

**OAKLAND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FOR OCTOBER  
Monday, February 26, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Oakland Recreation Commission was called to order at 8:00PM by Chairman Guadagnino, at the Danny D'Elia under the public sunshine laws.

**Attendance:**

Present: Chairman Guadagnino, Commissioners - Rotondo, Logatto, Roy, Wall, Scalabrini

Absent: Catalano, Ives, Bleeker

A motion to excuse Commissioners Catalano, Ives, Bleeker for being absent was made by Commissioner Rotondo and seconded by Commissioner Wall. The motion passed unanimously.

**Chair's Report:** Chairman Guadagnino – Final meeting of Rec Commission. Next meeting, we will be a committee. Reason for this is we will now have access to all our money collected. It was explained at the last council meeting. We will have our own trust fund.

**Open Session-** A motion to open to the public was made by Commissioner Wall and seconded by Commissioner Rotondo. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Folkert – SAO – Just a couple of points – requests process for check requests and in case your prospective treasurer have questions as well about the process be that commissioner approves requests. Commissioner must be aware of all requests and treasurer cannot get the approval from them afterward. Electronic signatures, they made one exception, but they want paper copies. They get too many emails in the inbox, and it is easier to track things with paper. They write checks on a monthly basis roughly around the time of their meetings the first week of the month. There are exceptions if something is needed sooner. Jim also has check writing authority.

Katrina Larsen – Paper requests – put in the mailbox. It's hard to search through emails when they have to file everything. They put all info into three different folders that way in the future when everything needs to be passed down to the next person it's all there. Things were missed last year and the folders were lighter. They need paper trails, so things don't get skipped. They don't want it scanned and printed. They want paper copy in the mailbox. Deposit slips sent in electronic. Also, paper has a physical signature from the commissioner vs someone putting on a scripted name and commissioner doesn't see it for weeks.

Chairman Guadagnino stated that if anyone knows any younger parents, they could use one or two more people that want to get involved on the fundraising group. Parents think they are going to have to run bake sales and such but they don't they are meeting to coordinate the movement of money.

Katrina - There is a lot of disconnect between public understanding of what is the Rec Commission and what it the SAO. Parents think the two are one and the same. She joined because she didn't know the difference at first. Suggests parents with questions just get involved and come to a meeting.

Brian Morello – 26 Hickory Drive – representing Oakland Team Tennis, celebrating 50-year anniversary this year. Asking about the resurfacing of the courts. It's been a couple years that they keep hearing it will get done then the season starts and they don't get done. Couple months away from season starting and they are trying to get an answer if they courts will be done or not. Courts starting

to become a safety issue. There are some big cracks at a number of the courts and some bubbling and they are concerned as the courts get worse.

Chairman Guadagnino stated we are on the same side. We have pushing for this for two years. We completed our side of the work two years ago. We were told to tell everyone that it is a priority. That is all we know.

Steve Saliani – (standing in for Russell Talamini) declared as of 4pm today he has new info. Borough Administrator, Rich Kunze committed to having the contract awarded in March.

Chairman Guadagnino stated as you can see, we have no involvement in this at all. If this information was available at 4pm, why didn't anyone contact him, Bob or the commission? Especially since he shared a few emails today with governing body members. It is the town's project. All we were told by the Mayor is "It is a priority".

Steve Saliani stated what he is passing on as a message is that the bid will be awarded in March. There is no time yet when work will begin.

Brian Morello – Please keep in mind that the season starts on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Wants to know how to find out more or track the progress.

Bob Scalabrini – how do they pass on it is a safety issue with the courts having bubbles etc.

Steve Saliani – that was not conveyed in any of the previous conversations he will bring it up to the mayor.

Patrick Retzer, Co-Chairs for Team Tennis - they have roughly 180 adults that participate in team tennis. They bring in rough \$9000 in tennis badges. We have an elder population and are concerned about injuries and the courts are a hazard.

Chairman Guadagnino stated he is absolute right and we have been trying to get this done for two years. We are on your side and trying to get this done.

Comm. Wall stated that Chairman Guadagnino brings it up at every meeting.

Comm. Scalabrini stated that he spoke to the mayor Kumala and it is a priority and he wants to get it done before team tennis starts.

Commissioner Logatto asked if it was even possible to get it done before the start of the season.

Brian Morello stated it is possible to get done before the season starts. Typically, a tennis court curing from start to finish from when they start crack fill pouring about three weeks.

Chairman Guadagnino stated it depends on how long it takes to get the bid. Asked Councilman Saliani how long the bid is going out for. Councilman Saliani stated he was not sure based on past experience about two to three weeks.

Chairman Guadagnino stated it will depend on the weather as well but it can be done.

Patrick Retzer stated the reason they are here is so they can plan, if they are going to do it, they can't delay their season and may have to go somewhere else for a couple of weeks. It's tough to plan.

Comm. Logatto asked if they could take it farther themselves.

Chairman Guadagnino stated they could go to a council meeting but they don't have to answer the questions. In mayor's defense he did say he wants to get it done before the start of the season. Mike suggests speaking with Councilman Saliani as he seemed to have more information than the commission.

