

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, June 2, 2020**

A Town Council Workshop Meeting of the Old Orchard Beach Town Council was held on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 prior to the regular Town Council Meeting. Chair Thornton opened the meeting. This meeting was televised only – no actual attendance in a room.

The following were in attendance:

**Chair Joseph Thornton
Councilor Kenneth Blow
Councilor Jay Kelley
Councilor Michael Tousignant
Town Manager Larry Mead
Assistant Town Manager V. Louise Reid**

Absent: Vice Chair Shawn O’Neill

The purpose of the Workshop this evening is to revisit some items that Council had further questions or asked for further information. This included:

The Ballpark

Ballpark:

Over the past several weeks we have received countless letters, e-mails and phone calls asking the Town Council in considering budget cuts that the Ballpark not be part of that decision.

Guy Fontaine and his staff updated the schedule to make it clearer to the Council how busy the season is. We have included in the Minutes a copy of the schedule for the Ballpark this season.



Ballpark FY 2021 Operating Budget

EXPENSES:

Account	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Seasonal Wages	35,568	21,840	0
Employer UI	0	0	6,000
Seasonal Wages	20,000	20,000	20,000
Employer FICA	4,250	3,200	2,000
Service Contracts	300	300	300
Electricity	22,000	22,000	22,000
Water	3,000	3,000	3,000
Phone/ Internet	2,130	2,130	1,350
Building Repair	1,000	1,000	3,000
Admin / Operating Supplies	950	950	950

EXPENSES

Account	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Vehicle Fuel Expense	500	500	500
Grounds Maintenance	11,000	11,000	11,000
Concession Expense	4,000	4,000	4,000
Special Events Expense	0	0	0
Total Expenses	104,698	89,920	74,100

REVENUES

Account	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Misc Revenue	250	250	250
Telco Site Revenue	4,560	4,560	4,560
Donations	1,000	1,000	1,000
Concession Revenue	8,000	8,000	8,000
Field Rental Revenue	26,289	26,289	26,289
Souvenir Revenue	1,500	1,500	1,500
Men's League Field Rental	10,000	10,000	10,000
Special Event Revenue	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL REVENUE	52,599	52,599	52,599
	(52,099)	(37,321)	(21,501)

FY2021 Ballpark Scheduled Events

Revised 5/28/2020 1:00 pm

Month	Date	League	Rental Fee	# of Games	Depo Receive
JUL	1	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce & Training			
	1	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game	300	1	
	2	PORTLAND LEGION Matthew Rogers Mgr Portland, Me	290	2	
	3	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce & Training	150	1	
	5	SACO BAY BLUE DEVILS David Page MGR Saco Me.	245	2	
	5	Southern Maine River Rats Jason Lariviere Mgr Saco, Me	245	2	
	6	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game	300	1	
	7	PORTLAND LEGION Matthew Rogers Mgr Portland, Me	245	2	
	8	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce & Training	150	1	
	8	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game	300	1	
	9	PORTLAND LEGION Matthew Rogers Mgr Portland, Me	150	1	
	10	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce & Training	ISO	1	
	11	Southern Maine River Rats Jason Lariviere Mgr Saco, Me	490	4	
	12	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Day game	150	1	
	12	Southern Maine River Rats Jason Lariviere Mgr Saco. Me	245	2	
	13	PORTLAND LEGION Matthew Rogers Mgr Portland, Me	150	1	
	13	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game	300	1	
	14	Hitters Count Training Facili Praticce & Training	150	1	
	15	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce & Training	150	1	
	16	PORTLAND LEGION Matthew Rogers Mgr Portland, Me	150	1	
	17	PORTLAND LEGION Matthew Rogers Mgr Portland, Me	295	2	
	18	PORTLAND LEGION Matthew Rogers M r Portland, Me	295		
	19	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Da game	150	1	
	19	Southern Maine River Rats Jason Lariviere Mgr Saco, Me	245		
	20	Hitters Count Trainin Facili Praticce & Trainin	150	1	
	20	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Ni ht game	300		
	21	Hitters Count Trainin Facili Praticce & Training	150	1	
	22	Hitters Count Trainin Facili Praticce & Trainin	150	1	
	22	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night ame	300	1	
	23	Hitters Count Trainin Facili Praticce & Trainin	150	1	
	24	Hitters Count Trainin Facility Praticce & Trainin	150	1	
	25	Southern Maine River Rats Jason Lariviere M r Saco, Me	490		
	26	Southern Maine Men's Baseball Lea ue Day game	150	1	
	26	Southern Maine River Rats Jason Lariviere M r Saco, Me	245		
	27	Hitters Count Trainin Facili Praticce & Training	150	1	
	27	Southern Maine Men's Baseball Lea ue Night game	300	1	
	28	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce & Trainin	150	1	

