

**OAKLAND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FOR JANUARY  
Monday, February 1, 2021**

The regular monthly meeting of the Oakland Recreation Commission was called to order at 8:05 PM by Chairman Guadagnino, via remote Zoom Meeting under the public sunshine laws. Commissioners Guadagnino, Hagerman, Lattera, Saliani, Scalabrini, Logatto, Coira, Walker and Bleeker and Councilman Van Eck were present. Commissioners Walker and Scalabrini were absent.

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

**Chair's Report:**

We were approached by a couple of residents who would like to see field turf placed on field 8, they said they could raise some of the money for it. The commission has discussed this in the past and rejected the idea for the following reasons:

1. Not safe for ankles and knees, and drastically increases the rate of torn ACL injuries, especially in females. If we were to put down a million-dollar field the girls would have the right to use the field just as much as the boys.
2. There are significant studies that reveal field turf releases carcinogens, heavy metals and petroleum toxins. It is not the safest surface for anyone to use, but would be very unsafe to have our 400 summer campers at the complex for 6 weeks in July and August while this stuff is baking in the hot sun releasing these chemicals. It may not be a problem of the toxin release during the last two months of football season, but the field is used 8 months of the year and especially during the summer months. It would also not be fair to the families living on Butternut to be subjected to breathing in these toxins all summer long every summer. There are plenty of studies on this, I ask those skeptical to Google it.
3. Future costs. We may be able to raise the funds for a field for initial installation, but who is going to pay to replace this field every 10-15 years? This would be an unfair burden to place on future generations as they would need to replace the field. Additionally the field would need to be conditioned regularly as organic substances to not breakdown on turf the way they do on grass.

We all understand there are issues with the field for football season. We were beginning to address this last year just before covid hit and stopped us. Later in the meeting we will discuss what we can do.

Commissioner Saliani added that turf is not ideal for baseball and that he does not support converting the field to turf.

Commissioner Logatto added that the rec complex is a beautiful natural surface complex and should not be tampered with.

Commissioner Coira added that as a former softball player the actions of the ball off the field turf is not true and she does not support converting the field to turf.

Chairman Guadagnino reiterated that he agrees there is a major issue with the field for football season, and we are scheduled to address that later in the meeting.

**Open Session-** Motion made to open to Public by Comm. Hagerman and seconded by Comm. Laterra. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to close the open session was made by Comm. Hagerman and seconded by Comm Laterra

### **Sports Reports** – Chair Guadagnino

**By-Law Committee:** Commissioner’s Hagerman, Bleeker and Laterra led by Comm Laterra

**Finance:** Commissioner’s Scalabrini, Walker and Laterra led by Comm Neil

**Policy:** Commissioner’s Scalabrini, Hagerman and Coira led by Comm Coira

**Conduct:** Commissioner’s Coira, Logatto and Saliani led by Comm Logatto

Motion to approve the committees was made by Comm Hagerman and seconded by Comm Laterra.

**The following reports were made and unanimously accepted.**

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Sports</u>
<b><i>Mike Guadagnino</i></b> <b><i>Chair</i></b>	Building and Grounds Summer Camp
<b><i>Steve Saliani</i></b>	Soccer Baseball
<b><i>Dan Logatto</i></b>	Softball Wrestling Adult sports
<b><i>Bob Scalabrini</i></b>	Special Needs Tennis
<b><i>Danielle Walker</i></b>	Rec Summer Sports
<b><i>Sandra Coira</i></b>	Lacrosse Volleyball

**Brian Hagerman**

Football  
Mountain Bike

**Jennifer Laterra**

Cheerleading  
Basketball

**Michael Bleeker**

Roller Hockey  
Golf

Chair Guadagnino - motion to approve December minutes minutes, Comm Hagerman seconded by Comm Laterra

**The following reports were made and unanimously accepted.**

**BASEBALL** – Comm. Saliani – 150 signed up for rec baseball. We’re expecting about 350. Looking for the practices to start right after Easter break. Travel all set up and teams are formed. We have new uniforms-blue shirts and grey pants. Travel starts second week of April. Still planning to have the tournament the weekend before the carnival. Comm Logatto asked what is the situation of the carnival-Chair Guadagnino responded it’s fathers’ day weekend

**BASKETBALL** – Comm. Laterra – travel started games for a while now. Games are away in Mahwah, Wyckoff and going well. All rec boys teams playing however girls teams 5/6 and 7/8 were canceled, not enough girls to make the teams. First rec game is this Saturday.

