. Ronai seconded the motion. All were in favor, with Mr. Stackpole abstaining. The motion PASSED.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Questions from the Previous Meeting

- Mr. Lynch reported that the Board of Selectmen approved the Boy Scout Conn Jam 2021 for May 14-16, 2021. Both the High Plains Fairgrounds and the building will be used during this event.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Summer Camp 2019 Report-Scott Bendell & Stephanie Middleton

- Mr. Bendell distributed the Summer Programs 2019 Report to every Commission member. He proceeded to recap some of the highlights of Summer Camp, noting that the overall enrollment was higher than last year. The Parks and Recreation Commission agreed that the Department offers a good product at a very reasonable price.
- With both the pool and the South Wing being closed for Summer Camp, numerous outside water activities were planned. Ms. Middleton explained that both art and nature were offered to campers on a mobile cart, and additional staff was hired to help with the outside water activities.
- The Commission discussed the problem of acquiring a nurse for Summer Camp. The pay scale is low for a summer nurse, which contributes to the problem. Mr. Ronai suggested a certified athletic trainer, but the distribution of medication is required. It was agreed that this problem should be discussed with the Finance Director. Ms. vonRabenstein covered this position for the first two weeks until a nurse could be retained.
- Ms. Middleton reported that there was little turnover as far as counselors. It was noted that the minimum wage will increase and this might reflect in the cost of next year's Summer Camp.
- Mr. O'Brien returned for his third summer as Coordinator of the Traveling Teens. Enrollment was low for two of the eight sessions, and Mr. Bendell feels that this is simply due to the demographics.
- Mr. Lynch concluded with thanking all of the staff involved in making for a very successful summer. He thanked the aquatic staff, the office staff, maintenance and parks staff, custodial staff, camp counselors, and Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Bendell and Ms. Middleton.

B. Grounds and Facilities – Steve Bspuda

- Mr. Bspuda reported that the Town is accepting bids for clearing of a portion of the land at Fred Wolfe Park. Mr. Lynch added that the Town will soon be entertaining bids for the repair of the two tennis courts at High Plains Community Center. The tennis courts will also be lined for pickleball. The tennis courts at Peck Place School will not be considered for repair as they cannot be used while school is in session.

- Ms. Kantor requested an update on the Fitness Room. Mr. Lynch advised that it is well used without any issues. They have not purchased any new machines at this time.

C. Personnel

- There was nothing new to report at this time.

D. Budget

- There were no questions or concerns regarding the budget at this time.

E. Director's Report

- Mr. Lynch again thanked everyone involved in their contribution to making for a very successful summer. Mr. Lynch mentioned that registration for Fall programs has begun and swim lessons are mostly full to capacity. The new locker rooms and South Wing are new and he is very pleased with the work that has been done. He added that the upcoming programs are updated on the website.
- Mr. Lynch noted that Amity, St. Joseph's and ARAC are back using the Town pool. Mr. Lynch highlighted some of the upcoming programs, including the FunTober at the High Plains Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 26th. He noted that the Orange Country Fair had great weather and good attendance. He concluded by noting that an Aquatic Report and Program Report were included in the Commissioners' packets.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Chairman Lembo had nothing to add at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ronai moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m., seconded by Ms. Kantor. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary