

OAKLAND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Thursday November 1, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Oakland Recreation Commission was called to order at 8:00 pm by Chairman Guadagnino, with the flag salute, at the Danny D'Elia Recreation Center under the public sunshine laws. Commissioners Guadagnino, Cronin, King, Laterra, Logatto, Saliani, Scalabrini, and Walker were present Commissioner Nitolli entered at 8:50. Councilman Eric Kulmala was not also present.

Open to the Public:

Motion made by Commissioner Logatto as seconded by Commissioner King and voted aye unanimously.

Charles Schwartz: Was inquiring about the issue with 3 PW football coaches being suspended and that the team could not participate in the league playoffs. Commissioners LaTerra and Walker who knew of the issue filled in Mr. Schwartz that the playoff decision was a league rule, not an Oakland commission rule. The commission agreed that the children should not be punished and that the commission will petition the league to ask for reinstatement.

Jeff Ramirez: He too was concerned with what is occurring at the PW level and wanted to know more information about the situation. He liked the coaches and thinks they are good people. Chairman Guadagnino stated that the coaches were suspended, not fired and decision about next year's coaches will not be made for a while.

Dave Calviello 70 Thacker Road – Mr. Calviello had some questions regarding the football program. He states that he is there in support of two families that do not understand what happened in the football program. He said that people are afraid to approach the commission out of fear of retribution. Chairman Guadagnino asked for any examples and if this did ever occur the commission would take appropriate measures such as removal of a coach and recommended termination of a commissioner. He could not but said people have this fear. He wanted to know what was going on with the Football Commissioner who is also the head football coach of the senior team. He heard that he was suspended and wanted to know if the commission was looking into the situation. Chairman Guadagnino informed Mr. Calviello that suspension was self-imposed. That a player was injured on the football field in a game in Paramus when an onside kick was attempted; the Paramus child broke his leg on the play. The league looked into the matter and deemed there was no wrong doing. Commission Nittoli felt that it was his responsibility as he designed the play, and since the buck stops with him suspended himself for 2 games. Mr. Calviello wanted to know if the commission was looking into the play; Chairman Guadagnino said the play was removed from the program. Mr. Calviello wanted to know if we were going to punish the child who hit the Paramus kid; Chairman Guadagnino informed him that the Oakland child did nothing wrong and that the league admonished all involved in the play. After the play a Paramus player, in apparent retribution hit one of the Oakland kids causing a concussion. Mr. Calviello wanted to know if we were going to look into the situation involving that child. We informed him that Al has taken it up with the league. He then

questioned how could we support a program with a suspended football commission and three suspended coaches, he said the program has been a mess. Commission King asked him if he had a child in the program, which Mr. Calviello did not answer. Dave wanted to know what the ethics implications would be from such a suspension to coaches and a commissioner. The commission stated that they were satisfied with how these two issues were being handled. Chairman Guadagnino reiterated there was a significant difference between Commissioner Nitolli's self-imposed suspension versus what had transpired with the pee wee football team. Mr. Calviello also had some questions regarding the travel basketball program. He said he was there in support of 3 families which he named (names withheld as the players in question are all minors), Chairman Guadagnino asked that he not mention children's names. He wanted to know why Rich Scalabrini and 3 other coaches were in the tryout room when they were not supposed to be. Chairman Guadagnino asked if Mr. Calviello saw any of these people in the room, which he stated he did not, rather he "heard" that they were in the room. Commissioner Walker stated the only ones in the room were TJ Downey, travel basketball coordinator, 8th grade travel coach Belieze and herself. The travel coach was there at the end of the tryout to see the players but had no input on the team. And that Rich Scalabrini was never in the room. Mr. Calviello said that "we" referring to the three families he is supporting and him, for which Chairman Guadagnino said it was inappropriate for him to use a plural as no one informed him that he would be acting as their representatives. Mr. Calviello then said he takes issue with a coach being in the room. The tryout process was explained to him and that the hired assessor was the only one to choose them members of each team. Mr. Calviello said that the families he was in support of were not happy with that answer and asked if all three families (again using their names) had contact Chairman Guadagnino who stated no. Mr. Calviello was then questioning a member of the audience and had to be repeatedly asked to stop by Chairman Guadagnino who explained Roberts Rules of Order to Mr. Calviello and that he should only speak to the chair. Mr. Calviello then asked if he could see all children's evaluation forms and if he could OPRA request them where Chairman Guadagnino stated no. Mr. Calviello stated that he and Danielle had a casual conversation at a football game where he wanted to know if children can play up in age, which Danielle told him the rule that travel basketball is governed by their league. Mr. Calviello then "quoted" the conversation at a football game as he remembered it back to the commission. Commissioner Walker then showed Mr. Calviello the rule as outlined and highlighted in the travel league rules. Mr. Calviello then referenced the name of a 4th child (named withheld because it is a minor) who he said reached out to Commissioner Walker asking to play up, where Commissioner Walker stated she never received such an email. The commission agreed that they will post all rules on the website so no confusion ever happens again. Mr. Calviello then asked about allowing girls play on the boys travel basketball team. It was explained that the travel basketball program did not have enough girls to form an 8th grade travel basketball team, so the commission allowed girls to participate in the 8th grade travel basketball program. This is a rule allowed within the boys' league that Oakland participates in; as well it is consistent with Title IX. Commissioners King, Walker and Chairman Guadagnino explained this to Mr. Calviello. Mr. Calviello then proceeded to say the following: " So we are now going to allow girls to play on boys travel teams, I have a problem with that." Commissioner Cronin stated that she didn't say a word during the Open Session but was appalled at how rude Mr. Calviello behaved the

