

**OAKLAND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015**

The regular monthly meeting of the Oakland Recreation Commission was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Chairman Guadagnino, with the Flag Salute, at the Danny D'Elia Recreation Center under the public sunshine laws. Commissioners Logatto, Scalabrini, Malmud, King and Perneti were present. Rec Secretary, Chrissy and Councilwoman Sandra Coira were also present.

Motion to excuse Comm. Haas and Comm. Saliani from the meeting was made by Comm. Logatto, seconded by Comm. Malmud and passed.

The meeting was opened to the public upon motion made by Comm. Malmud seconded by Comm. Logatto and passed.

There was no public business at this time.

The meeting was closed to the public upon motion made by Comm. Malmud and seconded by Comm. King and passed.

A motion to approve the Rec Reorg Minutes from the February 3, 2015 meeting was made by Comm. Logatto, seconded by Comm. Perneti and passed.

A motion to approve the Rec Minutes from the February 3, 2015 meeting was made by Comm. Malmud, seconded by Comm. King and passed.

The following reports were made and upon proper motion unanimously accepted:

**BASEBALL** – Comm. Saliani – Sign-ups are complete.

**BASKETBALL** – Comm. Scalabrini – Rec has had some referee issues but they have been resolved. Some kids have been getting hurt in the 3-4<sup>th</sup> grade level due to playing to aggressively. The refs are now calling every foul and discussing rules with the teams before each game. Playoffs are starting. Travel season is winding down. 7<sup>th</sup> grade clinched 1<sup>st</sup> place. Playoffs will be starting soon.

**FOOTBALL** – Comm. Perneti – No report.

**GOLF** – Chairman Haas – Just received and reviewing flyer. Clinic will be held on April 30th, May 7<sup>th</sup> and 14th.

**ROLLER HOCKEY** – Comm. Haas – All is going well – going to the playoffs.

**SOCCER** – Comm. Saliani – No report.

**SOFTBALL** – Comm. Logatto – Registrations are complete. Numbers are same as last year. Rec starts April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**SPECIAL NEEDS** – Comm. King – No report.

**TENNIS** – Comm. Scalabrini – First session will start April 15<sup>th</sup>; second session will start May 27<sup>th</sup>. Need Delia for March 24<sup>th</sup> for sign-ups.

**WRESTLING** – Comm. Guadagnino – Team won 5 golds, 7 silver, 5 bronze, 12 going to Regionals and 10 are going to States.

**CHEERLEADING** – Comm. Perneti – No report.

**LACROSSE** – Comm. King – Heard from Jason and was told they found a new vendor who is a local guy. Not having much luck finding coaches. The problem they have is that practices are 3 times a week and there a lot of teams. There are just not enough parents that know enough about the sport.

**SUMMER CAMP** – Comm. Malmud – No report.

**KINDERGARTEN CORE** - Comm. Saliani – No report.

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS** – Chairman Guadagnino – Getting a new floor in the shed for the small conference room. Chairman Guadagnino met with Dave Javier, Boswell engineer Jim Fordham and the DPW last week. They discussed the “fracturing of the fields” process that was presented at the last Rec meeting. They want to fracture field 1. No one was crazy about the idea. Jim Fordham of Boswell Engineering said it’s a waste to do it on field 1. We are going to pick an area on field 9 out in the grass and see if that helps with drainage. If it works, we will see what happens and possibly try it on field 1. The engineer didn’t think it was going to change the drainage but was willing to give it a shot as there is no cost for doing so.

**SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS** – Chairman Malmud – Switched dates for boys and girls camp run by Joe Leicht. Boys will be July 6-10 and girls will be July 13-17<sup>th</sup>. Flyers for all the camps are getting ready to go out.

**MOUNTAIN BIKE** – Chairman Guadagnino – No report.

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Complex Lights – Poles and lights are up. Wiring is all that needs to be run. They can work while the ground is frozen. They are on schedule. No one permitted on complex until the inspectors say it is safe.

Walking path – Supposed to break ground on March 15<sup>th</sup> depending on the weather.

New trees – Getting 15 new trees in the complex in the fall.

VMS Scoreboard – Just gave Chrissy a P.O. We are partnering with the Board of Ed. They will pay for the installation.

