

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

## ***Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2012***

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

Chair Furtado called this regular meeting of the Old Orchard Beach Ballpark Commission on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 at the Ballpark Clubhouse at 6:46PM.

### **II. Roll Call**

Present are: Dana Furtado, Jerome Plante, Robin Dube, Lucien Huot, Linda Mailhot and alternate Robert Rings. Audience members Jason Webber, John & Pam Gallo and Jerome Begert in attendance.

### **III. Acceptance of Minutes from August 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

Mr. Rings said that he has not received the minutes. Mr. Huot said that he did not receive the minutes either. Mr. Huot was given a copy of the minutes for review. Mr. Huot made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Plante seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **IV. Five-Year Business Plan**

Mr. Rings asked if everyone got the updated version of the plan he sent out last week. He handed one to Mr. Hot and Mr. Plante. Pages 3-6 have some language added as a result of conversations. Chair Furtado said this is a template for us to work from and put together a business plan. Mrs. Mailhot made a motion to approve the idea of a business plan and to set up a working group to put it together. Mr. Plante seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Rings said right after it on page 7, we need to scope out and determine the breadth of what we are doing. He talked to the planner and they are working on a comprehensive plan for the area. Mr. Rings suggests that we try to keep it to the ballpark and not include the skate park or the ballpark. Mr. Huot asked Mr. Rings to clarify that he is suggesting we don't want to include the community garden, etc. Mr. Rings said it will get complicated if we do. Audience member Begert said the citizens should have input on the comprehensive plan and this group should not wait to have that group tell the ballpark what they can and can't do. Chair Furtado said the way the ordinance was crafted we are bound by that to take care of the 50 acre woods that surrounds this facility. Mr. Rings said he doesn't want people to think we are duplicating what the planner is doing. Mr. Plante said you won't. Perhaps there should be a discussion with him regarding this. Mr. Huot would like to see the planner at a meeting about this. Mr. Rings said should this group work on the mission and vision and do that and then bring it back to the commission as a

whole to approve. Mrs. Dube said she would like to see the town manager at one of our meetings occasionally. Mrs. Mailhot made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Huot to have the working group work on it and present it to the full commission.

## **V. Update on Lighting Issue**

Chair Furtado said there were some emails going back and forth over the weekend regarding this issue. The lighting was fixed temporarily until we run a new line. It needs to be addressed in the very near future. Kevin Lessard and Kevin's Electric donated their services and time to do what has been needed to date on this. There is a 4" conduit that runs from the fire department that runs to center field and they will put a splice box somewhere in there and hook it up to the first pole. We did have to cancel one of the "Over-35" games because of it. On that first Monday we weren't able to fix it with a fuse which was the initial thought. He spoke with a code enforcement guy that the town manager sent down. He recommended that we build a partial wall that runs ground to ceiling to the electrical panel room. He does not want interior access from inside the building. Another issue is that the building with the electrical service is not our building so the cost would have to be borne by either the police department or public works. We could have a key to just that little electrical room. Audience member John Gallo suggested that if you are going to run 1 wire go ahead and run 3 wires to have them in case something happens. If you do partition that off, put the rest of the electrical for that building inside so that it will be separate and not inside the room dedicated to the ballpark lighting. Mr. Huot said to John Gallo that he was sorry if the lighting issue caused inconvenience on your last night game. Audience member John Gallo said his only complaint is that people knew about it Friday night and the team didn't find out about it until Monday night and only by accident. Chair Furtado said no one realized the lights were out until Saturday night and the electrician thought it was just a fuse. They ultimately found out Monday during the day that it wasn't the fuse when they replaced it and there still were no lights. Mr. Huot said at the last meeting Chair Furtado mentioned there might be an update on replacement lights. Chair Furtado said he hasn't heard from Percy's yet on that. Audience member John Gallo said he does commend Percy and Kevin for their hard work to get those lights on. Every outlet, lamp, etc. needs to be labeled so that when you have these repairs to make you can immediately know what it goes to. Chair Furtado said that we saved \$1400 by having volunteers do that work. Audience member John Gallo said if you had an electrician under contract he would be there in an hour and not whenever he can get there. There are times when you need emergency contractors to work on those issues. Chair Furtado said the town electrician was paid \$2200 to fix the electrical problem with the showers and then a volunteer came in and diagnosed it correctly and fixed it.

