

**OAKLAND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FOR JANUARY
Monday, March 29, 2021**

The regular monthly meeting of the Oakland Recreation Commission was called to order at 8:02 PM by Chairman Guadagnino, via remote Zoom Meeting (89196833249) under the public sunshine laws. Commissioners Guadagnino, Saliani, Bleeker, Logatto, Scalabrini, Coira, LaTerra, Hagerman and Councilman Van Eck were present. Commissioner Walker was absent.

Prior to opening to public session, Chairman Guadagnino reviewed procedures to speak during open sessions via zoom.

Chair's Report: There was an incident at a basketball game involving parents sending their children who were supposed to be quarantined to the game. Bergen County Department of Health was notified of the situation. They wanted to shut down the entire basketball program as well as potentially the school. We worked with the county and board of education to try and temporarily shut down the program and resume it safely following the county guidelines. We closed games that Saturday and tried to bring programs back on Sunday except for 7th & 8th grades who had potential positive cases. The county wanted to quarantine anyone who was in attendance in the gym that day and shut down the schools but Commissioner Saliani worked very hard with them and the board of education to find solutions to avoid that. Chairman Guadagnino clarified the current guidelines as the commission had previously been running under the CDC guidelines which differ from Bergen County. As per the Borough, the commission must adjust to follow Bergen County quarantine guidelines. Following this, the commission made a formal request of the town council to put in the request to Bergen County to change to the CDC guidelines. Until this time, we must follow the quarantine guidelines that the town has chosen to follow as we are a borough department. We need everyone to work with us and follow them as well.

Open Session- A motion to open to the public was made by Commissioner Saliani and seconded by Commissioner Scalabrini. The motioned passed unanimously.

Ken DeGennaro (121 Manito Ave.)- Stated he assists with the winter special needs programs. Asked if it was possible to enforce all participants to be vaccinated prior to fall season in order to return. Chairman Guadagnino stated that it was not allowed to require individuals to be vaccinated and that it went against their civil rights. Mr. DeGenarro followed asking if it was possible to strongly recommend and Chairman Guadagnino said it was not possible.

Steve Catalano (15 Commanche Trail)- had a question regarding close contacts, and wanted to know what happened to the 15 minutes without a mask as qualification for a close contact. He stated that he noticed it is considered that anyone in the room has to quarantine. Chairman Guadagnino stated that he understands and agrees and that they went to the county and asked for more leniency. He also restated that the commission has requested from the Borough Council

that they make an adjustment to these rules on a town level. Until that time comes, they must follow county guidelines.

A motion to close the open session was made by Commissioner Saliani and seconded by Commissioner La Terra. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of previous months minutes- Chair Guadagnino asked for approval of the Monthly Meeting minutes from February 2021. Commissioner Saliani made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Commissioner Logatto. The motion passed unanimously.

The following reports were made and unanimously accepted.

BASEBALL – Comm. Saliani – At this time there is a pause on baseball for the next 72 hours. We are assessing the situation with some COVID positive cases and have shut down teams. Working with travel coaches to figure out how to move forward with it. For recreation, everything is running well. Looking to start April 12th. Travel is postponed until we get a handle on the quarantines with the players. Fields are basically prepped. Jimmy said April 5th but most likely end of this week. Wanted to reiterate that the baseball season is not cancelled, just postponed.

BASKETBALL – Comm. Laterra – Situations with quarantining due to the some positive cases. Everyone is understanding that we are doing our best to offer a fun time. Season is coming to a close. Looking to possibly push the last few games to the week of the 12th to finish the season. Overall the program ran pretty well. Looking forward to next season. Looking to build outdoor courts at Great Oak Park. We have raised some money and will continue to look into raising additional funds.

FOOTBALL – Comm. Hagerman – Football registration starts Wednesday April 31st and go until June. Season is set to begin Sept. 11th. After June 11th there will be a \$30 late fee. Our goal is to have a full season.

GOLF – Comm. Bleeker – Reached out to Kevin from TGA. There are 12 currently signed up for the season. Going to run as normal.

ROLLER HOCKEY – Comm. Bleeker – Just wrapped up the season. Had a great season. No issues. Our lower level we had to cancel the year end tournament due too many parents and maintaining COVID guidelines. It would have been impossible to keep distancing. Midget level made to the finals but did not win. Junior team won their championships. Senior team played the 1st place team but lost 2 to 1. The teams did great. Overall being outdoors really helped and was a successful season. Issue with the rink. A few lights are out because the lacrosse balls are hitting and knocking out the lights. The net isn't thick enough to stop a ball.

SOCCER – Comm. Saliani – Registration starting May 1st.

SOFTBALL – Comm. Logatto – Our rec teams have been selected. The numbers are really up this year. Over 160 which is the best we've seen in 5 years. Season starts on April 12 and will go to June 12. Coach clinic will be May 5th for 3rd through 8th graders. May 8 is picture day. June 5th is scheduled for the parade. Travel try outs start next week. Travel teams assembled by end of next week.

