

# ***Old Orchard Beach Ballpark Commission***

## ***Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2012***

### **I. Call to order**

Chair Furtado called this regular meeting of the Old Orchard Beach Ballpark Commission on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Ballpark Clubhouse at 6:35PM.

### **II. Roll Call**

Present are: Dana Furtado, Linda Mailhot, Jerome Plante, Robin Dube, Kris Fish, Bob Rings and audience members Jim Doran, Al Lappin, Paul Ladakakos, Jerome Begert, John and Pam Gallo, Sharri MacDonald and Tom Lachance.

### **III. Acceptance of Minutes from June 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Mrs. Mailhot said there needed to be a correction to the minutes being voted on tonight to correct the date. Mr. Fish made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mrs. Dube. All were in favor.

### **IV. Budget Update**

Chair Furtado said the council will probably go with option c which is using mostly volunteers with a couple of stipend positions. Four volunteers spoke to him about how they left the ballpark project because some people were getting paid. Those were the Irrigation Doctor, Sheila Flathers, Mike Tousignant and Tom Lachance. Mr. Fish said has anyone mentioned that after the first of the year the hourly workers don't have a job. Chair Furtado said no. There is a stipend position concession and stipend for field at \$7k. It effects Jim Doran as he is an hourly employee. Option C has \$501 for hourly staffing concession and \$1000 for field employees. Mr. Huot said does the \$1,000 cover it. No, per Mr. Doran. Has heard the RSU budget has to pass first. Audience member Begert said that June 30th is the deadline for the budget and they will use projected numbers for that RSU budget to put together the town budget. Chair Furtado stated that he invited the town manager to attend the meeting but he isn't here. We have no interim general manager.

### **V. Individual Commissioner Updates**

- A. Chair Furtado asked Mrs. Dube if she had anything to give an update on – no.
- B. Chair Furtado asked Mr. Fish if he had anything to give an update on. He said he received an email complaint about the commission as a whole and also specifically Dana from TJ who works for the Raging Tide. He read the email. Mr. Huot said to Chair Furtado what was TJ basing his complaints on. Chair Furtado stated he had no idea. Mr. Huot said we all have the same goal which

is that everything comes out ok during the season and at the end of the day. Audience member Pam Gallo said she had a situation at Radleys. She was buying a large quantity of meat and the person waiting on her made a comment about the quantity. He told her that he wanted to be a host family but was told by someone associated with the ballpark that because he lived in a 2 bedroom condo he could not be a host family. He didn't know the person by name but he described the person and it sounded like Chair Furtados description. Chair Furtado said it was not him. Audience member Begert said people speak about subjects in different perspectives. Mr. Plante came in at this time. The commission is an advisory committee only and people don't understand that you don't have the power to do certain things. Perhaps the condo may have restrictions about that. Mr. Rings addressed the Gallos and said is it the impression of the owners that the commission supports them. They both responded yes. Audience member Ladakakos said he watches town meetings and feels the council has 3 members set on not budgeting for the ballpark and with all the work you have done and as frustrated as it is I would take the keys to the Town Manager at the end of the year and let them be the boss and see if they can do any better. Mr. Huot said they are the boss. Audience member Ladakakos said if they don't give you the tools to do it then it's not going to work. Audience member Begert said are you saying they are using the commission as a scapegoat. Yes, per Mr. Ladakakos.

- C. Chair Furtado asked Mr. Plante if he had anything to give an update on – He said no at first and then said that he is sorry he's late as he was at library meeting. You cannot measure the publicity in dollars and cents and he remembers last year asking a player how the town was treating them and they said you have a small town with a big heart.
- D. Chair Furtado asked Mr. Huot if he had anything to give an update on – no. He then asked if Kenny Blow had started to pick up anything. Yes.
- E. Chair Furtado asked Mr. Huot if he had anything to give an update on. He said that a few meetings back we talked about Atlantic Pest Solutions. He spoke to Mr. Poisson and got busy. He asked if anyone has heard from them. Audience member Lappin asked if we signed a contract for that. Mrs. Mailhot as Chair Furtado if there is a number in the budget for the spraying.
- F. Chair Furtado asked Mrs. Mailhot if she had anything to give an update on – no.
- G. Chair Furtado said he met with Lucien and John Doyon ten days ago. Mr. Doyon is the heads grounds keeper for Biddeford Saco Country Club. He felt a lot of the problems were attributed to fertilization. They do 1 every four weeks but based on rain they have been doing 1 every three weeks. Up to that point we only had 1 in 11 weeks. They discussed the types of weeds in the grass and touched on the PH. Hee recommended putting down lime but it takes months to work. Domingo's guy said we would need 4 treatments of

