

**OAKLAND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 27, 2020**

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, Coira, Laterra, Logatto, Saliani, Scalabrini, King, Walker and Hagerman were present. Commissioner Walker arrived at 9:00pm.

Open Session- Motion made by Commissioner Saliani as seconded by Commissioner Logatto and voted aye unanimously.

Kevin Draney (87 Thackeray Road)- stated that he feels the process that is used for travel baseball tryouts should be changed. He stated that his son is in 11u and feels that it's not comprehensive enough to properly evaluate players. He feels that the issue is with the actual evaluators and that the coaches and coordinators of the sports should be there to help with judging to make it fairer and more comprehensive.

Chairman Guadagnino asked Commissioner Saliani for clarification of the current process for baseball. Commissioner Saliani explained the process and why things were done that way.

Discussion between Mr. Draney and Commission regarding the baseball tryouts ensued.

Melissa Bayani (44 Spear Street) had a question if 9u baseball usually has two teams and how are the teams divided? Commissioner Saliani said he wants as may people playing as possible and will split based on skill from their assessments.

Ms. Bayani also stated that Mother's Club would like to purchase 10 tables for the Danny D' building and put donated by Mother's Club signage on them.

A motion to close public session was made by Commissioner Saliani and seconded by Commissioner King. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Guadagnino reviewed the commissioner sports appointments for 2020 as follows:

Mike Guadagnino (Chair)- Buildings and Grounds, Summer Camp, Events at Great Oak Park
Steve Saliani- Soccer, Baseball
Dan Logatto- Softball, Adult Softball, Wrestling
Vivian King- Roller Hockey
Bob Scalabrini- Special Needs, Tennis
Danielle Walker- Cheerleading, Basketball
Sandra Coira- Lacrosse, Volleyball
Bryan Hagerman- Football, Mountain Bike

Jennifer Laterra- Rec Summer Sports, Golf

Motion to accept and approve sports appointments was made by Commissioner King and seconded by Commissioner Saliani and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Guadagnino reviewed commissioner committee appointments for 2020 as follows:

By Law Committee- Commissioners Hagerman, King and Lattera (Chair)

Finance Committee- Commissioners Scalabrini, Walker, Lattera, and Neil Malmud (Chair)

Policy Committee- Commissioners Scalabrini, King, and Coira (Chair)

Conduct Committee- Commissioners Coira, Logatto (Chair) and Saliani

Motion to accept and approve committee appointments made by Commissioner King and seconded by Commissioner Logatto and passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2019 regular meeting was made by Commissioner King, seconded by Commissioner Saliani and passed unanimously.

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

BASEBALL – Comm. Saliani – Travel Tryouts have been held. They were extended due to weather. All teams have been formed. 2- 9u, 1-10u, 2-11u, 2-12u, 1-13u. Coach Hill came down to meet the 14u players and is running coaching clinics. 11u Tournament will be held on Father’s Day.

BASKETBALL – Comm. Walker – Travel season off to good start. No issues. Rec has begun. Draft was done evenly. There have been several overtime games. 1st and 2nd are off to great start.

FOOTBALL – Comm. Hagerman – Looking to identify coaches. Working on the Jr. and Mighty Might levels and going from there. There is a meeting for Northern NJ Jr. Football that he will be attending.

GOLF – Comm. Laterra – Set up spring golf to start April 23 on Thursdays for 6 weeks form 4-5. Working on getting the green redone and getting quotes on it.

ROLLER HOCKEY – Comm. King – Presented a jersey to chairman Guadagnino as a thank you for his work on the new rink. We are at mid-season and have been hit with the weather all season. More games cancelled than been played.

SOCCER – Comm. Saliani – No Report.

SOFTBALL – Comm. Logatto Recreation registration began January 1st and will go through mid-March. No one is turned away from playing. There has been one in-person registration days and the next is February 1st. Travel try-outs will be March 28th and March 30th. Times to be determined. Info will be posted. Coach Leight’s softball clinic will be Saturday April 18th Working on dates for a coach’s clinic just before the season starts with Coach Leight.

SPECIAL NEEDS – Comm. Scalabrini – Basketball session began and there are 31 kids registered.

TENNIS – Comm. Scalabrini – Working with town to get a Pickleball League started.

WRESTLING – Comm. Logatto – Noted Bobby Sherrow and wanted to commend the program. Asked him to come down. January has been a busy month and hosted our invitational. Of the 48 kids who entered 30 kids received medals in our tournament. Entered a duels team. Best kid in the weight class (no matter age) and we did well. Had Golden Bears entered in the tournament. Season has been very successful. Seeing it as a big feeder program into the high school and high school is seeing success.

CHEERLEADING – Comm. Walker – Rec season is over but Competition Team had their second competition and placed first. One more competition on February 9th.

