



ORANGE, CONN
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2023 MAR 24 PM 10:58

Orange Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Town Hall Meeting Room– 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday March 22, 2023

(Unapproved)

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present: Chairman James O'Connor, William Nicoletti, Deborah Davis, and Stephen Bespuda

Commissioners Absent: Chuck Stackpole, Jack Pritchard, Dan Zapatka, and James Ronai

Staff: Chris Small, Maintenance Supervisor; Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

Guests: Stefan Gildea, Vice President of the Amity Youth Lacrosse

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. and asked the members to introduce themselves. He noted that Mr. Lynch is out of town and would not be in attendance, but Mr. Small will stand in his absence.

2. PUBLIC DIALOGUE

- Mr. Gildea spoke at length about the Amity Youth lacrosse program. Currently, there are 140 players in the league, with 26 beginners. He also spoke on his concerns about Fred Wolfe Park. While he appreciates the use of the fields, but he would like equal field time with the girls' lacrosse program. Mr. Gildea indicated that there is no storage shed for the nets, and they are being used by others and not being properly maintained. He also expressed some concern regarding field maintenance, noting that certain areas need topsoil, and the grass is transitioning to clover.
- Chairman O'Connor responded to Mr. Gildea's concerns and stated that he is working with the First Selectman to resolve some of these issues. The Commission would like to get the organizations using the Town fields to contribute "in-like kind." These organizations will also be asked to provide a copy of their financial tax returns to the Town. Chairman O'Connor stated that the Town mows all the fields, provide irrigation to the fields, and lines the fields, and the organizations using them should likewise help with their upkeep. Mr. Gildea is willing to help financially but would like equitably shared time with the Girls' lacrosse. Mr. Small

noted that there is an unused field at Fred Wolfe Park, and it might be available for Amity Youth lacrosse. It was suggested that Mr. Gildea contact Mr. Lynch when he returns to work.

3. MINUTES –December 21, 2022

- The approval of the minutes will be tabled until next month due to lack of a quorum.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business at this time.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Grounds and Facilities – Steve Bspuda

- Mr. Small and Mr. Bspuda both spoke on the grounds. The playground and new parking lot are underway at Fred Wolfe Park. There will be a fence around the entire playground. All of the fields need to rest, but Mr. Small reported that this is difficult as the sports continue late into the season. Lastly, Mr. Small stated that the seasonal workers will be returning soon.

B. Personnel

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

C. Budget

- The Commission members reviewed the Budget Report and there were no questions at this time.

D. Director's Report

- Mr. Small reported that RecDesk will be the new online registration available for residents this spring. Registration for spring programs, swim lessons, and Summer Camp will begin on Monday, April third, for Orange residents. The April Vacation Camp will be held Monday, April 10th through Friday, April 14th and it is full. The Fitness Room is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Lastly, Men's Softball Leagues will start the first week in May. The Aquatic Report has been included in the Commissioners' packets.

6. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary