

Old Orchard Beach Ballpark Commission

Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2012

I. Call to order

Chair Furtado called this regular meeting of the Old Orchard Beach Ballpark Commission on June 6th, 2012 at the Ballpark Clubhouse at 6:40PM.

II. Roll Call

Present are: Dana Furtado, Linda Mailhot, Jerome Plante, Robin Dube, Mark Gustin, Kris Fish, Lucien Huot, and audience members Tom Lachance, Al Lappin, Sharlene Taylor, and Jim Doran.

III. Acceptance of Minutes from May 21st Meeting

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

IV. Interim General Manager Update

Mr. 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. Mailhot if she had anything to give an update on – no.
- B. Chair Furtado asked Mr. Gustin if he had anything to give an update on – no.
- C. Chair Furtado asked Mr. Fish if he had anything to give an update on – He stated that at this time he is still an alternate until the Chair asks the Council to make him a commissioner. He also said that Pepsi has signed the contract for the concession stand. The coolers and storage bins are on order. Saco & Biddeford savings has a banner coming to be put up for them. Chair Furtado said there is one up in the outfield as well. The one that is coming goes on the merchandise shack. Mr. Gustin said that one of those sign is part of their sponsorship contract with the Raging Tide. Mr. Fish asked Mr. Huot if he ever spoke with anyone at Atlantic Pest Control. Mr. Huot said he spoke to Mr. Poisson but he hasn't heard anything back. He will check with them again.
- D. Chair Furtado asked Mr. Plante 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 – no

- F. Chair Furtado asked Mrs. Dube if she had anything to give an update on. She asked Charlie what she needs for the concession stand. Charlie indicated that she needs a commercial can opener. We have a fryolater but we need to expand the overhang on the building as it needs to be under cover.
- G. Chair Furtado said that we have a budget meeting tonight at Council Chambers. Today was the United Way Day of Caring. A lot of things got done like the area near the tent got mowed, the dugouts were cleaned, the edging at the infield was weeded and cleaned out, the skybox floors were leveled, the concourse area was yolk-raked and weeded, public works dropped off and spread some stone dust, waste water treatment mowed the lawn in the parking lot area. Some painting needs to be done by the first dugout. The dugouts were cleaned out but more brush needs to be taken care of. There was about 30 people. The budget workshop is going to deal with the document that is in front of us now. Earlier in the week Mrs. Mailhot and Chair Furtado sat down with Catherine and an option c was talked about relying on more volunteers and stipend positions. With option c we were able to project a profit without town money. These are all line items. If we have more field events than these it will change as it is based on 140 field events. With stipend positions you eliminate payroll taxes. With where the facility is today the other two options were not viable options. Mr. Gustin asked what is service contracts breakdown. Chair Furtado said the breakdown is on the bottom. Mr. Gustin asked what is changing in this breakdown from the other 2 options. The mowing figure changes per Chair Furtado. The field manager that is willing to come on will save the town \$5200 in service contracts. Mrs. Dube said the recreation department still has funds for a general manager in their budget. Chair Furtado said we received \$75,000 from the town. The first was to renovate concession, other was for staffing, etc. If the town does want to allocate money we can use that to get the second concession stand up and running. With one concession stand we don't have the ability to service 3,000-5,000 people. Mr. Plante asked if there were any events that are scheduled that we can sell beer at. Jimmy The Greek's is the licensee and he may be willing to do something. Mrs. Dube said didn't OOB365 get approved to sell beer here for an event. Chair Furtado said only because the Raging Tide is having a game that day. Mr. Gustin had a question about whether there is a plan to redesign the pitcher's mound so we don't need mound clay. Chair Furtado said the cost will be minimal, between \$500-\$700. Mr. Gustin asked how it was being redesigned. Audience members Lachance & Doran said that redesigning it is not going to stop you from having to maintain it but it handles the weather better and takes less maintenance. It is a polymer based product. Audience member Doran said it's not bad stuff but you have to dig down 4" and replace traditional clay with this at \$24 a bag. It sheds water and stays moist. He went on to say that personally he's not sure it makes that much difference as you will still have to sweep up and put some clay down but not as much. Mr. Gustin said the regular clay is \$17 a bag but you pay \$24 a bag for the new stuff. When you calculate the costs don't forget that and don't forget to add the prep of changing the structure. Audience member