LACROSSE – Comm. Coira – Registration for Pre K-2nd begins February 1st and season begins April 6th.

SUMMER CAMP – Chair Guadagnino – Hired a new director and assistant director. Putting together a staff for the season.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – Chair. Guadagnino – Lights will stay on until 8:30pm. Field 8 Outfield- talking with DPW and landscape designers to figure out a solution for the field. Spoke with the Recreation Director at Wycoff and they don’t hold football practice on their game fields. Only used for games over the weekend for games. They also cover the fields during winter. Need to discuss with the other commissioners how to juggle the fields. Sport House- called the facility and they said that they would rather have them leave the facility and end our rental than to adhere to our requests. We will look to leave for next year. Chairman Guadagnino stated that there has been some discussion on what should be done with the Delia building on Facebook. Chairman Guadagnino stated that 10 years ago, planned to put a patio and tables out behind the building and flowers. Brought the idea to town and it can’t be done because the septic tank and leach fields are in front and to the side of the building. Also discussed building up on the building to add to it. The grant writer said there are not grants to pay for this. Chairman Guadagnino also looked into expanding the old snack stand and convert it into a recreation center, but it would have taken up too much space at that part of the complex. When the town was working on purchasing the Sandy Beach Property, which he helped write the

grant request, there is the old brush factory building on the property. He had a plan to convert that building into a recreation center as well as there is enough space to place to full size soccer fields, without affecting the environment. As of now it appears that town will not be buying that property.

Turf- Looked into the costs of putting in a turf field. It would be about \$1million per field to turf the field. Also stated that they have been found to be less safe than traditional grass fields due to knee and hip injuries. There have also been studies, although inconclusive that there have reports of cancer from artificial turf. Chairman Guadagnino is also concerned putting all the children of the summer camp program on or near artificial turf where it could be baking in the sun and who knows how those fumes may affect their health. Cost studies are also showing that they're not worth it because they don't last and the cleaning needs to happen annually because artificial turf does not self-clean like natural grass.

Commissioner Laterra- Shared an update regarding research for finding a building that would work- She is working with realtor for a building for Oakland programs. Reached out to the Strikers to potentially partner for space. Actively searching.

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS – Comm. Laterra– Spring break camp April 6-9 8:00am-3:30pm. Participants have the choice of 3 sports. New for this year, cheer will be available for a spring session. It will run 6 weeks long. There will be 2 sessions k-2 and 3rd-8th. Begins April 20th. Sumer Sessions will be August 17-21 first session and 24th-28th for second session. Currently looking at trips for those sessions. Starting a lacrosse camp this year. Details are TBD. Cheer camp over summer August 10-14th grades 2-4 and 5-8.

MOUNTAIN BIKE – Comm. Hagerman – No Report

VOLLEYBALL – Comm. Coira – Program started last week. All is running well. 16u coaches the kids and the program runs from 4:30-5:30.

CAPITAL PROJECTS –

- a. Delia sign- get a sign with a map in front of the building with an info board on the other side. SAO will pay for it.
- b. Field 9 Scoreboard- going up next week.
- c. Tennis court resurfacing- waiting for a grant to come through, they're working on fundraising.
- d. Field 8 outfield- see above.

COMMITTEE REPORT – Commissioner Saliani- had a meeting with the Borough and discussed proper procedures and forms. For example, injury reporting has been discussed in detail. Will finish typing it up and will distribute to coaches. Reminder to commissioners that they need to sign the injury report. You have 90 days to get the report submitted to the Borough.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION – Issues with paying cash on the field. The borough will not give cash for anything. SAO wants a 1099 now for referees as well. Looking into how to pay umpires for away games where you would need to pay cash day of.

Policy committee- Need to develop a policy for the flags. Additionally, it is felt that commissioners need to not coach. Need to put a policy together regarding coaching in your own program.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

New Business-

Commissioner Logatto- will do our best to find a substitute facility to move the wrestling program. year.

Commissioner Saliani- Kelly Rooney of Mother's club wanted to remind commissioners that if we need money, Mother's and Father's Clubs can help. Go to a meeting and request and they can usually help.

Father's Club will donate a bench in memory of the father of a child in the 14u program who recently passed.

RECREATION AID – No Report

COUNCIL LIASON – No Report

OPEN SESSION- Motion made by Commissioner Saliani as seconded by Commissioner King and voted aye unanimously.

Melissa Bayani (44 Spear Street)- Asked if there were any plans for new uniforms for the lower teams in football? Commissioner Hagerman said it's a goal of his. He needs to review budgets and see what he can do.

Tom Larsen (30 Hillside Ave.) - stated that an off duty cop is showing up to practices with a gun on his hip. Wants to know if that is allowed as he is uncomfortable with it? Chairman Guadagnino replied that he will ask the Oakland PD.

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

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020 AT 8:00PM.