

OAKLAND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 21, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Oakland Recreation Commission was called to order at 8:00 PM by Chairman Guadagnino, via remote Zoom Meeting (846 5227 6325) under the public sunshine laws. Commissioners Guadagnino, Laterra, Logatto, Saliani, Scalabrini, Coira and Hagerman were present. Commissioners Walker and King were absent. Councilman Van Eck was present.

Chair's Report: Following a conversation with Commissioner Walker, Commissioner Laterra has volunteered to assist with Cheer for this season. Commissioner Walker was uncomfortable running a program this season.

Please note that there are a lot of outstanding fees. We need to get on top of parents to have them pay their back payment of dues and the fees for current or upcoming programs. We are currently in the red for the first time in 10 years due to these outstanding fees.

Commissioner Saliani shared that there is a way to put a stop on accounts from allowing parents to register for additional sports until past due is paid.

Commissioner Hagerman asked a question about regarding setting up accounts for scholarships to reflect the scholarship rather than a past due payment? Commissioner Hagerman also asked whether the rules could be updated to require people to pay before they are considered registered?

Chairman Guadagnino stated in regards to scholarships, please document and send to the chair via email about the scholarships. In regards to allowing registrations with non-payment, Chairman Guadagnino stated that due to Covid, we had allowed people to register for programs in advance and hold off on payment to get an idea of who would participate with those who continued with the program required to pay. Additionally, the system allows for a cash or check payment option which would allow individuals to register and require payment to be sent in the mail/dropped off. Due to these situations, we are seeing the issues with numbers.

Commissioner Saliani shared that we can pull reports for only those who have paid to make it easier to identify who is truly registered.

Chairman Guadagnino also shared that we have had 1 case of COVID in summer camp and no others in other programs. Things are going very well.

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

Open Session- Motion made to open to Public by Commissioner Saliani and seconded by Commissioner Logatto. The motion passed unanimously

As no members of the public wished to speak, a motion to close open session was made by Commissioner Saliani and seconded by Commissioner Logatto. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes from July's regular meeting on July 27th was made by Commissioner Saliani and seconded by Commissioner Hagerman. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Guadagnino stated that he received a message prior to the meeting from Commissioner King that she had comments regarding the executive session minutes from July. Following a brief discussion, a motion to approve executive minutes was made by Commissioner Saliani and seconded by Commissioner Coira. The motion passed unanimously.

The following reports were made and unanimously accepted.

BASEBALL – Comm. Saliani – Five teams went to the finals for the summer season in our travel program and four went to championships. Due to Covid, we will be holding travel try outs in October and we will be working with Commissioner Hagerman for scheduling. We don't believe we will be able to indoor tryouts this year due to Covid so would like to get them finished in October. Dates to register for tryouts are September 21- October 5th.

BASKETBALL – Comm. Walker- No report. Chairman Guadagnino stated that he was unsure if we would be able to have a basketball season this year.

FOOTBALL – Comm. Hagerman – This Saturday is the first scrimmage against Riverdale. Unfortunately, we don't have enough players signed up for a B team for Jrs. and Srs. this year. We have 35 Pee Wees and 14 in Mighty Rights so our younger programs are strong and growing. The Jrs. and Srs. are working very hard with only an A team on each side. Our first game is in 2 weeks away at Fair Lawn. Our first home game is 10/10 and that will be our Pink Out, Breast Cancer awareness game. We are keeping advertisement for this game light in order to keep spectators low due to Covid. Our 10/17 home game will be our Sr. Night. The participants received their uniforms tonight.

Commissioner Walker has received a question from parents regarding football and relayed this to Commissioner Hagerman. She asked if those who are on a football team this year who would normally be on a B team, will they receive playing time? Commissioner Hagerman that it is ultimately up to the coaches. It is about safety of the players and unfortunately, due to the low numbers, we were not able to form a B team so those players may not be fit for an A game at the senior level. The coaches have to take this into account for the safety of those players. The coaches have been asked to rotate the players and try to give everyone playing time. He also stated that the league has eliminated kick off and kickoff return so those kids will not have the opportunity for those special teams.

Chairman Guadagnino recommended pulling the parents aside of those players who may not be up to A level, and communicate with them that we will try our best to get them playing time but ultimately, safety is the priority of the players and that they may have limited time. Be transparent with the families.

GOLF – Comm. Laterra – Numbers are low. It may be due to COVID. Marketed on Oakland Moms and all the Oakland Pages. Currently 3 registered and hoping to get a few additional.

ROLLER HOCKEY – Comm. King- Roller Hockey registration opened on 9/15 and runs until 11/15. I have not heard any information from the RH Association as far as whether or not we will even have a season. I have checked with Wyckoff and they have not heard anything either. Wyckoff may again send their Senior level players to us since they will not have enough kids to field a team. They are also looking into whether or not they will need to send their Midget level players to us as well. If there is a season it will once again begin around Thanksgiving. I will be making masks mandatory for ALL coaches and ALL referees. All players will be required to wear masks/gators until they begin playing or practicing. Just as in the ice hockey rinks, the gators seem to work out best as the kids can just push them down when they get on the rink, then flip them back up when practice or the game ends. There will be no handshake lines after games, everyone **MUST** bring their own water bottle which must be labeled with the players name. No sharing of water at all. Parents who do not wear masks when attending practice will be asked to leave the area.

SOCCER – Comm. Saliani – Starting games next week. About 20% down from last year with registrations. No high school division this year. Had to pull out of our normal North West Bergen League and create our own league in order to run programs for the older teams. The league was too restrictive.