entire session. Chairman Guadagnino made a motion to close the Open Session as perceived sexist comments would no longer be entertained. The motion was made by Commissioner Saliani and seconded by Commissioner King then voted on unanimously by the commission. As the session was closed Mr. Calviello made the following statement " Are we going to advertise to all the girls that they can now tryout on boys teams." Open Session was closed and Chairman Guadagnino stated that there would be another Open Session at the end of the meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2018 regular meeting were made by Comm. Scalabrini, seconded by Comm. Saliani and passed.

The following reports were made and in proper motion unanimously accepted.

BASEBALL – Comm. Saliani – Cooperstown team has been selected. 9u-11u tryouts will be held on Nov 17th, info on the website and has been email blasted by borough.

BASKETBALL – Comm. Walker – Tryouts just completed for travel, rec sign-ups almost complete

FOOTBALL – Comm. Nittoli – Two big events, Pink out and senior night. Both were hugely successful and incorporated families from visiting teams. PW team will not participate in playoffs. League has been petitioned and since this affected 7 teams and competitive balance was altered by the infractions league will not give in. A consolation game will be played instead this weekend.

GOLF – Comm. Laterra – No report

ROLLER HOCKEY – Comm. King – sign ups are way down due to the issues with the rink. Once rink is repaired hopefully program will return to its numbers. HS level teams will play with a combined Wyckoff team and wear the colors of both towns.

SOCCER – Comm. Saliani – Two coaches were given red cards and fined \$200 each, which both have paid to the league. Program is running well and will be ending before Thanksgiving Day.

SOFTBALL – Comm. Logatto – Huge reception by mayor and council as the 4 teams were honored earlier in the month.

SPECIAL NEEDS – Comm. Scalabrini – Football/cheer going well. Ken the director, will be expanding to include basketball. Commissioner Walker has been working with Ken to secure gym time.

TENNIS – Comm. Scalabrini – No Report

WRESTLING – Chairman Logatto – Two signups, 68 wrestlers so far, but expect 85.

CHEERLEADING – Comm. Walker – Almost completed. Looking to add a competitive cheer squad for 2019.

LACROSSE – Comm. Nittoli – No Report

SUMMER CAMP – Chair Guadagnino – budget request to include rises for counselors.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – Chair. Guadagnino – – new bench to be placed in a couple weeks along walking path, this one for Mrs. Franchini which was purchased by family friends. It will be located by the football scoreboard

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS – Comm. Laterra– No Report

MOUNTAIN BIKE – Comm. Cronin – HS mountain bike director reached out to Jackie hoping to help our program.

VOLLEYBALL – Comm. Cronin – No Report.

CAPITAL PROJECTS –.

Roller Rink – 2nd grant to be filed within a few weeks, deadline is 12/31

Bathrooms –We’ve been told by borough that bid is going out shortly, construction proposed with winter with opening planed by spring sports season

Lightning Detectors – all fixed all up and running

Safety Nets – out for quotes should be fixes ASAP

COMMITTEE REPORT – NR

COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION – NR

OLD BUSINESS – NR

NEW BUSINESS –

In lieu of issues that occurred with the travel basketball tryouts, the commission must get all the rules up on the website. Some things such as rules, minutes and health forms were not

transferred with borough switched over to new website. Commission should have all the rules written and codified at next meeting so they may be posted on December 1st.

RECREATION AID – NR

COUNCIL LIASON – NR

Open Session – Seeing no one in the audience from the public there was no second open session

Commissioner Jackie Cronin informed everyone that this would be her final meeting as she is resigning from the commission because of personal reasons. Chairman Guadagnino thanked Jackie for her time with the commission and thanked her for staying on another year when she told him she needed to resign then. Jackie said she would miss everyone and that she thoroughly enjoyed her time on the commission.

Adjournment – Motion Logatto Seconded Scalabrini motion passed unanimously

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION WILL BE
HELD MONDAY, November 26, 2018.**