



Fred Wolfe Parke Ad Hoc Committee  
Meeting Room Town Hall  
January 19, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

*Mary Jane Whalen*  
TOWN CLERK

ORANGE, CONN.  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED FOR RECORDS  
2023 JAN 20 PM 3:10

## Minutes

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### ATTENDANCE

**Present:** John Carangelo, Jeanine Capecelatro, Kaury Kucera, Jim O'Connor, PJ Shanley & Ann Denny, Recording Secretary

1. **Swear in Committee Members**

Assistant Town Clerk Mary Jane Whalen swore in members of the committee before the meeting started.

2. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

John Carangelo called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Introductions**

Committee members present introduced themselves.

4. **Appoint a chairperson or chairpersons**

*PJ Shanley made a motion to appoint John Carangelo the chairperson, seconded by Jim O'Connor, the motion passed unanimously.* Mr. Carangelo reminded the committee that Roberts Rules of Order will be followed. There must be a quorum to have motions on agenda items.

a. **Public Comment**

*Kaury Kucera made a motion that public participation should be an agenda item at the beginning of each meeting, seconded by PJ Shanley, the motion passed unanimously.*

There was no public participation at this meeting.

b. **Discuss future agenda items**

Mr. Carangelo asked that agenda items be sent to him before the meetings so that an agenda can be filed 24 hours before the meeting. Agenda items can be added to an agenda with a motion if needed but it is preferred to have them ahead of time so that when an agenda is filed the public will know what is going to be discussed.

**c. Discuss monthly meeting dates and times**

Discussion ensued and at this time Thursdays at 5:30 work for the committee. The next meeting was set for Thursday February 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

**d. Use of emails for members**

Mr. Carangelo asked for the best contact email for members. Mr. Shanley asked if they could be given Town of Orange emails. Chris Kelly who works for the IT Department was present in the audience and he will check with IT Director Paul Mongillo to see if that is possible.

**5. Obtain existing plans for the park**

Copies of the 2013 Fred Wolfe Park Master Plan that was created by Fuss & O'Neill were distributed.

**6. Discuss Long Range future plans for the park**

Mr. Carangelo and Mr. Shanley had made the list that appeared on the agenda as items a thru m. The list included many topics that they had heard discussed in recent months. The list included: current status playground, safety plans for traffic, handicapped/senior parking/walkways, improved parking in general for soccer & lax, feasibility of utilizing the adjacent field for additional soccer / lax fields (neighbors concerns / street access), surveying new fields for use, bathrooms, additional uses...pickle ball / dog park / skating rink / basketball, exploring grants we can use, grass vs synthetic fields, walking / biking paths, lighting & scoreboards, and other suggestions.

Discussion ensued on these topics. Mr. Carangelo stated that the playground has been decided upon and paid for, the location has been mentioned but because the product has been delivered and paid for, he doesn't think there is anything to discuss. Future plans can include roadways, traffic, and other items mentioned above. Mr. Shanley wants everyone on the committee and the public to know that they can make suggestions at any time. Mr. O'Connor would like to know what the Army Corps answer was to using the access area at Pine Tree Drive and Peck Lane. Can it be done or was it just too expensive? Mr. O'Connor would like to see the data from Orange Soccer to see if we really need more fields, he definitely thinks there is a need for bathrooms, and the playground was supported by the Park & Rec Commission unanimously. Mr. Shanley feels we need to perfect what we have before we expand the park. Ms. Kucera would like to know what the playground commitment is because the committee shouldn't talk about it if they can't change anything. She would also like to know if the committee has a time constraint is it 1 year? 5years? Mr. O'Connor explained he was part of the plans done in 2013 and it was proposed in phases because of budget constraints. They knew there wouldn't be money to develop the park all at once. He suggested maybe there should be a Capital Bond. All avenues need to be explored. He also stated that Park & Rec takes care of all Town properties including town buildings, schools, and recreation fields so expansion will increase this and that should be taken into consideration. Ms. Kucera agrees that the soccer fields are maintained very well, and this should be considered if there is expansion. Mr. Shanley would like to see the soccer fields at MLT moved to FWP. Ms. Kucera asked how the numbers are in the program and would like to see that information. Mr. O'Connor thinks a multi-use synthetic field could be very useful. It was agreed by all that there are certain constraints that have to be figured out; time constraints, traffic flow and roads, playground, and the cornfield license. What can be put around the park and how do we pay for it? It was suggested that the group walk the property together. Ms. Kucera stated she has experience with grants and would be willing to spearhead that for the committee. She feels it is also important

that we work with the neighbors from the beginning. Mr. O'Connor said every abutting neighbor would be noticed to make sure they were aware of plans for the park. The committee would like to know the authority that the committee has and find out what they can and can not do. Mr. Carangelo will reach out to the First Selectman and the Town Attorney to find that out. Mr. Carangelo feels a consultant will need to be hired to guide them in this process. Mr. Shanley would like to know how much of the 2013 Master Plan has been done. Mr. O'Connor did not think anything was done. Lacrosse donated money for the field that was put in and the Town helped to get that finished. Mr. Carangelo reminded everyone the next meeting is in one month but please communicate any thoughts in between.

7. **Adjournment**

*PJ Shanley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m., Jim O'Connor seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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*Ann Denny*, Recording Secretary