SOFTBALL – Comm. Logatto- One team playing in the fall. It is a combo 12-14u coached by Neil Malmud.

SPECIAL NEEDS – Comm. Scalabrini- No report. Ken has not gotten back to them regarding offering programs this year however there are reservations regarding it due to many children being high risk.

TENNIS – Comm. Scalabrini – Fall tennis has three weeks left. There are 21 kids this year. Meeting with someone about doing a pilot program with a portable pickleball

WRESTLING – Comm. Logatto – Director Bobby stated that there are no decisions made for winter sports at the high school. Until there is guidance from the school we will not be able to move forward with the program. We are in a holding pattern. Feels we should wait on registration until we know for sure we can hold a program. Chairman Guadagnino asked what supplies would be needed to purchase to run the season. Commissioner Logatto said what we would pay for renting the NJ sports house. In addition we would need to purchase the team apparel. We may need to have SAO front and then pay back from the town.

CHEERLEADING – Comm. Walker – Going very well. 113 cheerleaders registered. 13 mascots that are Kindergarten and 1st grade. They are having a blast. Got new uniforms for this year. COVID policies are running smoothly. A stunt coach and choreographer will be coming to help with the teams. Only issue so far is Ed who places order from Omni Cheer did not order the pink bows. They will also all get matching masks to go with uniforms since those stunting need to wear masks since they are so close.

LACROSSE – Comm. Coira – Younger kids got 6 weeks. Older kids did not get any program since it was through Franklin Lakes and they cancelled their programs. They were all refunded. The goal is to start the spring season in April. Next year we will extend our program until 3rd grade offering Pre K- 3rd grade.

SUMMER CAMP – Chair Guadagnino- Went very well. We are in the red due to salaries this year. In order to run the camp the way we did, we needed the extra staff.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – DPW doing a great job cleaning and disinfecting everything. Reminder to watch the lights in the rain. You are ultimately responsible for them. As a reminder, if a program is cancelled due to rain and lighting and a coach decides to run regardless, any issues or injury falls on them since we have closed our programs.

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS – Comm. Lattera - No issues this summer. Everything went smoothly. Groups were smaller but it was ok.

MOUNTAIN BIKE – Comm. Hagerman – No report.

VOLLEYBALL – Comm. Coira – Spoke to Mike Cardi. We have dates set aside for January. While it is on private property and we don't rely on the schools, we will watch what the school says and what the town tells us. We are planning but we haven't signed anything. Registration will not happen until January if we do move forward.

CAPITAL PROJECTS –

D’Elia sign- The sign has been put up on the building. We had the Mayor, Commissioner Logatto, Karen McCormic and Danny D’Elia Jr. at the presentation of the sign and photos were taken.

Informational sign- SAO has sent a check to the company for the new big sign. They estimated delivery is 3-4 weeks from order. Expect it by the end of October.

Tennis court resurfacing- Bids came back and the price came in much higher than anticipated. We will be holding off on this for another year and will be working on an additional grant for more funding.

Thomas McGinnis Memorial- Podash has moved the rock and the plate has been put on the rock. It is next to the flag pole next to the roller rink. There is a nice sign on the rock and looks very good. The family asked there was no ceremony.

Memorial Benches- We will be adding 2 new benches by field 8 and one by the tennis courts. We are scheduled for 9/26 at 2pm for the dedication ceremony for one and the other is November 1 at 11am.

COMMITTEE REPORT – No report

COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION – No Report

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS –

Commissioner Saliani- Three bear sightings at Truman over the weekend. Asked if we could get a fake dog to try to scare them away.

Winter sports- At this time we are unsure what is going on with winter sports at this time.

Commissioner King asked that the following statement be read into the minutes.

This weekend, once again, I received text messages from parents in the community who are Jewish, asking why there are soccer games being held on Rosh Hashanah. Last year the text messages were asking why there were football and soccer games on Yom Kippur. As I said in my email to the Commission, I am at a complete and total loss. I appreciate that Mike called me to explain and take responsibility but I am growing tired of having to hear the explanations and accept the apologies. As I said to Mike this weekend, we need to be better. We MUST do better. We are preaching tolerance and acceptance to our children and if we are completely ignoring a major Holiday of another Religion we are not achieving that goal of tolerance and acceptance. I know that Mike advised that these games or practices were "optional" but what you are missing with that is that it's not every player who is forced to choose. Only the Jewish kids have to make the choice. This causes them to be singled out and that needs to stop happening. Mike also mentioned that he thought about whether or not an optional practice would be okay over

Christmas or Easter and he said that would also be fine if it were options. Well, I'm here to tell you that that would never be an option because no one would ever suggest that a practice or game occur on Christmas or Easter. I am the commissioner of a sport that runs over the Christmas Holiday and is directly impacted by the weather and not once has anyone ever suggested that games be played on Christmas so we could get them in. We need to be a team in this and we need to be accepting of others Holidays and if we aren't playing on Major Christian Holidays then we should not be playing on Major Jewish Holidays either. Thank you.

RECREATION AID – No Report.

COUNCIL LIAISON – Feels that we should be moving back to meeting in person and sharing that opinion with both the council and with the commission. Things should be opening back up including business. This will be discussed at this week's Council meeting. Additionally asked for public's opinion on different topics such as the garbage situation that is currently coming up for discussion. The public's feedback is important in the decision making. He would like to ask +

OPEN SESSION- As no members of the public attended this evenings meeting, there was no open session.

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

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION WILL BE HELD via Zoom Monday, October 26, 2020 AT 8:00PM.