	29	Hitters Count Trainin Facility Praticce &Trainin	150	1	
	29	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game	300	1	
	30	Hitters Count Trainin Facility Praticce &Trainin	150	1	
	31	Southern Maine River Rats Jason Lariviere Mgr Saco, Me	245	2	
AUG	1	Southern Maine River Rats Jason Lariviere Mgr Saco, Me	775	5	
	2	Southern Maine River Rats Jason Lariviere Mgr Saco, Me	775	5	
	3	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Trainin	150	1	
	3	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game	300	1	
	4	Hitters Count Trainin Facility Praticce &Trainin	150	1	
	5	SACO BAY BLUE DEVILS David Page MGR Saco Me.	245		
	5	Southern Maine River Rats Jason Lariviere Mgr Saco, Me	245	2	
	6	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Trainin	150	1	
	7	FIRECRACKER SHOWCASE-TOURNAMENTS	750		2,
	8	FIRECRACKER SHOWCASE TOURNAMENTS	750	5	
	9	FIRECRACKER SHOWCASE-TOURNAMENTS	750	5	
	10	FIRECRACKER SHOWCASE TOURNAMENTS	245	2	
	11	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Training	150	1	
	12	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Training	150		
	12	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game	300		
	13	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Training	150	1	
	14	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Training	150	1	
	15	Southern Maine River Rats Jason Lariviere Mgr Saco, Me	490	4	
	16	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Day game	150	1	
	16	Southern Maine River Rats Jason Lariviere Mgr Saco, Me	245	1	
	17	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Training	150	1	
	17	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game	300	1	
	18	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Training	150	1	
	19	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Training	150	1	
	19	Southern Maine River Rats Jason Lariviere Mgr Saco, Me	245		
	20	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Training	150	1	
	21	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Training	150	1	
	22	Available			
	23	DIRGO VINTAGE BASEBALL			
	24	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Training			
	24	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game	300	1	
	25	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Training			
	26	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Training	150	1	
	26	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game	300	1	

Revised 5/28/2020 1:00 pm

Month	Date	League	Rental Fee	# of Games	Deposit Received
	27	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Training			
	28	Hitters Count Training Facility Praticce &Training			
	29	Available			
	30	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Day game			

	30	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Day game			
SEP	1	Available			
	2	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game			
	3	Available			
	4	Available			
	5	Available (Originally Blues Fest CANCELLED)			
	6	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Day game			
	7	Available			
	8	Available			
	9	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game			
	10	Available			
	11	Available (New England Parkinson's Ride (CANDELED COVID-19)			
	12	Available (New England Parkinson's Ride (CANDELED COVID-19)			
	13	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Day game			
	14	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game	300	1	
	15	Available			
	16	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game	300	1	
	17	Available			
	18	FATHER SON TOURNAMENT Jonathan Orvis Vermont Mgr			
	19	FATHER SON TOURNAMENT Jonathan Orvis Vermont Mgr			
	20	FATHER SON TOURNAMENT Jonathan Orvis Vermont Mgr			
	21	FATHER SON TOURNAMENT Jonathan Orvis Vermont Mgr			
	22	Available			
	23	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game	300	1	
	24	Available			
	25	Southern Maine River Rats (TOURNAMENT) Jason Lariviere Mgr Saco, Me			
	26	Southern Maine River Rats (TOURNAMENT) Jason Lariviere Mgr Saco, Me			
	27	Southern Maine River Rats (TOURNAMENT) Jason Lariviere Mgr Saco, Me			
	28	Southern Maine Men's Baseball League Night game			
	29	Available			
	30	PRO BASEBALL SHOWCASE Jared Lemieux Mgr Portland, Me LEAGUE			
OCT	1	PRO BASEBALL SHOWCASE Jared Lemieux Mgr Portland, Me LEAGUE			
	2	PRO BASEBALL SHOWCASE Jared Lemieux Mgr. Portland, Me LEAGUE			
	3	PRO BASEBALL SHOWCASE Jared emieux Mgr. Portland, Me LEAGUE			
	4	PRO BASEBALL SHOWCASE Jared temieux Mgr. Portland, Me LEAGUE			
	5	PRO BASEBALL SHOWCASE Jared Lemieux Mgr. Portland, Me LEAGUE			
	6	PRO BASEBALL SHOWCASE Jared Lemieux Mgr. Portland, Me LEAGUE			
	7	PRO BASEBALL SHOWCASE Jared Lemieux Mgr. Portland, Me LEAGUE			
	8	PRO BASEBALL SHOWCASE Jared Lemieux Mgr. Portland, Me LEAGUE			
	9	PRO BASEBALL SHOWCASE Jared Lemieux Mgr. Portland, Me			