Brian Morello said they will go to a council meeting anyway to voice their concerns. They want it to be on record. The more they say it, hopefully it will make a difference.

Brian Morello stated that a few years ago they had someone donate like \$5000 that is going toward this.

Chairman Guadagnino stated we have a grant and money from insurance from a person who showed up with a snow blower and ruined the court and we have a trust we haven't touched waiting. This will be taken care of.

Robert Varcadipane, 31 Minnehaha Blvd – wrestling season is over for his son. Last year people left and the program needed to be picked up like a jigsaw puzzle and commission Wall did a great job. Got new coaches, got the kids new mats. Practices were safer for the invitational. He has been in the program for three years, and with so many bumps in the road this year, Austin did a great job, "killed it". He didn't notice anything, everything went as smoothly as the last three years he was in the program. Comm. Wall did a phenomenal job and hit it out of the park.

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

**Approval of previous months minutes-** A motion to approve the Re-Organization minutes was made by Commissioner Logatto and seconded by Commissioner Rotondo. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the January 2024 minutes was made by Commissioner Wall and seconded by Commissioner Roy. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**BASEBALL** – Commissioner Catalano – Absent – no report

**BASKETBALL** – Commissioner Ives (absent but sent report) – Basketball is going well. Rec Basketball will wrap up in early March. Travel basketball playoffs will begin in early - mid March. We are hoping to have some teams make nice runs in their leagues.

**FOOTBALL** – Commissioner Catalano – Absent – no Report

**GOLF** – Commissioner Bleeker (absent – coaching, sent in report) – Sign-ups are open. Flyers going out this week.

**ROLLER HOCKEY** – Commissioner Bleeker (absent sent report) – 11U and 14 divisions starting tonight.

**SOCCER** – Commissioner Rotondo – They got a grant and they can get “Foundations of Soccer 2.” Not sure how many people but can basically get coaches some training for free next year. Comm. Rotondo applied for the grant. They did the level 1 last year. Jim Folkert, SAO, found out soccer got the grant because he had to file paperwork for it.

**SOFTBALL** – Commissioner Logatto – Signups are going well. We are above average in numbers. There are more girls playing softball now than there ever were.

Chairman Guadagnino stated the programs are exploding.

Comm. Logatto stated they are already at the numbers they were at last year and still have several weeks to go. Season will start around the first week of April 8<sup>th</sup>. Travel tryouts will begin the last week of April. Dates have been posted online by Rec. Aide, Kilpatrick. Coach Leight’s clinic will be Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>, Parade is Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>. Uniforms – Sent Lindsey Smith at the Chamber of Commerce an email. He is a little concerned.

Chairman Guadagnino suggested Rec Aide Kilpatrick be the point person for Lindsey.

Comm. Logatto asked where uniforms are being purchased and Chairman Guadagnino said from the guy in town. (New Jersey Fire Wear, LLC). Do We know how many are being purchased. Chairman Guadagnino will give Lindsey’s email to Rec Aide Kilpatrick for follow up. So we can get all the info together and give it to her.

Comm. Logatto stated that whoever doesn’t get covered by the uniforms, we have to purchase extras through the budget. Chairman Guadagnino stated he thought she was pretty close to covering them all. Keep him in the loop.

Rec Aide Kilpatrick asked if we still needed three quotes but Chairman Guadagnino said no because the Chamber is buying them for us but we may have to for the extras if we need to buy them.

**SPECIAL NEEDS** – Commissioner Scalabrini – SN Basketball going well. There is about two weeks left of the season. We have about 18 kids and the program will finish up the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in March.

**TENNIS** – Commissioner Scalabrini – Rec Tennis sign ups are open. They will play from the beginning of April until the beginning of June on Monday nights.

**WRESTLING** – Commissioner Wall – wrapped up regular season over the weekend. Had 18 kids place at districts, 8 kids place at regionals, his son was one of them. Overall, it was a really successful season. We finished up 4 and 1 as a dual team. One loss was to Wayne but we didn’t have a full team that night and fell short. We faced them in the dual championships and we beat them in a really exciting match that came down to the last match. Kids did a great job. Can’t say enough about the board that they put together. Harout, Jess, Lisa did a fantastic job behind the scenes putting things together. The treasurer Harout wore multiple hats, very organized with expense reports, everything

was digitized so we can present everything when ever or if we need to and the parents were really great. There are whispers of a change at the high school with coaching. Not privy to it 100%

Chairman Guadagnino asked how the team did. Comm. Wall stated he thought they had a rough or maybe no change and things stayed status quo. We leaned on them in term of coaching this year and that may change depending on who comes in. Current coach has been there for a while and they may have started getting negative feedback he thinks. They are trying to revamp their sports programs. Rec wrestling has almost doubled their numbers since last year. Chairman Guadagnino stated he blew up the budget in terms of number of kids who registered. Comm. Wall stated they didn't have anyone quit and for wrestling retention is huge. It could always be better and always things they can improve. The numbers help build the sport and make the team better leading to better competition. Was a successful season.

