**OAKLAND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER**

**Monday, September 18, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Oakland Recreation Commission was called to order at 8:02PM by Chairman Guadagnino, at the Danny D’Lia under the public sunshine laws.

**Attendance:**

Present: Commissioners Guadagnino, Rotondo, Bleeker, Catalano, Roy, Wall, Logatto, and Ives Absent: Commissioner Scalabrini

**Chair’s Report:** Artificial Turf Request – Chair stated that he has been opposed to artificial turf in the past and is still opposed. Field 8 is not just a football field but used by all of rec. He stated three main points why he’s opposed:

1. Financial – Cost is over 1 million dollars. Even with fundraising, town bill in the future will be high. Costly to maintain, has to cleaned, field becomes dangerous with time and when it has to be replaced is costly also. Sod is cheaper and easier to maintain.
2. Lower Body Injuries – High rates of injury especially in females.
3. Health Concerns - There is also lots of research that due to the petroleum base, it causes cancers. Field becomes highly toxic in in high heat. House owners by the field oppose it as well due to these cancer concerns. Many stories of kids who consistently play on turf getting cancers.

Lightning Clock requested by Coaches. All commissioners are in agreement. Coaches want to be able to access it on their phones. Chair Guadagnino will make some calls to have it put in (30 min count down clock). Commissioner Ives brought up that Weather Bug App has this feature for free and it resets itself if there are additional lightning strikes. Chair Guadagnino stated we will look at all options.

Budgets are to be submitted in October for review in January by council. In regard to revenue, if a sport is in the red and can be made up by the increased number of kids signing up, the fees may not have to be increased by much to cover additional costs.

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

**Jim Folkert – SAO Chair** – Last meeting it was discussed that the SAO will require a percentage from the fundraising events so they can pay the bank / processing fees and be able to fund the expenses incurred by the SAO. They also need to pay for insurance which covers the fundraising events as SAO can also be liable. Raffle fees are also incurred when they file with the state. They received some revenue from pictures but it was not enough to cover costs. Requesting 3% from all fundraisers with a max of $500 per year, per sport/group.

**Katrina Larsen – SAO** Treasurer – Reminds commissioners to inform the SAO when they are planning a fundraiser and to not use anyone’s personal Venmo for a fundraiser. SAO has Venmo. She will clear it from the previous fundraiser so that all money is kept separate for each group. They also have a credit card machine now from PayPal with similar fees as Venmo. Only one Venmo account is allowed per non-profit. They had to get a phone number so that the credit card machine could be used. This is also an additional expense. All fundraising info should be sent to SAO email in advance.

Chair Guadagnino wants commissioners to send Katrina a list of fundraisers planner. Sooner the better.

Katrina Larsen – Reminder that only one 50/50 or Raffle can be open at one time. Reports needs to be sent to the state to close one before another one can be opened.

The requested 3% would not take effect until January 2024.

**Karla Rodriguez – Oakland Resident** – Question about Football program.

She understands that the budget gets put in place in the beginning of the year but wanted clarification about how the money is spent. Chair Guadagnino explained that this year’s budget is put into place before the season starts and the decisions for budgets are made in the previous year. We had more kids register this year than last year so the estimated budget was tight but the difference is made up with fundraising. Reconditioning of helmets costs about $5000 now and will increase next year. Unfortunately, next year’s numbers will be based on this years numbers.

Rules of the Game – A team kids vs B team kids

Commissioner Catalano explained that the frozen list (list of kids on the sidelines) is based on the roster numbers. It is a percentage of the total kids.

If a game reaches 24 – 0 the game is over and you have to finish the game with your frozen players so as to not run up the score.

If a child plays the whole game on a Saturday, it was explained they can still play on Sunday – no rule against playing the next day. No set rule about which kids sit on the sidelines.

Karla explained her son is 6ft, 170 lbs and the past two Saturdays only went in for 1 play on the B team and then she said the Coach told him he would be suspended if he bulldozes through the small kids. She explained the coach yelled at him in front of other players. Commissioner Catalano has spoken to the coach and will speak to him again about quietly pulling a child aside to speak to him. There is no suspension rule she is speaking of. The only way to get suspended is if you are removed from a game by the referees. Karla doesn’t want her son playing on the B team because he is too big and can hurt someone and they don’t give him much time to play due to that fact but he is a frozen player on the A team. Commissioner Catalano explained that they try to keep the kids from the same grade together. She stated that her son was told by his coach he would get suspended if he doesn’t go to the B games. Commissioner Catalano will speak to the coach again. Commissioner Ives said there is value in smaller kids being cheered on by the bigger or older A players. Karla doesn’t have a problem with that but doesn’t feel he should dress for B Games.