		LEAGUE			
	10	PRO BASEBALL SHOWCASE LEAGUE	Jared Lemieux Mgr. Portland, Me		
	11	PRO BASEBALL SHOWCASE LEAGUE	Jared Lemieux Mgr. Portland, Me		
	12	PRO BASEBALL SHOWCASE LEAGUE	Jared Lemieux Mgr. Portland, Me		
	13	PRO BASEBALL SHOWCASE LEAGUE	Jared Lemieux Mgr Portland, Me		
NOV 2020		Shut Down			
DEC 2020		Shut Down			
JAN 2021		Shut Down			
FEB 2021		Shut Down			
MAR 2021		Shut Down			
				\$ 26,190	164 \$ 2,692.1

Total Field Rental Revenue for Games Scheduled as of 5/28/2020	26,190
Total # of Games Scheduled as of 5/28/2020	164
Projected Revenue Jan 21 - Jun 21	10,000
Projected Number of Field Rentals (of games) Jan 21 - Jun 21	79

Jan 2019 - Jun 2019 Actuals 10,296

Jan 2018- Jun 2018 Actuals

Total Remaining open Dates in FY2021

16

Highlighted in Green are the new games that have been scheduled since 5/19/2020

May 18, 2020

RE: The Ballpark at Old Orchard Beach

Dear Larry and Town Councilors,

My name is Edna Woods and I am the founder of the New England Parkinson's Ride.

Before I get in to the reason for my letter, I first want to say that I am so saddened by everything that is going on in our country due to COVID-19! I am 85 years old and this is one of the most difficult things I have watched this country and our world have to cope with. Knowing how difficult it must be for Old Orchard Beach, normally so alive with tourists in the summer, is particularly heartbreaking. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

I know many of you know my story but for those of you who don't I'd like to share just a little bit. In 2006 my youngest of 7 children was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease...he was only 41. Because he was, and still is, an avid cyclist, we tried to find a fundraising ride for Parkinson's. Sadly the only thing we could find anywhere in the country was a group of 6 cyclists riding 100 miles from Revere, MA to Old Orchard Beach, ME. Our family joined them in 2007 and immediately fell in love with your beautiful little town. Watching the cyclists come down the road to the Pier was so uplifting that we were all in tears. In 2008 that ride was canceled and we had to start our own but there was no question where we would hold it, Old Orchard Beach had stolen our hearts.

We didn't really know anything about how to run a bike ride and my husband Bob and I hadn't ridden one in probably 50 years... but our son had Parkinson's Disease and our family had a mission. Thankfully we met Kim McLaughlin and she guided us through the whole process of putting together an event in town. We knocked on doors and met people willing to help with rest stops and food and parking. Blow Brothers taught us everything we needed to know about with porta-potties. Loranger School let us start the ride there and lots of townspeople helped us set up the finish at the pier. We needed lodging but many of our cyclists could only stay one night. Fred and Ann Kennedy at The Alouette came to our rescue and we have filled their lodging establishments ever since. Whenever we had a need, the people in Old Orchard Beach and the surrounding towns opened their arms to us, and are a big part of our success story.

In 2015 the ride was too big to continue to finish at the pier but we were determined not to leave the town that everyone had come to love. It was then that we discovered The Ballpark! The location was perfect for us as there was ample parking for all the cars coming from all over the country. We could start and end in the same place and even hold our Pre-Ride Dinner there, thanks to the Saco Bay Rotary. And the bonus was we got to work with Guy Fontaine and John Gallo who immediately became part of the family.