**FOOTBALL** – Comm. Hagerman – beginning to select coaches over the next couple weeks. Need to address the field. It’s Been an issue brought up by other families so I feel it’s time to address it. A lot of different variables if we get sod but we need to discuss it sooner than later.

Mike stated Steve is working on obtaining costs. Recommended Steve put together a meeting with Anthony and Jimmy, Mike and Dan. Mike is meeting with David the CFO to discuss how much money we have to do this.

Comm Hagerman stated the mud build up can get bad for playing.

Chair Guadagnino said we are going to address this. Unfortunately, we began looking into this right before Covid hit. We know it’s a problem and want to take care of it.

**GOLF** – Comm. Laterra – spring golf set up for Thursdays from 4-5pm beginning April 15<sup>th</sup> thru May 20<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$125 per player. Fall golf is also set up for Thursdays 4-5pm beginning Sept 16<sup>th</sup> thru Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$107 per player. Details are on the website, all run thru TGA sports. Kevin Rooney run this. Comm Laterra will provide Kevin Rooneys contact information.

**ROLLER HOCKEY** – Comm. Bleeker – we are mid-season and today was our first delay as far as the rink being cleared off and ready for games. We're doing a short season and we're halfway thru. Tremendous amount of late sign ups. We have two junior teams but not quite enough for two midget teams therefore doing a rolling roster. So far not too many issues.

Chair Guadagnino said he hasn't received any complaints and asked if Comm Bleeker was in touch with Jimmy? He has talked to him regarding the penalty doors not shutting completely.

**SOCCER** – Comm. Saliani – no report

**SOFTBALL** – Comm. Logatto – online signups currently going on. Extending sign up date. Season start on or about first wk in April thru Wednesday of the carnival week. Travel tryouts posted once all rec teams are formed because you have to play rec to play travel. Basically put the parade on the calendar and play it by ear.

**SPECIAL NEEDS** – Comm. Scalabrini – no report

**TENNIS** – Comm. Scalabrini – no report

Mike G – once the snow melts, I spoke with Jimmy about the out of town snowplowing incident who scuffed up the courts. I spoke with the JIF (joint insurance fund person), we'll take a look at the courts once the snow melts.

**WRESTLING** – Comm. Logatto – I spoke with Bobby Sherrow. They're ready to put this season on ice. There is no issue with this. Parents are not crazy about the contact. Going to be consideration for a summer program. These guys will revisit this  
Chair Guadagnino asked if the mats are ok.

**CHEERLEADING** – Comm. LaTerra – not really a report but I want to share that I'm researching stunt coaches for this upcoming season for every level.

**LACROSSE** – Comm. Coira – we extended the little guys to pre k thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We're starting a skills clinic for 1 hour from 11am-12pm from April 10<sup>th</sup> - May 15<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$130 per player.

Couldn't get enough players for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls. Franklin Lakes canceled their season but Wyckoff is allowing our kids to sign up there. They would have to get their refund from Franklin Lakes and register again thru Wyckoff. Highschool program is supposed to start this Thursday but may get delayed another week if the rink isn't ready.

Chair Guadagnino verified there were 4 teams playing.

Mike Bleeker – verified he has the timing changed for the lights on the rink and now stay on until 10:30pm. The nets are there and DPW is going to plow a better path to store the nets.