Chairman Guadagnino stated he didn't receive any complaints from the high school this year. The mats, from the previous workout location, he called Anthony and needs to call him back. Comm. Wall stated he has a prospective buyer for the mats. Chairman Guadagnino stated we can keep them where they are for the time and just move them out to whoever is going to buy them. Borough Admin. Kunze told Chairman Guadagnino to get possession of the mats and he would help facilitate the sale. Comm. Wall stated they were already wrapped up and on pallets. Just need someone to pick them up. Chairman Guadagnino asked how many there were and Comm. Wall stated about 8 rolls already in the warehouse.

**CHEERLEADING** –Commissioner Roy – They have one more competition coming up. Girls are powering through. It's a good test to see what they want to do next year. She is doing prep work for the fall. She will launch signups same time as Football. Around April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Rec Aide Kilpatrick asked they let her know so she can set them up. Comm. Rotondo stated she will do her soccer at the same time as well.

**LACROSSE** – Commissioner Ives (absent sent report)– Boys and girls' programs are set with Franklin Lakes. We are still looking for a few more 5th-8th grade girls to round out our teams, but they have decent numbers already. Looking forward to a fun spring season.

**SUMMER CAMP** – Chairman Guadagnino – Interview process is going on with the counselors and the registrations will be April for Open camp and May for Day Camp.

**PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS** - Chairman Guadagnino – Fields are closed until Jimmy from DPW opens them. We can't have people going on and reeking the fields.

Comm. Logatto stated they were not renting any baseball or softball fields in the main complex this season until all the work is done and cured. Need to keep off the fields during this time.

**SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS** – Commissioner Logatto – Neil Malmud who helps with that is in Hawaii. Rec Aide Kilpatrick that only Julie Halejian's girls basketball camp is out. The rest all camp back and are registering through us. Baseball and coach Hill are back held here, Boys basketball doing two weeks this year, coach Leicht is back, Volleyball is back. Football is out. They are going to do something on their own at the high school and Julie may be back next year but she will let us know.

**MOUNTAIN BIKE** – Commissioner Rotondo– Wants to do something in the spring. Not sure yet.

**VOLLEYBALL** –Commissioner Roy – Promoted, sign-ups are open. A little slow now. Comm. Logatto asked where it will be held. Comm Roy stated older kids will be at IHHS and younger kids will be a Dogwood.

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS –**

**Tennis Court** – Resurfacing discussed earlier.

**Shed roof damage:** Chairman Guadagnino asked is anyone had been in the shed. Contractor has had a PO for a month but hasn't started. We will find out about that. We have a list of equipment that was destroyed. Borough Admin. Kunze has a list that he will try to get covered by insurance because a tree fell through the roof.

**Field Upgrades Phase Two-** Chairman Guadagnino meeting March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am. We are going to get the three softball fields done soon. Easy to do, we will do some of the back stops, cages and get a cost to do field 8. We have money put aside and have all grants. Comm. Logatto stated we will do fields 2, 3 and 6 batting cages by field 8 and then do field 8 after that.

Comm. Rotondo asked about Barnstable Academy. Comm. Logatto stated we gave them field 1 and this shouldn't affect them. Comm. Rotondo thought they get a couple fields but she will look. The deal was made before we knew we were going to redo the fields. Men's Oakland softball, Strikers and Team Tennis is the only exception for the rental of the fields. They were grandfathered in.

**Truman Field:** Phase two – Chairman Guadagnino stated that the phase two lights was not going to happen this year.

**Playgrounds:** Chairman Guadagnino had a very good meeting with Vlad. They will apply for a grant. They met with engineer, DPW, and will get the playground completely revamped next summer.

**Bandshell – Electricity** – Comm. Logatto asked if it was running. Chairman Guadagnino stated that the contracting is done and they just need to connect it to the pole. Comm. Logatto ask when the grand opening was. Chairman Guadagnino stated it was supposed to be June 1<sup>st</sup> but that date doesn't work. Comm. Logatto, asked him if he wants to have June 8<sup>th</sup> for that and we can move the parade to June 1<sup>st</sup>. Some of the older groups that want to have their travel season started. The season will go to about June 15<sup>th</sup>. They will discuss with events committee and meet about the date. There are only so many police to spread around. Chairman Guadagnino stated

**COMMITTEE REPORT** – None

**COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION** – None

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**Current Budget** –

**RECREATION REPORT** – Rec Aide Kilpatrick - Tennis badges coming in any day. We haven't officially started to sell them but people have started calling to buy badges. Chairman Guadagnino asked about the dog park badges. R.A. Kilpatrick said dog park we have 9 or 10 people registered. Chairman Guadagnino stated that was about \$90 and we need about \$1500 each year to cover the porta potty and care of the grounds.

**LIAISON REPORT-** Councilman Saliani for Russell Talamini – Bandshell once it's connected it can be inspected and be ready.

**OPEN SESSION-** A public open session was motioned by Commissioner Logatto, seconded by Commissioner Rotondo and passed unanimously.

Seeing no additional members of the public wanting to speak, a motion to close the open session was made by Commissioner Logatto, seconded by Commissioner Roy and passed unanimously.

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

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION WILL BE HELD on March 25, 2024, Regular Meeting at 8:00PM.**