Over the past 6 years the ride has evolved and now the afternoon is filled with food & drink, sponsor booths helping those with Parkinson's Disease, and friendship. We hire a local band to help us celebrate and by 6 in the evening everyone is off to enjoy the town...a perfect ending to a perfect day.

I think by now you know why I am sharing my story. It is my understanding is that there is to be a meeting to discuss the future of The Ballpark and I wanted to let you know that losing this venue would be heartbreaking for our entire ride family and The Michael J Fox Foundation. I know this year is so very difficult for everyone and that The Ballpark, along with most venues that hold mass gatherings, will take a particularly hard hit. But this is one season. Would it not be possible to let these decisions ride until 2021 to give The Ballpark an opportunity to get back on its feet? There are so many possibilities for exciting events, baseball games, concerts, etc., and the site is a perfect place to hold them. Though we obviously won't be able to host our ride there this year, we promise we will be back for years to come...until there is a cure.

I pray that you are all well and keeping safe. We will make it through all this, and 2021 will be a year of renewal.

Thank you for your time and for supporting our efforts for the past 12 years!!

Edna



May 19, 2020



Dear Larry and Town Council Members,

I am writing because I heard that there was a suggestion put forth during budget meetings to consider closing The Ballpark in order to save money during this difficult time.

As most of you know, the New England Parkinson's Ride has held our event in Old Orchard Beach for the past 12 years. We moved to the Ballpark in 2015 and the entire face of the Ride changed. We were able to host many more people, hold our Pre & Post-Ride parties, offer showers, and provide for sponsor booths. We partnered with UNE in a program for advanced students to offer Osteopathic manipulations, primarily to those suffering from Parkinson's disease.

When we first met with Guy Fontaine and John Gallo, it became clear that we would make a great team and would work together to make The Ballpark the best it could be, not just for us but for the entire Town. We committed immediately to a long term relationships and were determined each year to leave The Ballpark better than we found it.

In addition to the blood, sweat, and a few tears that we and our family of volunteers have put into the effort, the New England Parkinson's Ride has donated things like a tent for the stage, the repair of a freezer and then a shared cost for a new one, a new grill, repair and build of 50+ picnic tables, and the cost *and* manpower of getting 5 showers back into use. In addition to paying for the rental of The Ballpark, we pay for all services we use such as mosquito spraying, trash, and additional ballpark staff. We pick up every last piece of trash and leave The Ballpark shinning when we leave the area on Sunday. We also make sure that the Town knows that we are there for them, should the need arise, and that anything we have that can be of service, we will put at their disposal. That need came to pass when the Town of OOB hosted its community wide event in June 2018. We were thrilled to be able to assist with the delivery of 25 tables and canopies for the Town's use and loved being a part of such a wonderful event.

Although we *all* find ourselves struggling to adjust this year...both financially and emotionally, we know that this too shall pass. When it does, we are all going to need our community connections more than ever. I truly believe life is going to be simpler and we will all get more joy than ever before out of the simple things like ballgames, concerts, and other local events that keep us connected. I also believe that The Ballpark has so much potential to not only survive but to thrive. When you put up tents with twinkle lights like we do for our Pre-Ride Dinner, there is no reason townspeople and tourists alike wouldn't rent it for business events and even weddings. Perhaps this off year is the perfect time to work on a marketing plan for your incredible venue.

In closing, I'd like to thank The Ballpark, the Town, and every local cyclist & volunteer (over 100 of them from OOB) for helping us make a difference. Because of you we are able to host families from all over the world for what my mom likes to call "a weekend at the beach with a ride thrown in for fun". Because of your support we are able to donate **100%** of the money raised directly to The Michael J. Fox Foundation and every penny of the \$5.8 million we have raised to date goes directly to research. That simply could not happen without the support of the Town of OOB and The Ballpark.

