



## Orange Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Town Hall Meeting Room– 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday September 28, 2022

Approved

### ATTENDANCE

**Commissioners Present:** Chairman James O'Connor, Deborah Davis, William Nicoletti, Linda Kantor, Jack Pritchard, Dave Corris, and Stephen Bspuda

**Commissioners Absent:** James Ronai and Chuck Stackpole

**Staff:** Dan Lynch, Director of Parks and Recreation

**Guests:** Stephanie Middleton, Summer Camp Director

ORANGE, CONN.  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED FOR RECORDS  
2022 OCT 30 AM 10:53  
M. Nicoletti  
TOWN CLERK

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and asked the Commission members to introduce themselves. He reviewed the emergency exits on behalf of those present.

### 2. PUBLIC DIALOGUE

- There was no public dialogue at this time.

### 3. MINUTES –May 25, 2022

*Mr. Bspuda made a motion to approve the May 25, 2022 minutes, seconded by Mr. Prichard. All were in favor, with Mr. Corris abstaining. The motion PASSED.*

---

### 4. OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Lynch will cover everything under the Director's Report.

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Summer Day Camp Update – Stephanie Middleton
-

- Ms. Middleton reported that the camp was full to capacity with waitlists. They had field trips and it was very successful. Mr. Pritchard inquired if she needed any supplies for next year and Ms. Middleton expressed a need for employees. Mr. Lynch reported that Traveling Teens had two low attendance weeks but overall it went well. Mr. Lynch commended Ms. Middleton for a great job. He also thanked the Aquatic Director, the Director of Traveling Teens, and the office staff for working together to make it a great summer.

## **B. Old Business**

### **B. Grounds and Facilities – Steve Bspuda**

- Mr. Bspuda reported that the curbing is in at Fred Wolfe Park and it looks good. The playground might not be in by winter due to possible delays with shipment. Ms. Davis inquired as to the configuration of the playground and was advised that she can pick up a copy of the playground equipment at Parks and Recreation. All the members agreed that a playground is a needed addition to the town as the school playgrounds are closed to the public during school hours.
- Mr. Bspuda reported that the parks are being used and the grass is aerated and green. There are no parking issues at Fred Wolfe Park. The lights at Old Tavern were on at 7:30 p.m. and Mr. Lynch advised that they should be off no later than 7:45 p.m. He will speak with the coaches about the lights and remind them about the lighting curfew.
- Ms. Kantor expressed her concern regarding concussions and Chairman O'Connor advised that teams are being proactive and both coaches and referees are trained on dealing with possible concussions. Mr. Corris concurred with this opinion as well.

### **C. Budget**

- Mr. Lynch advised that proposed Capital requests must be submitted before Thanksgiving. He is appreciative that the tennis courts are in and he is thinking about redoing the basketball courts. He will report back next month to the Commission members after he speaks with Mr. Small and Ms. VonRabenstein.

### **D. Director's Report**

- Mr. Lynch reported that the Orange Community Nursery School and the Parks and Recreation Department split the cost of new playground mulch at the High Plains Community playground. It was much needed to comply with state requirements.
- The Chili -Chili Race has been preapproved for next year and all the proceeds will go to the Amity Teen Center.
- Registration for the fall programs and swim lessons began on September 12<sup>th</sup> for town residents. Youth basketball is back and the Amity Middle School gym and High Plains

gym will be available. Registration for town residents begins on October 17<sup>th</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup> for nonresidents. The Parks crew is still mowing and trimming but will move into leaf removal as the season progresses.

- Mr. Lynch noted that an Aquatic Report was included in the Commissioners' packets. He highlighted some main points from the June-September Programs Report. Mr. Lynch noted that Covid guidelines brought about some positive changes within the camp structure. Today there are five outside tent areas for participants to have lunch. In addition, the outdoor bathrooms are now being used for campers to change, protecting the new locker rooms. Day camp was full to capacity at 113 campers each session.
- Mr. Lynch presented good enrollment numbers for Traveling Teens and noted that Men's Softball concluded the end of August. The Fitness Room has expanded its hours from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mr. Lynch commended all of the volunteers at the Orange Country Fair. The Funtober event is scheduled for Saturday, October 22, with a rain date of October 23, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Mr. Lynch noted that the screens for the tennis courts and the liner for the ice rink will be ordered. He also mentioned that on October 3<sup>rd</sup> the High Plains gym floor is being redone. It should take 2-3 weeks for completion. Mr. Nicoletti inquired about scuba diving lessons being offered in the pool and Mr. Lynch indicated that there is no program available at this time. However, he would speak with Ms. VonRabenstein about this.

## **6. Chairman's Report**

- Chairman O'Connor mentioned taking a recess over the summer, from June to August, and resume Commission meetings in September. Mr. Lynch is extremely busy with summer camp and it has been difficult in the past to get a quorum. The Commission members agreed that this is an excellent suggestion. Mr. Lynch will confer with the First Selectman about this three month recess.
- Chairman O'Connor also wanted to discuss Phase Six of Fred Wolfe Park. He received correspondence from Mr. Pisano who could not be present at this meeting. Chairman O'Connor requested a motion to add this discussion to the Agenda.

***Mr. Bspuda made a motion to add "Discussion of Phase Six of Fred Wolfe Park" to their Agenda, seconded by Mr. Corris. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.***

- Chairman O'Connor began the discussion by noting that the Parks and Recreation Commission has never discussed Phase Six soccer fields on the leased farm land. It was the general consensus that they are not in a position to recommend anything without proper funding and the department has no control over town leased properties. The playground was funded with a STEEP grant that was awarded to the Town of Orange, not to the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Bspuda noted that there are ample soccer fields at Fred Wolfe Park that are not being fully utilized at this time. He also felt that

there is a higher priority for permanent bathrooms at Fred Wolfe Park. Ms. Kantor would also like to see concession stands in the future.

*Mr. Bspuda made a motion to deny Phase Six of Fred Wolfe Park regarding making soccer fields from the leased farm land. Mr. Nicoletti seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

**7. Adjournment**

*Mr. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Corris. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.*

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Deborah Satonick,  
Recording Secretary