



Orange Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Town Hall Meeting Room– 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday May 25, 2022

(Unapproved)

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present: Chairman James O’Connor, Deborah Davis, James Ronai, William Nicoletti, and Stephen Bspuda

Commissioners Absent: Linda Kantor, Jack Pritchard, Dave Corris, and Chuck Stackpole

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman O’Connor called the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m. and asked the Commission members to introduce themselves. He reviewed the emergency exits on behalf of those present.

2. PUBLIC DIALOGUE

- Mr. Pisano, 523 Fairway Road, expressed his deepest sympathy over the tragedy that occurred in Texas. He hopes that our town and country rally together during crisis times such as these.
- Ms. Rita Summer, 321 Hollow Road, requested that the town consider not using the cannons for the corn this summer. She indicated that the noise is very intrusive. Mr. Bspuda explained that the cannons are used to deter birds from eating the sweet corn. However, it is the State of Connecticut that gives out these permits, not the Town of Orange. This matter must be addressed on a State level. Ms. Summer also indicated that several soccer moms have expressed concerns about the money being spent on the playground at Fred Wolfe Park.

3. MINUTES –April 27, 2022

- Mr. Bspuda made corrections to the April 27th Parks and Recreation minutes.

Mr. Bospuda made a motion to approve the amended April 27, 2022 minutes, seconded by Ms. Davis. All were in favor, with Mr. Ronai abstaining. The motion PASSED.

- Mr. Ronai expressed some concern over a possible conflict of interest between Mr. Bospuda and some of the issues surrounding the abutting land around Fred Wolfe Park. He felt that this might be putting Mr. Bospuda in an awkward or uncomfortable situation. Chairman O'Connor praised Mr. Bospuda as a valuable member of the Commission, having a vast knowledge of information regarding the land use within the Town of Orange. It was suggested that residents look at the public maps available at Town Hall to clear up any misinformation regarding the abutting properties of the Fred Wolfe Park area. This is public information to everyone. Mr. Bospuda added that he is more than willing to clear up misinformation. He added that he rents town land at only two locations: Tyler City and Lambert Road.
- Chairman O'Connor reiterated that the First Selectman created a Playground Subcommittee to develop the plans for the proposed playground at Fred Wolfe Park. These plans are out of the scope of the Parks and Recreation Commission and any questions or concerns should be directed to either the First Selectman or the Playground Subcommittee.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Lynch indicated that he is looking into the purchase of wind screens for the tennis courts. The tennis program ran five consecutive weeks and was very successful. Lastly, the department will not be purchasing lightweight aluminum bleachers at this time.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Grounds and Facilities

- Mr. Bospuda asked Mr. Lynch to discuss the problem at OT2 Field. Mr. Lynch explained that Little League inadvertently purchased bad clay for the field and the problem is being corrected. On June 1st a new machine will scrap off the top six inches of clay, rescreen the clay, and respread it. Games are being rerouted to other fields in the interim.
- Mr. Bospuda gave statistics of the traffic flow pattern at Fred Wolfe Park at a variety of dates and times. There has never been a parking issue. Wood chips are being removed to create additional parking spaces, and curbing is being installed. In addition, a new parking area is being created for the playground.

B. Personnel – Jim O'Connor

- The crew has been very busy with mowing at the schools and in preparation for Memorial Day and the bicentennial celebrations. Chairman O'Connor indicated that most schools in other districts have grounds maintenance in their own budgets. The Town's expenses are increased with personnel, time, equipment, and insurance to maintain school properties.

He is hopeful that the superintendent of schools will keep the schools open for basketball during the summer as a courtesy for the work that the Town continues to do on their behalf.

C. Budget

- The 2022-2023 budget was approved with no reductions. The Capital Project Committee has approved a new gym floor and matts will be installed on the walls after the new floor has been completed. Also, the Sandpro with groomer has been approved for funding but because it is on backorder, they will not receive it until next year.

D. Director's Report

- Mr. Lynch reported that spring programs are running very well. Summer Camp registrations are steady, with sessions 1-4 full to capacity. Traveling Teens are full with some openings in weeks 1, 3, and 7. A Programs Report and an Aquatics Report have been included in the Commissioners' packets.

6. Chairman's Report

- Chairman O'Connor advised that the Amity High School Booster Club has restarted and will be held on June 5th, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Nicoletti moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m., seconded by Mr. Ronai. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary