**OAKLAND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FOR OCTOBER**

**Monday, October 30, 2023**

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

**Attendance:**

Present: Commissioners Guadagnino, Rotondo, Bleeker, Logatto, Ives, Roy, Wall, Scalabrini

Absent: Commissioner Catalano

Chair Guadagnino asked for a motion to excuse Commissioner Catalano. A motion was made by Commissioner Logatto and seconded by Commissioner Scalabrini. The motion passed unanimously.

**Chair’s Report**: Because of our new partnership with the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, baseball is going to have a $10 reduction and softball $20 reduction in fees.

We are at the end of the budget and we are scraping nickels together to pay our bills. There was approximately $60,000 to $80,000 of revenue collected by recreation due to an increase in registrations, however we can’t currently touch any of these funds as it was not part of the 2023 budget. We find it unfair to the recreation families that they paid for recreation programs yet some of their funding will not go towards recreation.

Councilman Saliani stated he spoke with the Borough’s CFO minutes before coming into the room tonight, and that there was $40k still available to use. He stated that a budget transfer can be done to access the money. Councilman Saliani said he would work to push it through the council meeting to do a budget transfer to make it available.

Chairman Guadagnino said he spoke with councilman Saliani 6 weeks ago, why did he wait until moments before the commission meeting to speak with the CFO. We have been struggling to get our bills paid for over a month.

Commissioner Logatto suggested that if there is anything left over, it should be earmarked for a multiuse scoreboard for field six. The cost would be about $13k.

Councilman Saliani said he needs a number to submit for the budget transfer.

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

Jim Folkerts the SAO chair - Reminded everyone about the previously discussed fundraising fee to cover the costs associated with running fundraisers. Costs such as insurance and bank fees need to be covered. Goal is to make enough to break even. As of January 2024 they will implement a 3% fee on fundraisers that requires the SAO to help, subject to a $500 annual cap per sport. We can adjust as needed but need to have enough to provide the service. We can revisit annually and make adjustments as needed if we accumulate enough funds.

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

**Approval of previous months minutes-** A motion to approve the September 2023 minutes was made by Commissioner Wall and seconded by Commissioner Bleeker. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**BASEBALL** – Comm. Catalano – No Report

**BASKETBALL** – Comm. Ives – Started travel team practices tonight. 15 teams and 150 kids for travel. Rec closed on the 20th and 400 registered for rec basketball. League fees went up significantly this year by thousands. Our referee fees have also increased. Kindergarten was not originally budgeted for this season but have 60 kids registered for the first year. This year’s Varsity kids from Hills will come help coach the 3rd and 4th grade boys program.

**FOOTBALL** – Comm. Catalano– No Report

**GOLF** – Comm. Bleeker – Having the same budget issues as everyone else. Our numbers have tripled from what we originally budgeted for.

**ROLLER HOCKEY** – Comm. Bleeker – Registration is following trends of the past. Our numbers are growing slowly but they usually do.

**SOCCER** – Comm. Rotondo – similar budget issues, a lot more kids than last year which has caused issues with need for more referees for games. Unfortunately had an issue with weather this season so rescheduling has been difficult. We’ve had some IHHS kids come down to help with the younger kids.

**SOFTBALL** – Comm. Logatto- Our fall season wrapped up yesterday. We ended it on field 6 with a pink out. We did it as a fundraiser and bought pink shirts. The proceeds were about $350 and we made a donation to the Jellybean Foundation. We did a parent’s survey to get some feedback on the program. Registration for next year will begin in January.

**SPECIAL NEEDS** – Comm. Scalabrini – Only had 2 games rained out this year. We have a few more weeks left and will transition to our basketball program. Having some challenges getting bowling started.

**TENNIS** – Comm. Scalabrini – Lights are on until Thanksgiving. There has been more pickleball at night.

**WRESTLING** – Comm. Wall – We will have 81 registered and we are still expecting about 15-20 kids. We are also over budget because of the extra kids being registered. We are trying to be flexible with scheduling to allow more kids to participate in multiple sports. Will have a preseason meeting with Duncan for all the parents and families. Part of it will be a talk with a neuropsychologist who will talk about baseline testing for concussions to have a baseline to compare. This will be a resource meeting to teach families. We will also have a nutritionist to talk about how to keep your nutrition on track because watching weight specific to wrestling. Doing a big brother program with high school and some of the middle school kids. Looking to create synergy between the programs. This week will figure out the scheduling. We were waiting to see if someone wanted to volunteer and give them the longest amount of time to jump in but at this point we need to move forward. There is a group who are upset about the program and believe the commission is the problem, but we can only do so much.

Guadagnino asked if Duncan has fixed the issue with the gym door making sure it was accessible to allow people to have an alternative entrance to the space without having to go through basketball.

**CHEERLEADING** –Comm. Roy – The program is running well and the kids are happy. Hoping to be able to sort out issues with coaching availability for Sundays. We have had interest in competition cheer and considering some winter cheer for basketball and wrestling.

**LACROSSE** – Ives – We sent out a survey and had over 100 responses. Not enough registrants with each grade to run our own program, so we mended with Franklin Lakes and will cooperate with them completely. We will collaborate with them with whatever they need.

**SUMMER CAMP** – Chair Guadagnino- No report

**PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS** - Chair Guadagnino- Still is season with our sports so the fields are still open for a few weeks. Reminder about lights and making sure they go off on schedule.

**SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS –**Comm. Wall – We may adjust this for next year.

**MOUNTAIN BIKE** – Comm. Rotondo– No Report

**VOLLEYBALL –**Comm. Roy – Still in the planning process

**CAPITAL PROJECTS** –

**Tennis Court**- Chairman Guadagnino stated we are now up to 1 ½ years waiting for it to go our to bid. Council Saliani said Boro Admin Kunze told him it will go out in March..

**Field Upgrades-** They are complete. Softball is next once we receive additional grant money.

**Pavilion/Band Shell**- The electricians have been selected and just waiting on their insurance. Expecting to start next week.

**Truman Field Lights-** The commission is hoping everything will go as praised and be installed in May.

**COMMITTEE REPORT –** No report

**COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION –** No report

**OLD BUSINESS – Budgets**- We will try to tweak them a little bit based on the updated information from this year.

**NEW BUSINESS – Score Board Field 6-** Commissioner Logatto: Would like the money to come from the recreation budget rather than a specific sport responsible for fundraising for it since it is a multi-use sports field. It is one of the oldest score boards and it is time to replace.

**2024 Meeting Schedule all meetings at 8:00pm in the Danny D**

January 29 reorg 7:30pm and regular 8:00pm

February 26

March 25

April 29

May 20

June 24

July 29

August none

September 30

October 28

November 25

December 16

**LIAISON REPORT-** Councilman Saliani- No Report

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

**Steve Saliani (5 Saratoga)-** Wanted to give commend Commissioner Roy for the cheer program. He stated his daughter was very happy with coaching and wanted to give credit for such a great change to the program

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

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

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION WILL BE HELD on November 27 AT 8:00PM.**