**SUMMER CAMP** – Chair Guadagnino- still playing and moving forward with this program for six weeks. Accepting applications for counselors. The applications are found at the borough hall and on line.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS** - Chair Guadagnino- I am working with the SOA to hold a Hall of Fame event. If we can't get the Senior Center in June we hold it outside in the fields. If we can't have the parade on June 6, then we can use that date otherwise we'll pick another night and coordinate with baseball and softball.  
Fields are closed because of snow. Recreation path is not plowed at this time of year as per the agreement we made with the town back when we built the path

**SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS** –Comm. Laterra – spring break camp April 5<sup>th</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup>. Hat day is 9-12 \$145 all day 9am – 3pm sign ups on line. Spring cheer is Mondays April 19<sup>th</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup>, K-2 is 4-5pm is.....3<sup>rd</sup> grade thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade is 5-6pm. Cost is \$110 per cheerleader. Summer cheer camps is in August, grades 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>, Monday thru Friday Aug 9<sup>th</sup> thru 13<sup>th</sup>, \$6-8pm \$150 per cheerleader. The multi sports camp are at the end of Rec camp, Monday thru Friday Aug 16<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup> and Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> thru 27<sup>th</sup>. Half days is \$112 9am-12pm, Full day 9am-3pm \$210.

**MOUNTAIN BIKE** – Comm. Hagerman – no report

**VOLLEYBALL** –Comm. Coira – not holding indoor volleyball this year. Trying to set up something for outdoors. Goal is to run May thru June, 4:30-5:30 time frame to avoid any lighting issues. Chair Guadagnino asked how many days a week this program will run. Comm Coira said two days a week normally Tuesday and Thursday. Comm Logatto encouraged her to let the girls know they can play both Softball and Volleyball.

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS** –

**D'Elia sign**- Chair Guadagnino

**Informational sign**- sign is in. Comm Logatto and I will meet with Jimmy to pick a spot.

**Field day / Sod project** – we know this is an issue. As stated earlier, put together a meeting with Anthony, Jimmy to get this done. We know the mud is an issue that needs to be addressed.

**COMMITTEE REPORT** – no report

**COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION** – no report

**OLD BUSINESS – none**

**NEW BUSINESS – Chairman Guadagnino**

1. Comm. Scaliani – the Oakland Communications Commission (OCC) Ryan looking for volunteers. My feedback to Ryan was we can send the communications division to post the sign ups for us and there weren't any volunteers interested.

Chair Guadagnino asked- verified that everyone sends their sign up flyers to Rosa. He will ask Rosa to now send the flyers to Michael Carelli. Then Michael can forward to Ryan for the OCC. Ryan Schwertfeger...Michael should have remote access so he can post slides to the Oakland TV bulletin board.

Comm Laterra – is it possible on our website to add the Rutgers Safety Course link, the finger print and concussion course. Comm Saliani said there is a link for the coaches to access all this information.

Comm Laterra asked if we can send reminders to all coaches to get their finger prints again when they expire but Comm Saliani said there is no proactive way to remind the coaches.

2. Comm Saliani – effective January 15<sup>th</sup>, we've added in two checkmarks before registering
- a. Covid policy
  - b. Code of conduct

**LIAISON REPORT**-Councilman Grant Van Eck. Happy to be re-appointed again and look forward to working with all of you.

**OPEN SESSION**- motion to open by Comm Saliani and seconded by Comm Scalabrini  
Ryan Schwertfeger

1. Dog park –Chair Guadagnino verified purchase orders submitted thru Rosa
2. Dog park sign ups – town has to approve these. We decided to sign up thru community pass the same way we do the tennis badges. Ryan should worked with Chair Guadagnino and Rosa
3. Remote Access for Rec
  - a. Borough putting in a fiber loop. I was told by the borough admin the work will be completed in the spring. We want to put cameras on the senior center and rec fields with the idea of being able to record rec games and broadcast rec games live or play later. We are in the very early stages
  - b. Is this something the rec is interested in?

Chair Guadagnino we would be interested but need to ensure the cameras are off when not being used as this may be a violation of people's civil rights. Would like a camera in the Delia building. Ryan asked which fields? We'll wait on that decision until the OCC moves along.

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

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION WILL BE HELD via Zoom on February 22<sup>nd</sup> AT 8:00PM.**