

Old Orchard Beach Ballpark Commission

Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2012

I. Call to order

Chair Furtado called this regular meeting of the Old Orchard Beach Ballpark Commission on July 16th, 2012 at the Ballpark Clubhouse at 6:34PM.

II. Roll Call

Present are: Dana Furtado, Linda Mailhot, Jerome Plante, Robin Dube, Kris Fish, Lucien Huot, Bob Rings and audience members Russ Warriner and Jack Sarno.

III. Acceptance of Minutes from June 18th Meeting

Mr. Fish made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mrs. Dube. All were in favor.

IV. Old Business

- A. Budget – Chair Furtado said the budget passed with option C but he hasn't seen anything to move forward with that and the Town Manager has been on vacation. Right now things are running as they were on the old budget schedule as far as he knows. He will try to get together with the Town Manager to go over things.
- B. Field Conditions – Mr. Huot said he noticed the field was starting to turn brown. Chair Furtado said that he received a letter from Jim Doran last week and there is a question as to whether or not Mr. Domingos has been paid. Right now he is not doing anymore work until he is paid in full. He will follow up with the Town Manager regarding that. Mr. Plante asked if there was someone at Public Works that may be able to do it in the interim. Chair Furtado stated that the watering schedule has been cut back to try to mitigate any fungus issues in this hot, humid weather.
- C. Trash at Outfield Fence – Chair Furtado is unsure if all of the trash on the backside of the outfield fence has been picked up.
- D. Website – Mrs. Mailhot reported that she has been in touch with the town treasurer and was told that the contract was scheduled to be paid sometime in the next week or two. Nothing has been done with the website as they will not proceed without payment.
- E. Ballpark Phone – Chair Furtado has the ballpark phone at this time.

- F.** Website Schedule – Chair Furtado indicated that Sharri MacDonald is still updating the ballpark website calendar.
- G.** Lumens Check – Chair Furtado said that someone came out and we are waiting to hear back from them.
- H.** Turcotte Terrace Sign – Mrs. Mailhot asked if we were supposed to be replacing that sign. Chair Furtado said he believes we did talk about that before and that we need to get a price on replacing that vinyl sign. He will speak with Sharri MacDonald as she has a connection for banners.
- I.** Charity Ballgame – Chair Furtado said that he spoke with Jason Webber from the Recreation Department and the proceeds from this game will be split 50/50 with the Recreation Department.
- J.** Website Contact Information – Chair Furtado said that the phone number and email on the ballpark website have been changed.
- K.** Kris Fish Official Member – Mr. Fish indicated that he is now an official member of the commission and no longer an alternate.
- L.** Pepsi Contract – Chair Furtado read an email he received from the Town Manager stating that all of the 100 free cases of product from Pepsi were for the ballpark and none were for the Raging Tide and they should be sent back until the Town is ready to take over the concession stand. Mr. Fish explained the original meeting that was held between Pepsi, Ms. DeRice, Mr. Fish and the Gallos. Pepsi had last year agreed to a 2 year deal with the previous owner of the Raging Tide and gave Doug Ayotte a check at that time. They were not willing to give any funds this year because of that but said they would give 100 free cases of product. The Gallos said that they did not need all 100 cases and would give 50 cases to the ballpark. However, when the contract came in and was executed it read 100 free cases for the ballpark. Chair Furtado asked Mr. Fish to relay that information to the Town Manager to clarify the situation because if 50 cases are supposed to be for the Gallos then we should try to make sure they get them. Mr. Fish indicated he would email the Town Manager regarding this. All were in agreement with this.
- M.** Plumbing Repairs to Clubhouse – Mr. Fish said that he believes the showers still have the problem of zapping people.
- N.** Property Phases – Mrs. Mailhot said that a couple of meetings ago Mr. Huot mentioned possibly thinking of different uses for the property and naming it in different phases and having an artist rendering done of what each phase might look like. She believes this is a good idea and would like to see this go somewhere if the commission so decides. She believes this is a good alternative since we all know that this property can't make money specifically as a baseball venue and the town isn't willing to fund it as it sits now. Mr. Huot said that he has an artist that would be willing to make the drawings and