Please let us know if there is more that we can do to help keep The Ballpark alive for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Cindy W. Theberge, Executive Director

Live.Ride.Cure.
www.neparkinsonsride.com

Gentlemen,

I am writing this to you as the Commissioner of the Southern Maine Men's Baseball League (SMMBL) and the Field Manager of The OOB Ballpark. The Ballpark is not a failure. The Ballpark is one of the most sought after venues to play baseball in Southern Maine. It is a ballpark that offers affordability for all leagues with a stadium atmosphere that not many places can supply. The Ballpark was brought back to life in 2010 to "Bring baseball back". This we can say was a success. Most probably a different type of success than what was first thought of back in 2008 when this plan to bring baseball back originated. Although The Ballpark does not currently host a professional or college league team, we hope to bring one back soon. It is home to many youth and adult amateur baseball leagues throughout Southern Maine and beyond. The number of organizations grows every year as word has traveled that this facility is a great place to play baseball.

The Southern Maine River Rats are our main youth organization calling The Ballpark home. They are a member of the Elite Baseball League (EBL) which has some of the best youth baseball in New England. The Saco Bay Blue Devils and The Southern Maine Waves are two other youth organizations playing in the EBL that are playing more and more baseball at The Ballpark every year. All three of these youth baseball leagues typically play on weekends throughout the summer in many facilities in the area. A weekend with the River Rats or the Blue Devils constitutes 2 double headers on both Saturday and Sunday. These games are played by kids throughout the New England states. Every year more and more youth leagues are calling to rent the facility for baseball including different American Legion and Babe Ruth Leagues in Maine. I see kids and parents coming into The Ballpark for the first time in awe of the fact that they get to play on the field. I see this especially in the 13 and 14 year old kids who have recently transitioned from a Little League field to the "big diamond". Parents of these kids walk around a take pictures and ask about the history of the Stadium. Things like this give all of us involved in The Ballpark a sense of pride and accomplishment. We see more and more of this every year as different organizations inquire about playing at The Ballpark. Some of these include American Legion and Babe Ruth teams

The River Rats host several weekend tournaments at all facilities in the area but The Ballpark is used as its host facility. These tournaments bring families from all over New England to the OOB area for the weekend. They promote some of these Tournaments as "The Battle at the Beach" and use the Ballpark as the main hub for registrations and the tournaments home. All of the Championship games are played at The Ballpark. In coordination with The River Rats, The Firecracker organization holds the "Lighthouse Classic" every summer. This organization, based in Rhode Island, provide Showcase Tournaments for ages 13 to 18 throughout great facilities in New England and New York. We are honored to be part of their tournament schedule.

Adult amateur baseball leagues are another big part of the Ballpark. The 25+ and 35+ leagues of the SMMBL have been playing at The Ballpark since we reopened in 2010. It has been a staple for the league for all of these years and they play approximately 50 games per year here playing from April to early October. The Maine Woods 45+ league from Bath has been using The Ballpark in the fall as their venue

for their playoffs. They also play a fall season which lasts through early October. Like the youth leagues, other adult leagues also ask to play games at The Ballpark.

Another organization which uses the facility is indicative of what people think about The Ballpark. Two years ago a group of people asked if they could use the facility to host their Father/Son Tournament. It is a group of friends from all over the country who get together in late September to play baseball with their families for the weekend. They used to play in different places throughout the country. Since coming to the Ballpark, they fell in love with the field and the community. They have said that they will use this Ballpark as their place to play.

Every year the amount of baseball being played at The Ballpark grows. This of course means that much work must go on to maintain the field and facility. This requires the help of the Town as costs for materials, services, and payroll has grown as The Ballpark has grown. This money is essential to be able to provide a great venue and a wonderful baseball experience that we offer the people of Southern Maine, New England, and beyond. Families come to The Ballpark and spend money in our community. They stay at hotels, stop at gas stations and convenient stores, and eat at our restaurants. This Ballpark brings people to Old Orchard Beach. The Ballpark Commission and Ballpark Staff work hard to continue to bring more and more to The Ballpark.

Sincerely,

Jim Doran

SMMBL Commissioner and Ballpark Field Manager



May 19, 2020

Hello Larry & Town Council Members,

I serve as Chairman of the Board of the Michael J. Fox Foundation and am writing to express our deep appreciation for the support that we and the New England Parkinson's Ride (NEPR) have received from Old Orchard Beach, for more than a decade. I have a home in Biddeford and my family and I have ridden in the NEPR for years, which has given me a great appreciation for The Ball Park, both as a much-loved home for our ride and as an iconic, special place that I believe is a tremendous asset for OOB and the surrounding area.