**COMMITTEE REPORT** – Comm. King added in to the By-Laws what was discussed in the previous meeting regarding the Rec Secretary. A motion to approve the new bylaws was made by Comm. Perneti, seconded by Comm. Malmud and approved.

**COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSION** – No report.

**OLD BUSINESS** –

As previously discussed, Chairman Guadagnino did some research concerning what issues people find with recreation and what we can do to fix these problems to make recreation even better. After speaking with a lot of people and have some trusted people ask around these are all the issue that people felt needed addressing:

Unequal time between the girls and boys programs.

“Cheerleaders are slighted over the boys when it comes to fundraising”. Football costs more to play than football so whatever is raised by each sport is how it is allocated. Cheerleading does not raise as much money as the football program does. Fundraising participation with cheerleading is dreadful and yet they often want a bigger slice of the pie. The Beefsteak fundraiser that is held for football and cheerleading usually has one table for cheer and the rest for football. The two sports get allocated that which they bring in.

“Girls’ softball does not have as many games or practice times as the boys”. According to Comm. Logatto that is not true. We are a rec concerned commission that focuses more on rec than travel. We start our season April 1, games are May 1. Between May 1 and June 1 we do not have any travel practices or games. Travel practices on Sundays but they don’t interfere with the rec between May 1 and June 10<sup>th</sup>. Then the travel program begins which starts June 15 to July 31. Boys baseball program practices and plays on any patch of grass they can find, all spring and summer. It appears that the boys have more going on than the girls but in reality there are more boys teams, and they practice and play an intense schedule.. We are hoping that the fields will not be rented out as much so that the softball program will be able to use for more practice time. Another problem is that when fields are unplayable I shut them down. Last year baseball would see an unused softball field (because I shut it down) they jump on it with trucks, shovels and dry-all. When we came back a few hours later to inspect the field I thought was being dried, it would be an out-right disaster because of the abuse it took hours earlier, leaving the girls to play on field that was all chewed up.. Also softball is 200 players as opposed to baseball being 500.

“Communication”

We need to get information out to people through the website in a more effective way. Game schedules need to be put up and updated. All commissioners should use the websites and make sure they are as up to date as possible. Chairman Guadagnino said he would get right on this as he agrees this is a problem.

“Commissioners don’t take complaints seriously”.

We try to address each complaint as they come up. All people need to do is follow the chain of command as outlined on the website, then nothing would be ignored. The Recreation Commission cannot address something they do not know is going on.

“The entire Recreation program is basically 40% travel baseball and 60% everything else”

Travel baseball holds tryouts in the fall, interfering with football and soccer; they practice all winter interfering with basketball. Some travel baseball parents have asked their travel basketball coaches to not play games or practices so their kids could go to indoor winter travel baseball practices. It is interfering with all other sports regardless of the time of year. The consensus amongst recreation parents, including many whose kids play travel baseball is that all year round travel baseball is getting out of control. The in-season sport should take precedence. Baseball needs to have more regard for the schedules of the sports that are in season. Travel should consider not playing in the spring league so that more kids play in the rec program. Or the recreation commission could say that rec is required if they want to play for travel. The commission felt they would leave this up to Commissioner Saliani to tackle first.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Chairman Guadagnino talked with Lorenzo Baratta about an array of ideas. Recreation Softball needs to get paperwork if they wish to use IHHS field. Wrestling lost the tournament this year so if we give him a date he will book it.

## **RECREATION AID REPORT**

Chrissy – Spoke with Anna King about the Dogwood baseball field. They are trying to put a draining project in motion which may interfere with our T-ball schedule which runs from April to June. The project would run March through June. Chrissy will call tomorrow and get more specific details on when and exactly where the project is going to take place. The one possibility we have is possibly using the Manito field but it would need a lot of work to get it up and running.

If all requisitions could be put in as soon as possible it would be helpful. It is taking approximately 2 weeks to get approval of requisitions before placing orders.

## **LIASON REPORT**

Councilwoman Sandra Coira – No report.

The meeting was opened to the public upon motion made by Comm. Malamud, seconded by Comm. King and passed.

There was no public business at this time.

The meeting was closed to the public upon motion made by Comm. King seconded by Comm. Scalabrini and passed.

No further business pending and upon motion made by Comm. Pernetti, seconded by Comm. Logatto and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Cheryl Logatto

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION  
WILL BE ON MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015 AT 8:00 PM**