when the Council talks about the entire parcel they say ‘the ballpark’ but the stadium is just one piece of the property. Mr. Plante said perhaps the Ballpark Community Complex would be a good name. Chair Furtado said he has received approximately 80 calls since he has had the phone and 77 of them have been for directions. He spoke with the Town Clerk about Ballpark Way not being an official street and thus not appearing on any maps or GPS. The police department is 14 E. Emerson Cummings Blvd and if you put that in your GPS you end up at the football field so we need an alternative. He met with Public Works & they are satisfied that the road is up to public road specs. The Town Clerk is going to bring it up at the next staff meeting to make it an official town road. The Gallos had previously told Chair Furtado that one of the problems they have with marketing the facility is that no one knows where it is. Mr. Plante said perhaps we can get one of those signs on the Turnpike saying the Ballpark is at this exit. If all are in agreement he will contact Peter Mills to see what needs to be done to accomplish this. Mr. Rings said he has been checking through the local promotional material and the ballpark is not shown. There is a street that sort of dead-ends where the ballpark would be but there is no mention of it. Chair Furtado said there is an item on the upcoming Council agenda regarding the ballpark. Last year there were some stakes in the ground to put up a banner advertising an event at the ballpark. Someone complained to code enforcement that they weren’t put up right and that they should be taken down. There is an item on the agenda to let them be there so that events can be advertised at the facility. Mr. Rings asked if there is still a plan for an electronic sign. Chair Furtado said that he met with the sign contractor before the last meeting and discussed how the sign will need to be on hold until after the intersection is complete. The contractor took \$1,000 off the price of the sign. Chair Furtado stated that at the last meeting Al Lappin had mentioned about getting some stone. Public Works has since brought in 3 loads of gravel and spread that. Many thanks go out to Public Works for the hard work they have put in at the facility this year.

V. New Business

- A. Mr. Plante stated the current president of the Maine Principal’s Association is Mr. Crocker, our principal. He would like to speak with them about the ballpark possibly being another option for their southern championship games. St. Joseph’s College hosts the games now. They have a softball field and a baseball field.
- B. Mr. Rings said that he met with Chair Furtado last week and had spoken to Ms. DeRice previously about a business plan that he would like to see put together for the facility. He said this could be something that the town will find credible and will have valuable information if something for the property goes up for a vote. The first part talks about the General Manager. The second part talks about a vision for the facility. The rest is an outline of other things to be put together. It will probably take 4 people and some research to get this done. He is meeting with Cheryl P. from the Seaside Pavilion about

collaborating & not wanting to conflict with their facility on events. He would be happy to coordinate it but he would like to see 2 other commissioners and someone from the outside like an accountant. Think about the pros and cons of what we are up against & figure out if it is worth doing. Mr. Huot thanked Mr. Rings for his effort to date and agrees that it would be an extreme effort & should maybe put some feelers out first. Mrs. Mailhot said that she thinks it's a great idea but would hate to do all of this work and have the council move in a different direction with the facility. Mr. Rings agreed and said at least we would have done our homework and would have some answers. Mr. Huot said he took part in the comprehensive plan for 2.5 years previously and it went nowhere. Mr. Plate said we can't continue to operate on a day to day, month to month basis. If we had some good, tangible information it is hard to refute that. Mrs. Dube said we need to have a council behind us in order to move forward. Mr. Rings said at our next meeting he would like to see us decide how many people on the commission would like to work on this project and to line up an accountant to work on it. Mr. Huot asked the 2 audience members what they thought about it. Jack Sarno said he thinks it is a great idea as did Russ Warriner. Mr. Rings also said that he has a patron study for the patrons of the ballpark that he would like to see implemented and circulated in the stands as well as one for the players at the end of their game season. Mr. Fish said he would help with the patron survey at the Raging Tide games.

VI. Commissioner Updates

- A. Mrs. Mailhot – None other than the website as discussed earlier.
- B. Mrs. Dayton – None
- C. Mr. Huot – He asked about the pest control and the situation with Atlantic. Chair Furtado said that he called their office 3 times but he still hasn't heard back from Joe. Mr. Huot said the mosquitoes aren't real bad. Mr. Fish said not until the sun goes down. Mrs. Mailhot said she doesn't think you can start pest control now as you have to do it at the beginning of the season.
- D. Chair Furtado – Mr. Gustin has put in his resignation from the commission with the town hall. He has taken 3 calls about field rental. One for this Saturday. There is an over-45 league from Bath & they are looking to do a triple-header plus another in September. We really don't have any fees for a triple-header with 3 games during the day. Mrs. Mailhot asked what the hard costs for each game were. Chair Furtado said we aren't 100% sure but you need field crew starting an hour before and an hour after. It would be about 11 hours which is around \$185-\$200. How about \$300 for 3 games? Mr. Fish said it sounds reasonable. Mr. Fish made a motion to set \$300 as the fee for the triple-header day games. Mr. Plante seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mrs. Dube said why don't we charge \$225 for a double-header instead of \$175. Mrs. Dube made a motion to set the fee for a double-header at \$225. Mr. Fish seconded the motion. All were in favor. Chair Furtado said Saturday night is the Gorham Babe Ruth league game & they want to bring a

grill to provide food for the team as the concession stand will be closed. No one has a problem with that.