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

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

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

BASEBALL – Tryouts for Travel in January. Field Company will start September 28th to redo fields. DPW to mark the sprinklers on the field.

BASKETBALL – Comm. Ives – In the middle of tryouts which started last week. 7th / 8th grade boys to follow. Rec signups at end of the month through October. He spoke to Indian Hills Coach, the 3rd/4th Grade boys rec teams to be coached by Indian Hills players. Parents will still be managers. Cool to later have the kids go watch their coaches play. Player and Coaches on board.

ADULT VOLLEY BALL – They go from10am – 12pm on Sundays, Commissioner Ives asked them to move up to 9am to give basketball a little wiggle room to fit in additional games. Warm reception to the idea but Commissioner Logatto will speak to them about moving to 9am.

FOOTBALL – Comm. Catalano – Week 3 – Down at the rec field on Sunday, Flag, Cheer, Games going on. Awesome games to see. All Good.

GOLF – Comm. Bleeker – signups are open. Fall Golf has 13 kids currently signed up.

ROLLER HOCKEY – Comm. Bleeker – Registration is open. Jersey / socks purchasing is available on Community Pass. New nets are in. A bit lighter to move and cheaper than just buying a new net for the old goals. He will still look for new nets somewhere else but cheaper this way.

SOCCER – Comm. Rotondo – We had a lot of last minute registrations. About 475 kids signed up and many are new kids. All rec kids were fit in somewhere. Field 2 is not looking great. Soccer teams at Hills Girls doing great and boys doing well too.

SOFTBALL – Comm. Logatto- 3 teams playing in the fall, 10U, 12U, and 14U. All games are away. They will be done end of November. They restart in January.

PICKLE BALL – Comm. Scalabrini – no official program presently but per Chair Guadagnino, Comm. Scalabrini doesn’t think we should start a league because we don’t have enough courts. Maybe just set an App or something up where people can sign up to play together based on skill. Comm. Bleeker brought up using hockey rink as an additional space but it would be too much to put nets up and take them down.

SPECIAL NEEDS – Comm. Scalabrini – not present – no report

TENNIS – Comm. Scalabrini – not present – no report

WRESTLING – Comm. Wall – Open registration this week and will talk to Rosa about getting the online clothing store set up to include on flyer. All previous coaches have been asked to come back but have no heard back from all yet.

CHEERLEADING –Comm. Roy – Program is going great.

LACROSSE – Comm. Ives – Sent out an email last week to gauge interest in starting our own lacrosse program rather than participating in Franklin Lakes program and had the survey open for 4 days and we had over 100 responses. We are investigating the options. There is a girl from Warwick Valley who has started a program called Lax Heart a non-profit who goes into lacrosse programs and works with them for free.

SUMMER CAMP – Chair Guadagnino- no report

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS - Chair Guadagnino- We had some coaches who sent an email to Mike regarding dangerous conditions of the fields. The town is having the joint insurance fund come out to inspect the fields and determine if they are safe or dangerous.

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS – Comm. Wall – no report

MOUNTAIN BIKE – Comm. Rotondo – no report

VOLLEYBALL –Comm. Roy – Were going to expand the clinic this year. We are working with Jim from Wyckoff who was fantastic last year. There was a large group of Freshman who tried out at the high school and had many who did not make the team and asked about participating in a rec program. We will look into what we can possibly do.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS –**

Field Upgrades: Steve Saliani was not present to give updates. Fields going out to bid. Comm. Guadagnino will ask Rich Kunze, Borough Admin. Both Fields 5 and 9 will have new infields. They will block off the fields while working on them. Supposed to start September 28th.

Bandshell:- Supposed to open on Saturday but it is calling for rain. May have to be postponed again.

**COMMITTEE REPORT –** No report

**COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION –** No report

**OLD BUSINESS –** None

**NEW BUSINESS –** None

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

**OPEN SESSION-** A motion to open a second open public session was made by Commissioner Bleeker and seconded by Commissioner Wall. The motion passed unanimously.

Karla Rodriguez- What happened to wrestling program moving to Indian Hills? Chair Guadagnino clarified that the room that was updated at Indian Hills was the wrestling room. All concerns that were brought by parent’s last season regarding the conditions of the space were addressed by Commissioner Wall with the AD at IHHS and have been resolved.

A Motion to close the public open session was made by Commissioner Rotondo and seconded by Commissioner Wall. The motion 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 OCTOBER 30TH AT 8:00PM.