Lappin said I don't want to ruin the mound we have out there. Audience member Lachance said it is less work for the field maintenance workers. Audience member Doran said did you think of this on the batters box. No, per Chair Furtado. He estimated 25% of the cost now on our current numbers. Mr. Gustin asked the audience members if you use more clay on the mound or the batters box? Sometimes more pitching mound sometimes 50/50. It depends on the weather. Audience member Doran said he thinks more on the pitchers mound. It ships out of Massachusetts so you would have to work something out with them. Audience member Lappin asked are you using less clay this year than last. He said he never really counted so it's hard to tell. It depends on the weather and how moist it is. He uses no more than 1 bag per game. Chair Furtado said he doesn't know if anyone has gone out to the field but there are a lot of different types of grass growing out there and there are some signs of disease. If we don't address it soon we are going to lose the infield. Audience member Lachance has some suggestions. Audience member Lappin said he knows that 1 fertilization was done and another is scheduled. The lime needs to be done. Audience member Lachance said the grass is in serious trouble. If you don't do something soon you will have grubs soon and we are going to get crab grass. It should have had weed and feed put down. There are six serious weeds out there that will take over the field. Insecticide is needed right now. Mr. Gustin said was that not part of the turf management plan. Let's see what we have for a contract and if they were supposed to do all of that or not. Audience member Lachance said it's also what gets put down for the dosage. Chair Furtado said we should have had round-up everywhere. We did a lot of weeding today. That sod does need to be maintained. Mr. Plante asked what needs to be done now. Chair Furtado said he has 3 guys coming at the end of the week to take a look at it. Audience member Lachance said if you have a friend or good connection that can get a little aerator to do that. We should overseed it with blue grass or a quick perennial rye and in 2 weeks we could have it looking good. Mr. Huot said we can't do any type of purchase order, only the town manager can do that. Mrs. Dube said does anyone have access to Ms. DeRice's things. Mr. Huot asked Chair Furtado if the town manager said he would be here tonight. Yes, per Chair Furtado. Mrs. Dube said she checked with him and he said to make sure Louise has our meeting dates and he will be available. Audience member Lachance said the grass should be tined as well. Audience member Lappin said it has been done twice. He can have it done tomorrow. Chair Furtado said from what he understands the interim general manager could only be here for three weeks. Mr. Plante asked if we have a prospect. Chair Furtado said he found out that Ms. DeRice wanted Mr. Fish to be the interim general manager. Audience member Lappin said let's call the fertilizer guy and see what his contract covered. Audience member Lachance said I think you are looking at \$300 right now but if you wait it is going to cost much more. He also said he wanted to touch base on the Saco & Biddeford Savings thing from last season. He said Don Lauzier from the bank presented him an award from the Rotary and they went out to dinner. The idea was to start

raising money and depending on the amount of money that people donated things would be named. Nothing was discussed for that regarding the loan from the bank. He stated that Dave Goyet worked out the \$10,000 loan but it never had anything to be done with naming rights. He also stated that he got the desks for the clubhouse because Dru Laduke called him to see if the ballpark needed desks as his office was moving to cubicles but the desks had to be moved that day. He called Dana to see if he and some of his guys would be able to get those desks. He told him he could have a desk if he got all of his guys together and they got those desks moved asap. A public works guy helped move the furniture and Tom did give Dana a desk in exchange for having his guys spend a whole day loading and unloading furniture.

VI. Working Group Updates

None.

VII. Old Business

Mrs. Dube said it was brought to her attention that we agreed to name Turcotte Terrace and do we need to do something with that. It already has been named. Audience member Doran said the sign fell apart. She said Paul Crossman asked her bring it up. Audience member Lappin came out of Ms. DeRice's office with a contract that Charlie found regarding the fertilizer and he handed it to Chair Furtado. Mrs. Dube said to Chair Furtado do you want me to call him or have Linda call him. Chair Furtado said yes, we need to follow up with him and ask him about it. Mrs. Dube said she would call him.

VIII. New Business

Mr. Huot asked when the next meeting was. The third Monday of the month. Audience member Lappin said should there be a meeting next week and find out what the fertilizer guy has done and what he plans on doing and then figure out what is going on.

IX. Good & Welfare

Audience member Doran said he called someone from Reed Custom Soil who takes care of soil. He has been talking to Mr. Lappin and Mr. Gustin and we want to try to roll it again and to look into a field amendment which is a clay and sand mix. It will reduce the amount of turface that you use also. It is the same stuff that they use at the Sea Dogs and Wainwright. It binds to what is there and fills in the holes. It is a \$3,000 project. It would make the infield and this place that much better. He took samples from 4 different spots. Mr. Huot said he would like to see a meeting next week. Audience member Lappin said we can have a serious issue with the field and it can happen overnight. Chair Furtado said there is a consensus that we will have a meeting next week and he will send an email out.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Fish made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Mr. Plante. All were in favor. Commissioners went to the town hall for the budget meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Linda Mailhot, Secretary