SPECIAL NEEDS – Comm. Scalabrini – Plan is to try to start a football and basketball next year.

TENNIS – Comm. Scalabrini – Rec tennis registration is available online right now. Team tennis will start end of May. Pickleball program planned and unsure the start date due to someone damaging a court over the winter with a snow blower.

WRESTLING – Comm. Logatto – Talked to Wrestling Director Bobby and it was hard for the guys to not have a season this year but this group was praised for their understanding. They knew that it was a too close of contact program. They feel they made a good decision.

CHEERLEADING – Comm. LaTerra – Registration is open. Welcoming the K and 1st grade again. Working on getting stunt coaches in for all grades. Having a cheer camp this August.

LACROSSE – Comm. Coira – The pre k through 3rd grade starts April 10th. 52 kids are registered. Going to have a couple registered coaches' help out. Question for Mike Bleeker. The high school wanted to know if they could use the rink this Thursday. Mike said yes, but it's looking like rain.

SUMMER CAMP – Chair Guadagnino- Day camp registration begins in April. Unsure about open camp yet because unsure what kind of trips they can do this year. Trips or programs will need to be scaled back due to unable to use busses. The program will be better than last year.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS - Chair Guadagnino- No Report.

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS – Comm. Laterra – 6 cheerleaders are registered for cheer camp. Spring break program is still on. Registration is going to be reopened. There are full and half day options. It is planned to be all outdoors. Running sports and cheer camp this summer.

MOUNTAIN BIKE – Comm. Hagerman – No report

VOLLEYBALL – Comm. Coira – Volleyball registration begins Thursday and will run through May. Planning to start June 1st and 3rd and will run outside. Program will be opened to boys as well. Will be co-ed and while all ages will be together, the coaches due usually split by age within the program. Sign up for 8 or 16 sessions. Runs through July. Nets came in today. Location is not yet determined.

CAPITAL PROJECTS –

Field Day / Sod project – Commissioners Saliani, had quotes to send to Rich so he can prepare something to go out to bid.

Tennis court- Still gathering funds to resurface the courts. Looking to raise more money as the cost has doubled from previous estimate. Currently have a grant for \$33k and \$11k from the damages with the snow blower. Up to 44k and need about 100k. If we can get the other 30k donation then then we'd be up to 74k. At that point we might put it out for bid again.

COMMITTEE REPORT – No report

COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION – No report

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – Commissioner Logatto- Asked when will we hear from the mayor and council on the 7-10 vs the 7 to 14 day quarantine guideline decision. Chairman Guadagno clarified the question and what Commissioner Logatto was referring to. He stated that the town decided to follow the county guidelines but recreation would prefer to use the CDC guidelines. He followed asking Councilman Van Eck share what has been done to date. Councilman Van Eck shared that he drafted a letter to the county asking to change this and the county responded no. The commission has been advocating to switch this. At the next meeting it will be discussed by mayor and council and the councilman will propose a motion to follow the CDC guidelines on quarantine rather than the county guidelines. The two other towns in our flow area have broken from the county guidelines and we'd like to go in that direction as well. Councilman Van Eck suggested that residents should reach out to the council members to give their opinion.

Commissioner Logatto wanted to reiterate that softball is following the county until told otherwise. Also just because a school is learning remotely, as long as you're not in quarantine, they can participate in recreation. But if they have been identified to quarantine, they have to quarantine.

LIAISON REPORT- Councilman Van Eck- Would like to recognize the championship roller hockey teams virtually at the council meeting. Will discuss with commissioner to set this up.

OPEN SESSION- A motion to open for open session was made by Commissioner Saliani and seconded by Commissioner La terra

Vivian King (113 Hiawatha Blvd.) had a question about lacrosse. She stated that in the Franklin Lakes program, 3rd graders play games and was looking for clarification that the Oakland program is just a clinic and not playing games. Commissioner Coira said that the coaches wanted to add the 3rd grade to the program and the program was advertised as a clinic. Ms. King stated

that Franklin Lakes offers a competitive program for 3rd graders and wants to know that parents understand that it is a non-competitive clinic and are not expecting a clinic with. Chairman Guadagnino stated that Franklin Lakes had registration in November this year long before our registration and Commissioner Coira stated ours is advertised at 1 day a week for a couple hours. Ms. King asked if we plan to continue to add grades each year. Chairman Guadagnino stated it has yet to be determined. He followed saying that if anyone has an issue, have them reach out to Commissioner Coira to discuss.

A motion to close the open session was made by Commissioner Saliani and seconded by Commissioner Bleeker. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Saliani and seconded by Commissioner La Terra. The motion passed unanimously.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION WILL BE HELD via Zoom on April 26th AT 8:00PM.