Last year the Michael J. Fox Foundation raised and invested over \$100 million in research to find a cure for Parkinson's Disease and NEPR was once again our largest single day fundraiser. Equally incredible is the strong sense of community among the NEPR riders. They return each year from all over the United States to visit Old Orchard Beach, ride the coast of Maine, and enjoy the festivities at The Ball Park. The town and The Ball Park have truly become our Michael J. Fox Foundation home in Maine and although Michael has not been able to attend the event, our co-founder, Debbie Brooks, and many other prestigious members of the Foundation join us each year. Michael is also there with us in spirit and prepares a special video for NEPR each year. As a local resident, I watch NEPR's recognition at our Michael J. Fox Foundation gala in New York and hear its praises at Board meetings with great pride for our Maine coast, cities, towns and people.

I hope, and believe, that the thousands of riders, volunteers, and family members contribute value to the Old Orchard community, both through the services they use and the visibility they bring, as they raise funds from many thousand donors. Once these visitors experience this part of Maine, many return for vacations, and some even become permanent residents.

As a local resident who has enjoyed numerous events at The Ball Park, I believe it is a valuable resource for our area and one I hope the town will see fit to preserve. As an executive in both commercial and not-for-profit organizations, I am acutely aware of the impact of the pandemic and the financial challenges. We need to be fiscally responsible yet we need to keep a longer-term vision. We must think creatively about how we can use our resources to build an even stronger sense of community and, eventually and safely, bring families and friends together. I am confident The Ball Park has an important role to play.

I appreciate you allowing me time to share my views. Again, I want to thank you and the Old Orchard Beach community for being such gracious hosts and valuable supporters of our NEPR, The Michael J. Fox Foundation, and the millions of Parkinson's patients worldwide. Without support and resources such as The Ball Park, we cannot be successful.

As Michael says "We will be here until Parkinson's is not!" We look forward to the future and the thousands of ride participants and volunteers partaking of your hospitality.

Sincerely,

Skip Irving
Chairman, Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

Todd Sherer, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

Michael J. Fox
Founder

Deborah W. Brooks
Co-Founder & Executive
Vice Chairman

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Louise Reid

From: M&J Leavitt <raffle5@maine.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 1:50 PM
To: CouncilComments
Subject: The Ballpark

EXTERNAL: This e-mail originated from outside of the Town of Old Orchard Beach E-mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender address and know the content is safe.

I'm disappointed about hearing The Ballpark might close. I understand we'll lose this year, but we'll really need it next year. Especially the OOB Bluesfest. Thank you. Michael Leavitt, Saco, Me.

Sent from my iPhone

Louise Reid

From: Joan Jewett <joanmac52@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 10:03 PM
To: CouncilComments
Cc: Larry Mead
Subject: Ballpark

EXTERNAL: This e-mail originated from outside of the Town of Old Orchard Beach E-mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender address and know the content is safe.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

I am writing in concerns with the idea of closing the ballpark. You have no idea how much this place means to all us over 50 goers. A lot has been put into the process of getting the Blues Festival up and running. I beg you to please not take away the only place were we feel young again and meet old friends.....Please reconsider your vote.... Respectfully yours
Joan Jewett

Louise Reid

From: Jody Cyr <mainestrm@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 2:14 PM
To: Louise Reid
Subject: Ball Park

EXTERNAL: This e-mail originated from outside of the Town of Old Orchard Beach E-mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender address and know the content is safe.

Dear Larry and Council Members,

It has come to my attention that you are considering closing The Ballpark due to no activity in 2020. I have been working for the past four or five years with Charlie Coulthard and Guy Fontaine to make the Blues Fest a success. That has happened every year and has grown in all ways. I get paid to book the major acts, but both my husband and I have also helped out with other things such as selling raffle tickets. Both Guy and Charlie and their volunteers work hard every year to make this event happen. I personally spent many hours in 2019-2020 working with them and the artists. I will not get paid for this due to Covid 19, but I arranged for them to postpone this show until Saturday, September 4, 2021. Two of the bands have a 50% deposit. The third has my word on payment. These are all contracted dates. Closing the Ballpark now will be detrimental to the success of future shows and leaves the town of OOB and I open to "breach of contract" liability if this 2021 festival doesn't happen. My understanding is that the Ballpark hosts many other events as well, including The annual Michael J. Fox charity, Thursday night concerts, BBQ's, and local school events to name a few. I urge you to vote to keep it going with no changes.