## **VI. Individual Commissioner Updates**

- A.) Jerome Plante – The council accepted Ballpark Way. Discussed with John and with others. The ME Turnpike wants a logo to work with before the application can be submitted. We are going to try and get it done early so all of that is in place. There will be one for northbound and southbound traffic. Audience member John Gallo said he would like to see more than just a sign at the end of town. It could be something the size of a paper plate that looks like a baseball with an arrow pointing in the direction of the ballpark. The town needs to market the ballpark. They will market their team and their games. Mr. Plante said we will at the least put a sign at the entrance to the town from each community.
- B.) Linda Mailhot - She met with the company working on the website. She will email the link to take a look at it for input.
- C.) Robert Rings – He put a database together previously to be part of the proposed website and it has a lot of valuable information in it. Linda asked Mr. Rings to email that to her. He also stated that he gave Ms. DeRice a Media Contact guide because a lot of people don't know how to provide information to the media. Mr. Huot asked is this database is for everyone to see or just for us? Mr. Rings said there should be a few versions of this and the one you are looking at could be edited for the website. Audience member Begert said is the database something that is designed to be a hand-out or to be on the website? Mr. Rings said he is not suggesting that this be a brochure. It is mainly for getting proposals for events so that we can include that information. Audience member Begert said tomorrow night at the council meeting they will be voting on whether or not they should get a syndicated TV program to come to town and talk to people. Perhaps some of this information would be helpful for them to have. Mr. Rings said the town manager had a conversation with him about the 5-year plan. Then Friday afternoon he called him about 3 neutral parties that were to come to town to interview the candidates for the field manager position. He did meet with them. There was a former Red Sox pitcher who lives in Windham, NH as well as a selectman and a retired policeman from that area. He gave them a briefing on the ballpark. They will interview the candidates and Tammy and the town manager will make the final decision. Chair Furtado said the town has a very specific hiring process and he doesn't understand why we aren't utilizing that process for this position.
- D.) Robin Dube – Nothing to report.
- E.) Lucien Huot – Nothing to report.
- F.) Chair Dana Furtado – Regarding the community garden, there seems to be some conflict with some people wanting to spending money. The garden hasn't paid for water since it started. He thinks the original idea was for a water meter to be installed and the water could be regulated. Mr. Plante said

let them use it and if it gets to a certain point then we can do something. Chair Furtado said perhaps we put a limit on the number of plots. He will send a letter to Paul Ladakakos about this tomorrow. Regarding Dave Domingos and his payments, the town has paid him for his work plus an extra \$1300. He sent the town manager an email about the overpayment. Tommy Lachance is going to get the aeration done for free from the personnel at Dunegrass. We have to pay \$15 an hour for about 3 hours to get someone to do it but they are using their equipment. There is a block of games that say SMMBL on the schedule. Last night Tommy Lachance was here getting the field ready and no one showed up. He contacted Jim Doran who told him that this schedule was done in April or May just to put something on the calendar. He told him to cancel yesterday's game, today's game and another. Chair Furtado would like to see us have a cancellation policy. The Babe Ruth league wanted to play yesterday and he told them no because this game was on the schedule. Mr. Huot asked if these games are prepaid. Chair Furtado said that's another issue. He's not sure. Mrs. Mailhot said we should have a cancellation policy. Chair Furtado said the demand fee is about \$900 a month for the lights plus \$55 an hour. Mrs. Mailhot will try to work with the town AR department & reconcile who paid and how much, etc. Chair Furtado said regarding the Legion tournaments that were played, the cost savings of having volunteers for concessions and field workers was about \$8190. Audience member John Gallo said the jobs have not been completed. The trash has not been emptied. There are chairs in the field needing to be put away. There is food in the umpires room, the home locker room is a mess. Chair Furtado said the concessions revenue was approximately \$15,000. Audience member John Gallo asked about getting a portion of the revenue from concessions to reciprocate what the Tide does for the town. Mrs. Mailhot said that she doesn't believe that is in the contract. Chair Furtado asked about the money from the FCBL and said that money has not been paid yet. Audience member John Gallo said that Chris Hall is the contact for that. His number is 617-593-2112, and his email is futuresleague@yahoo.com.