VII. Good & Welfare

Chair Furtado said he would like to thank Public Works for spreading the stone dust and the crushed stone. He said a lady left 2 notes for him – one about not having any barrels for trash around and how she walks her dogs around and will pick up trash that she finds in the parking lot if there were a barrel to put it in. He went to Public Works and arranged for them to put 2 barrels outside. Chair Furtado thanked Extreme Clean for the use of those barrels. He also wanted to thank Sharri MacDonald for donating a riding lawn mower. Mike Tousignant has been cutting the grass and he will give him a key to the mower. He also thanked Sharri MacDonald for updating the website. Mr. Plante said that Sharri MacDonald is selling raffle tickets raffling off tickets to a New England Patriots game and he hopes she sells them all. Mrs. Dube said that Sharri MacDonald is also selling raffle tickets raffling off tickets to a Red Sox game with the money benefitting the American Legion tournament. The tickets are \$10 each. Chair Furtado said the priority now is to sell the Patriots tickets as the drawing is on 8/5 and the Red Sox tickets are \$5. That drawing will be in September. Chair Furtado said that Russ Warriner is here and he would like to have us put together a baseball game to take place during his event in September. His intention is to sell tickets and have all of that money go to the ballpark. He said on the Friday of his event the helicopter is coming in with 700 motorcycles. Saturday is the grand opening with the Governor and other dignitaries. There will be a Memorial Service at 9AM on Sunday followed by a baseball game. He is working on getting a stage from the LaKermesse and have the dignitaries on the stag at the diamond area with minimum impact from Friday through the weekend. The Army band will come in and play. He is looking for donations from any sponsors. He would like to get more from local organizations as he is getting some from the VFW in Portland. The OOB VFW is the sponsor of the event this year but he would like to work with a different organization next year and have each year's event be sponsored by a different local organization. The intentions are to honor the POWs and to put a banner up on the fence of all the POWs from Maine. Regarding food, he wants Charlie or someone else to take care of that. Mrs. Mailhot said that she thought the number of people that would be attending this event will mean that vendors outside of the concession stand will be necessary as the concession stand won't be able to keep up with it. Mrs. Dube said she thinks there is a game the Tuesday after this event and wants to make sure the field will be in good condition for that game. Chair Furtado said the American Legion is coming up the first three weeks of August and it is imperative for us to be around and try to volunteer for that. Russ Warriner said it would be nice if we could have a military inspired theme for the baseball game during his event. Mr. Plante said perhaps some American Legion all stars can put together a game. Russ Warriner said that Sharri talked to him about having Autumn

Celebration at the ballpark that weekend as it falls at the same time. His group prefers that it not be at the ballpark that weekend. So far he has \$11,000 in funds for the event and needs to bring in another \$10,000. He said he would like to be able to raise enough funds to be able to make a donation to the hosting organization. Rowe Ford is supposed to be doing something. Bill Dodge asked about bringing in a vehicle & he told them if they match the top sponsor donation that he received that he would allow them to bring in a vehicle and if that amount is exceeded he will allow them to bring in a second vehicle. Mrs. Dube asked Russ Warriner if he had spoken to Marc Motors. No, per Mr. Warriner. Audience member Jack Sarno asked if the grounds could handle all of those vehicles. Mr. Rings asked Mr. Warriner if there were any loose ends. He answered just the baseball game. Mr. Plante asked for the date of this baseball game – 9/23. Mr. Warriner said he would like to have an air show on that Saturday in Old Orchard Beach & have the Texas Flying Legends with their museum. They will stage at the Biddeford Airport and do a missing man formation. Then they will go back to the airport and people can check out the aircraft. Mrs. Dube asked if Tom Lachance ever gave us back the contract for the field.

VIII. Adjournment

Mrs. Mailhot made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Huot. Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

Minutes submitted by: Linda Mailhot, Secretary