I look forward to next year's Annual Blues Fest.
Best Regards,

Jody Cyr
MaineStream Music LLC
2 Greenwood Dr.
Kennebunk, Maine 04043
Ph 207 985-6790
Fx 207 985-8447
Cell 207 229-4315
www.mainestreammusic.com
mainestrm@aol.com

Louise Reid

From: ebell@maine.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 9:52 AM
To: CouncilComments; Larry Mead; Louise Reid
Subject: The Old Orchard Beach Ballpark

EXTERNAL: This e-mail originated from outside of the Town of Old Orchard Beach E-mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender address and know the content is safe.

To Whom This May Concern:

It has just come to my attention that the Town of Old Orchard Beach is considering closing the Old Orchard Beach Ballpark permanently. Although, I do appreciate that this year, in particular, is difficult as COVID-19 has curtailed all events for the year, it seems rather drastic to close the ballpark as a result. So many people enjoy the Blues Festival that is held there every year. I personally attend that event and would miss it so much as would many others. It had one of its best years last year. Each year, the festival is more successful and is gaining renown. It is an asset to the town in terms of a draw for tourists, especially at the end of the season when things are usually quietening down.

From a financial point of view, so much money has gone into its maintenance and repair over the past few years, which would just be lost if it were left to deteriorate now. I lived in Old Orchard Beach for over 30 years, and during that time this topic has arisen many times. In the past, the support from the town's people has been overwhelmingly in favor of the ballpark, to the extent that volunteers helped in its restoration. The support for the ballpark is still there. The importance of the location of the land abutting the school district is enough not to sell it. At some point, it might be necessary to use the land for the expansion of school facilities.

Has this question been put to the people in the town before this drastic decision is made? Has the town sought out additional funds from the State of Maine to help with hardship created by COVID-19? It seems as if there are unanswered questions that should be explored before a decision of this monumental proportion is made. By all means, explore the options, but please consider carefully before you make this decision. The decision is not just a financial one as so many people in Old Orchard Beach and the surrounding areas have fond memories of events held at this site. It has so much potential.

Elizabeth Bell

Louise Reid

From: JOHN L COGAN <nonieskid@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 2:58 PM
To: CouncilComments
Subject: The Ballpark

EXTERNAL: This e-mail originated from outside of the Town of Old Orchard Beach E-mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender address and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir-

I am writing you regarding The Ballpark and its future. I am the President of a 60 man baseball league that plays there every year, and it is such a treat to be able to do so. It is a place where athletes can come to together and use teamwork and their physical abilities as they strive for the common purpose; along the way they learn about themselves and about others. Baseball isn't just a game and The Ballpark isn't just a venue. Both are the embodiment of what make our nation great; history, camaraderie, its a belief in hard work and determination and how the two fused together can overcome the longest odds. The people of Old Orchard Beach don't need another housing development. They don't need another strip mall. They have a jewel in their midst, maybe they just need to be reminded of that.

It ain't over 'til it's over.

John Cogan, President
Coastal New England Baseball League

Louise Reid

From: Louise Reid
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 10:39 AM
To: 'David Page'; CouncilComments
Cc: Larry Mead; Town Council
Subject: RE: Ballpark at OOB

V. Louise Reid
Assistant Town Manager
207-937-5626
207-284-3652
lreid@oobmaine.com

Town Address: 1 Portland Avenue
Old Orchard Beach, Maine 04064

-----Original Message-----

From: David Page <dpage747@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 10:37 AM
To: CouncilComments <councilcomments@oobmaine.com>
Cc: Larry Mead <lmead@oobmaine.com>; Louise Reid <lreid@oobmaine.com>
Subject: Ballpark at OOB

EXTERNAL: This e-mail originated from outside of the Town of Old Orchard Beach E-mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender address and know the content is safe.

The Saco Bay Blue Devils are a small 1 team youth baseball team based locally. For 6+years we have called the ballpark our home and this year more than ever we look forward to that continuing. The Ballpark has special place in our hearts and everyone who experiences playing and watching games there walks away with life long memories. Visiting teams plan picnics, time downtown and at the beach when they come. Please work to save and build upon this great asset. Youth travel baseball is growing and can only help solidify the Ballparks future. We the Saco Bay Blue Devils depend on it. Thank you.