## **VII. New Business**

Mrs. Mailhot said that the commission should think about whether or not we want to be able to take credit card payments at the concessions booth. If so we will need wireless internet access. She further stated that the day after the Tide season contract was up, she contacted John Gallon about getting access to the wireless connection and was initially denied access though later he came down and set something up for us to use. Audience member John Gallo said there is wireless internet in the facility but it does not reach the concessions stand. There is a wire run now to the merchandise booth and he had put a router in the merchandise booth but that is gone now. We would need to get a wireless router and hub or network switch if we want to have wireless at the concession stand. Mr. Huot made a motion to post pone this item until the next meeting. Mr. Rings said did we decide who was going to work on the cancellation policy? He will be happy to write it but wonders about what other contract language. Mrs. Mailhot said we

just need to come up with our language for cancellation and put that on the field usage form and in whatever contracts are done.

#### **VIII. Old Business**

Jason Webber gave an update on the gray sox game as a fundraiser. He spoke to Mr. Fish to figure out what needs to be done. They will get the team together. At first he thought it was a ballpark fundraiser but after looking at the contract and speaking with Ms. DeRice he determined that it is also a fundraiser for the ballpark. In the advertisements they are just saying scholarships for kids in recreation department. The town gets 25% of what they collect. All checks are made out to the Town of Old Orchard Beach and are sent to the town. They are also soliciting businesses in the Saco/Biddeford area. Mr. Webber proposes that the gate fee should be split 50/50 with the ballpark, the 50/50 raffle revenue goes 100% to the ballpark and the concessions revenue goes 100% to the ballpark. Chair Furtado asked do you know how much they have raised so far. Mr. Webber thinks about \$5,000. They expect a much lower number than last year because usually there is a year skipped between these fundraising games. Mr. Huot thanked Mr. Webber for his time and effort.

Chair Furtado asked Mr. Plante if there was any progress being made on getting the teams together for the game during the POW event. Mr. Plante said that Bob Moody is working on that. Chair Furtado asked Mr. Rings what is the latest on the exit interviews, etc. Mr. Rings said he has put together the answers for the patrons and Sharri MacDoanld said she would help him set something up on excel. Mr. Furtado said there is an Irish festival in Buffalo, NY 9/15 & 9/16. Does anyone want to go up and check it out for research as something that we might have at this facility?

#### **IX. Good & Welfare**

Audience member John Gallo said that if we heard rumors that they are selling the Tide they are not selling them. They are looking for investors but they are not selling. Chair Furtado said thanks to all of the volunteers who worked hard during the Legion tournament. Audience member Begert said he just mentioned OOB365 and began the meeting about marketing and getting the word out. A friend of his, John McDonald has been expressing curiosity about how things went with the Tide. He would like an information sheet from OOB365 or the ballpark secretary to come down to the radio interview and talk about what is still going on for the season. Someone could go with him to the interview or give him a sheet with some information.

#### **X. Adjournment**

Mr. Huot left at approximately 9:11pm and the meeting was adjourned right after that. Mr. Plante made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Mrs. Mailhot

Minutes submitted by: Linda Mailhot, Secretary