lime to make the PH right. Generally, they do it in October or November so it has time to sit. Met with Ray Petit from Thornton and he said they are fertilizing more plus aerate the field but the schedule is aggressive and he said not to do that until the end of the summer when the schedule not as busy. He met with Domingos today and he said the first time he treated he did a fertilizer and a weed preventer but based on what he put down only 50% was absorbed. Today another fertilizer and a grub preventer was put down. The Town Manager purchased lime and before Ms. DeRice left there was a discussion between she and Domingos and the Town Manager decided he would purchase lime and volunteers would put it down. He got a great deal but he bought powdered lime and public works doesn't have a spreader for powder. Audience member Lappin said it takes longer for that to break down. He put the lime down but not sure how this is going to be paid for. Audience member Doran said he told him \$600 x 2 treatments. Audience member Lappin said this lime can still be used but it takes over a year to breakdown. The guys on the sod farms bring it out in a wheel barrow and fan it out with a shovel. We would be wasting money on more fertilizer until we get the PH straightened. Audience member Lappin asked if a purchase order for that was put in before Ms. DeRice left. Audience member Lappin said he had conference call with the Town Manager and Ms. DeRice to find out if his price on the lime application was good. He spoke to the Town Manager regarding Mr. Doran's issue with fuel and there is an account set up now at public works for gas. Just go up to PW and see them for fuel. He has the phone for the ballpark and he had two calls last week. One was for an AAU tournament. He told him to go online and fill out the form. He wanted to have it for this Saturday but he hasn't heard back from him. Chair Furtado said he has the phone but it hasn't been ringing. He met with sign guy again regarding the sign for the corner and they are redoing the intersection and it's on hold as the road is being cut back. They are going to be cutting back new turn lanes and that equipment is going to be physically on that area and where the current sign is. He brought in a concept drawing.

## **VI. New Business**

New business was Mr. Doran's letter which was already addressed.

Audience member John Gallo came in at this time. He said why did the town council decide to make this something set up to run as a profit instead of the other town departments. They pay more than the \$25,000 to mow the lawn at Memorial Park. Mrs. Dube said the people voted not to sell it. Audience member John Gallo said it should be run like the beach and the park downtown. This park will never be like it was with the Maine Guides. Audience member Begert said the majority of citizens agree with what you say regarding an amenity as this ballpark but some don't want that and wanted to sell it and those people have some ears in the town. Chair Furtado said that's why he came up with option c to overcome that argument. He's been a volunteer here for 4 or 5 years and he saw that as an option of saving the facility and being able to operate. We can't have concerts. We

have baseball. Had the ballpark phone for a week and has received two calls. The baseball activity doesn't support full time staff. Audience member Pam Gallo said she has money for the commission. They have sold 70 season tickets and has a check for \$437.50. The American Legion game concessions generated \$143.17 for the Town.

An audience member introduced himself as Joe and said he is a college student at UNE. He heard about the ballpark and wanted to sit in. He lives in Scarborough. He said when it comes to possible fundraising, how about a road race. You charge runners to participate and can get some revenue there. Mr. Plante said it could be a ballpark to beach race. His mother put together a race about ten years ago and raised about \$10,000 for a cause. You can get a lot of donations from companies to donate refreshments. Mr. Rings said to him was it your intention to introduce the idea or to volunteer to put something together. He said that it is a school requirement to attend two town meetings a month and he wanted to come to this one. Audience member Begert said you should have a list of potential projects and put a list together of people who want to volunteer to work on those projects and can then get perhaps a little bit of money for the projects. Mr. Rings asked him who coordinates the community service for the school. He said all undergraduate students have to take a citizenship course.

## **VII. Old Business**

Audience member Lappin asked about the Pepsi status. Mr. Fish said the Town Manager signed it but Pepsi never got it. Audience member Lappin said he has been trying to get Pepsi to do something as the current sign has their old logo on it. Mr. Fish said Pepsi was willing to pour two cement pads and have a banner for the ballpark put up. Chair Furtado said Mr. Doran raised concern about the trash situation. John, do you know what the arrangement for the trash is? No, but he was told by Ms. DeRice that Blow Brothers picks it up. I Believe she just called them and they came and emptied it. Audience member John Gallo said regarding the returnables they are gathered and someone comes and picks them up. Mrs. Dube said an account should be set up wherever they go and the money should go to the ballpark. Audience member Lappin said we should set up an account with Clynk and use his dump trucks to bring those back. Chair Furtado will call Blow Brothers tomorrow to get it dumped. Mr. Rings said what action items have been decided. Chair Furtado said he will introduce Mr. Doran to the public works department. Mr. Doran will call the AAU guy to see if they are still interested. Mr. Huot is following up with pest control. Audience member Pam Gallo has a proposal for a wine festival. She said the Raging Tide has the ability to hold 3 special events. Audience member Al Lappin said he has a contact with Andrea Archer for that. Audience member John Gallo said local wineries come in and you pay a fee and get say 20 tickets and you get to sample the various wines.