David Page
Saco Bay Blue Devils

Hello Old Orchard Beach Council Members,

I am reaching out in support of continuing to keep The Ballpark in operation. In 2010, I was involved in bringing quality baseball to Old Orchard Beach as a coach of the Raging Tide. I was witness to the joy and pride many members of the community shared in creating a space in the town for people to recreate, enjoy the weather and partake in the game of baseball. I understand the importance of the need to have a dependable quality tenant who is supportive of the town and its ideas for the space, but also who provides quality baseball entertainment at a professional level that creates value and attraction to the area. I am aware there is potential for three different primary tenants in the 2021 season, myself and my company being one of them. There have been discussions with the NECBL, Frontier League and I have recently discussed my plans to become a quality tenant through my company Professional Baseball Showcase League, LLC. Any of the three tenants would lease the office and clubhouse spaces for the duration of the summer months.

My plans would potentially bring hundreds of baseball players and their families to the town in October for a 2 week event and in late May for a four day tryout event prior to the league. The league itself would sustain four teams and up to 100 players, coaches and front office staff who would utilize the property for a season. Our schedule would include up to 100 games in 40-60 dates with promotional events, concessions and merchandise sales and advertising opportunities for local businesses. A tenant like this will realize the potential to make the Ballpark the landmark it can be in this town.

Directly, having a primary tenant of this nature will surely assist in offsetting the operating costs of the facility, and indirectly, helping support traffic and the utilization of local businesses. That said, The Ballpark already supports a number of youth and adult amateur baseball events as it currently stands. As a player in one of those leagues, I can say that The Ballpark is the most enjoyable place to play in Southern Maine. With a primary tenant like my company which is willing to work with and support other events and festivals at the facility, the property's value can surely be realized. As you deliberate on this decision, I only ask that you don't give up on this potential. I know baseball at The Ballpark can be a meaningful part of this community, and I hope that you will feel the same way when you consider your vote.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Jared Lemieux, M. Ed.
Owner/President
Professional Baseball Showcase League, LLC**

Distinguished Town Councilors, and Town Officials,

I write to you now, asking for your support to keep The Ballpark open for Fiscal Year 2021. My appeal to you, is simply as a men's league baseball player, and as someone who makes substantial effort toward keeping baseball active and healthy here in Maine as our national pastime. I have started two Southern Maine Men's Baseball League (SMMBL) teams, still run and play for one, both are thriving. This is my first year as the League's secretary and I am but one person speaking on behalf of the SMMBL.

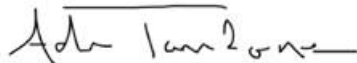
The Ballpark has grown to play a central role in Southern Maine baseball, and our SMMBL. It is greatly loved by all who play there, and our families as well, attending in the stands. Nobody takes it for granted, it is a privilege to play, and be there. As I have come to know more people active in baseball in our area, universally The Ballpark is held in the highest regard. I personally am very grateful to the Town of Old Orchard Beach for the continued support it has given The Ballpark.

Many Southern Maine baseball leagues are dependent on The Ballpark to make their seasons, and activities possible. Without The Ballpark staying open, I expect some baseball leagues will cancel their seasons. This is likely true for the SMMBL, which is planning to begin a postponed season in July, State guidelines permitting. Without The Ballpark, the SMMBL thirteen team season will likely be canceled. As you know, this is the important and prominent role The Ballpark has grown to play in recent years.

A final point- The financial difference between opening, and closing may not be very much, so the cost savings may be less than expected. Every dollar counts, and cannot be minimized, however I would emphasize that the great, and positive impact The Ballpark has on Southern Maine baseball is a worthwhile endeavor, that benefits Mainers from all walks of life. In a time of increasing division, baseball brings Mainers together.

Thank you for your time, and service.

Best Regards,



**Adam Tambone
Secretary, SMMBL**

The Town Council approved the Option 3 budget where the Recreation Department will be managing the Ballpark for FY 21. The Council also approved the transfer of \$21,501 from Ballpark CIP for the FY 21 Ballpark Operating Budget.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Town Council Workshop ended at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**V. Louise Reid
Town Council Secretary**

I, V. Louise Reid, Secretary to the Town Council of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, do hereby certify that the foregoing document consisting of twenty-four (24) pages is a copy of the original Minutes of the Town Council Workshop Meeting of June 2, 2020.