Mrs. Mailhot asked about the status of the plumbing repairs. Audience member John Gallon said the electrician told him the clamp for the ground to the copper

pipe was faulty and needed to be replaced. Not sure if that has been done. There are toilets that leak from dried gaskets and so forth. Chair Furtado said can you get us a list so that we can try and get it squared away. Audience member John Gallo said some things get fixed and then new things come up. Chair Furtado said he thinks working groups should really start to get going. He had a conversation with Mike Tousignant regarding the lights that are out. Mr. Lappin was going to climb the poles and if we took all of the lights off one pole and then used those lights to substitute with others we could have a fundraising opportunity to replace the lights on one pole. Audience member Lappin said we looked at that before with someone from another company. We don't really have to replace all the lights as it was built for major league standards and it's too bright in some areas. There is a way that they can ascertain how many lumens are needed and determine what's needed where. There is one blind spot for the umpires that should be rectified. Mrs. Mailhot asked about Mr. Fish's status as a commissioner. Chair Furtado said he called Kim and Louise is supposed to bring him up at the next meeting on 7/17 with term to expire 12/12. Mrs. Mailhot asked about the Turcotte Terrace sign and whether we are supposed to be doing something with that. Chair Furtado said it was a vinyl sign and it ripped. It is about 3x10. Audience member John Gallo said someone needs to keep the website up to date with scheduling. Audience member Begert said Sharri MacDonald is doing this. Mr. Fish said regarding the charity ballgame he spoke with Jason Webber and Jason said the recreation department wants all of those funds and for none to go to the ballpark. We need access to where the contract for this is and others. Mr. Fish said we all need to get together and talk with Jason Webber so we are all be on the same page. Mr. Dube said she has a question about the schedule online and how many games are scheduled per day. No one knows that. Audience member Pam Gallo said there are no times on that web schedule as far as when the games are scheduled for.

## **VIII. Good & Welfare**

Mr. Huot said there's no doubt in his mind about the good that Sharri does for this town and there should be more of her. There are some people who still take pot shots. Audience member Begert said to Sharri after she came in that there was a question about the ballpark website and who was running it and he mentioned you did and someone said that was a conflict of interest. He said it was not a conflict of interest to simply update a calendar. TJ's email says something about that. The priority is the common interest to see the success and putting bodies in the seats and getting volunteers. You need to get the person scheduling the calendar to get it on the website and then print paper copies and get them all over town such as town hall, library, post office, etc. He has gotten the Gallos on John McDonald's radio station this weekend and he wants to talk about the ballpark and needing volunteers and he will give out the phone number and an email. Audience member Ladakakos said as a community garden volunteer he needs a gallon of paint called dark forest green to make the community garden fence look the same

as the ballpark fence. The commission would have to ok it. Can he have a gallon of paint tomorrow? That's fine said Chair Furtado. Mr. Doran said he will be at the building tomorrow at 4pm if that is ok. Audience member Ladakakos said who has authority to approve use of parking lot for the community garden? Chair Furtado said that would be us. Audience member Ladakakos said they would like to use the parking lot for a function and will let us know. Audience member Lappin said he will try to get Jeff from Standard Electric to come and do the lumen check. Mr. Fish said we need to find out if the Town Manager paid for that lime or if he wants to send it back. Chair Furtado said he thinks we should get it inside for now and then we'll figure it out. Mr. Doran said if you want during a non Raging Tide game we can bring it in by hand if we have to. There's 40-50 bags and they can do it if needed. Mr. Doran said he talked to Mr. Domingos tonight. He's going to send him an email about what he did. He is coming back to do more weed control. He is going to come up with a five year plan and he will send it out to us. Since Ms. DeRice left he hasn't had any contact with anyone. He doesn't really know who he works for or who he answers to. He doesn't agree with the volunteer stuff and doesn't want to be the guy in charge of the volunteers and have him stuck doing everything when you aren't able to get enough volunteers. With all the work they do volunteers can come and line the field and leave. Does a paid employee need to be at each game for the duration of the event? It's the best field in new England. The atmosphere is great. We should have teams from all over New England and the northeast. He has some games after July first and isn't sure where those games will stand regarding field workers and prep for the field. The website contacts are all still pointed at Ms. DeRice for the emails and the field form. The money is being paid right now for someone to work on the field as we are collecting more money than we spend for the labor and the one bag a clay and a can of paint. Audience member Lappin said it would be great to have a field manager for \$50,000 a year. He volunteers because we can't afford that. This year having Mr. Doran here, he saw that the field was ready to go for each game. Mr. Rings said if that money sounds to be sufficient why can't we just leave it that way. The line item can be realigned to make it work. Chair Furtado said he did some math on the materials needed for 140 field events and divide it out it comes to \$62 per game plus the \$70 in labor it is more than what we charge. Audience member John Gallo said why don't we ask Mr. Doran to give an estimate of what it's going to take to take care of the field for each event plus the spring cost and fall cost. Jim said its about \$92 per game but it varies due to weather. One can of paint is \$4.50 and one bag of clay at \$18 a bag. The costs are covered through field rentals and concessions. Audience member Lappin said volunteers are great but they can never replace people who actually know what they are doing. Chair Furtado said volunteers are what got it here and volunteers can do it again. There is not enough money being generated to support otherwise. Mrs. Dube said Jim is doing it now and you have a couple people working for you and you don't think you are going to cost the town that much so what changes for you. Audience member Pam Gallo said she doesn't think we are charging enough for the field. Audience member Lappin said we are

charging the same as Hadlock Field, a little more than Deering Oaks and same as Wainwright and other fields.

**IX. Adjournment**

Mr. Huot made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Fish. Meeting adjourned at 9:48pm.

Minutes submitted by: Linda Mailhot, Secretary