

OL Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
3/2/23 – 6:00 PM

**Hybrid Meeting** (in person and telephone call-in)  
**In-person location:** Meeting Hall, Town Hall, 52 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bob Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**ATTENDANCE**

**In Person:** Bob Dunn (Chairman), Tim Gavin, Mary Ellen Garbarino, Ryan Lee, Brendan McKeever (Vice-Chair), Don Bugbee (Director), Sara van Vliet

**On Phone:**

**Absent:** Winnie Edmed (Assistant Director), Missy Garvin

**Guests:** Candace Fuchs, Skip Sibley, Martha Shoemaker, Paul Gianquinto

**APPROVE previous meeting minutes – February 2, 2023**

Sara van Vliet moved to accept the meeting minutes of February 2, 2023 with a change under Elections. Brendan McKeever was elected as Vice-Chair and not Vice-President. Brendan McKeever seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

**ROWERS HAINS PARK FUND FOR TOWN ENHANCEMENTS**

Bob Dunn reviewed the expenses to date from the Hains Park Fund for Town Enhancements. He spoke of the pavilion that has been ordered and that things are on hold until the security cameras are ordered and installed at the park because of the vandalism that has happened. Ideas for future enhancements were discussed. Skip Sibley reviewed the previous fund-raising efforts and the best way to go about a plan for the park in the future. Drainage problems in the park and coming from Boston Post Road, picnic tables, and more landscaping were mentioned. It was agreed that a plan needed to be drafted and that a meeting with a representative from the State regarding the drainage from Boston Post Road into the park needed to be set up.

Paul Gianquinto discussed the Steap Grant, and code requirements, as relating to the Boathouse Project and the recently installed sidewalk.

Brendan McKeever moved to form a sub-committee which would report to PRC to study beatification and enhancement issues for Hains Park. At a minimum a representative from PRC, the HP fundraising committee, the Town Facilities Director, a member from the Harbor Management Commission, and Don Bugbee should be on the committee. Ryan Lee seconded the motion. **SO VOTED with all in favor.**

## **LAX FIELDS, PRACTICES AND GAMES**

Don Bugbee reported on the meeting between the Ticks and the Soccer Club over field use at TWP. Two letters received today (one from each) are included at the end of these minutes. Don will be meeting with representatives in the near future to review schedules. Park by-laws were discussed, and it was determined that the Commission will need to address this. The Commission is not pleased that the Tri-Town is still not contributing any fields for the LAX games.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Presented by Don Bugbee**

### **Adult Volleyball**

The Winter sessions are in-process. Thursdays, Jan 5-Mar 16. 7-9 pm at LOLHS Gym. Currently 26 participants. Spring sessions to be determined.

### **Adult Basketball**

The Winter sessions are in-process.

Wednesdays (and some Tuesdays) Nov 22-Mar 29. 6:45-8:45 pm at LOLHS Gym.

Sundays Nov 27-Mar 26. 10 am -12 Noon at LOLHS Gym.

Currently 22 Participants.

The Spring Sessions are scheduled as follows:

Wednesdays, April 5-May 31 6:30-8:45,pm / Sundays, April 2-May 28 10 am-12 pm

### **Zumba Fitness**

The Winter Sessions are in-process. Tuesdays, Jan 10-Mar 7.

5:45-6:45 pm at the Center School Gym. Currently 10 participants.

Spring sessions to be determined.

### **Yoga**

The Winter Sessions were completed on Feb 15.

### **Pilates**

The Spring sessions for this new program are in-process. Currently 6 participants.

Wednesdays, 3:45-4:45pm March 1-April 5. Mile Creek School/ Media Center

Fee \$60/ 6 sessions \$17 Drop-in fee

### **Winter Youth Basketball**

The Winter sessions were completed on Feb 25.

The program ran on Saturdays January 14-Feb 25.

Pre-School Group 1: 8:30-9:00 am / Group 2: 9:10-9:40 am LOLHS Gym. 37 Participants

Boys Age 7-11 9:50-10:50 am at LOLHS Gym. 33 Participants

Girls Age 5-7 8:30-9:30 am at LOLMS Gym. 28 Participants

Boys Age 5-6 Group 1: 9:40-10:40 am / Group 2: 10:50-11:50 am at LOLMS Gym.

42 Participants

Girls Age 8-11 am: 12-1 pm at LOLMS Gym 18 Participants

### **Summer Staff**

The review of last year's staff is in-process to see who will be coming back. Currently 19 have confirmed coming back, 12 are not returning, 5 are unsure at this time. New applications will be accepted at this point going forward. Don and Winnie are in contact with the Valley Shore YMCA and East Lyme Aquatics to arrange a certification class for lifeguard candidates. Updates will follow.

### **Summer Camps**

The summer schedule is being developed at this time, with registration expected to start April 3. Updates will be provided as soon as possible.

### **Parks and Rec Facilities**

Facilities status is as previously stated at the February meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Hains Park Playground Equipment**

Sara van Vliet, Missy Garvin, and Don Bugbee met informally on November 16 to review current playground/court plans and the available budgets. Don met with Dave Catalano, the Playground Representative/Installer on November 30 to discuss previously received estimates. A second informal discussion will be scheduled as soon as possible. This will become part of the Hains Park plan.

### **Senior Center Gate Location**

Don Bugbee brought the Commission up to date on this matter. A meeting was held on February 13 to discuss the upcoming Senior Center Building Renovation Project and the gate location at Town Woods Park. Attendees at said meeting included Don Bugbee/OLPR, Tim Griswold/OL Selectman, David Lahm/Lyme Selectman, Jeri Baker/Senior Center, Matt Weber/OL State Trooper, Dominic Solari/OL Police and Stephanie Gould/Senior Center. There was a general discussion of construction dates, construction duration, and facility access. It was requested that the gate to TWP be moved closer to Town Woods Road. No decisions were made. Updates will be provided. No determination needs to be made on gate placement until after construction is completed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Don Bugbee reported that the LOLHS Spring Rowing Schedule has been received from the D18 Athletic Director. There are 11 crew races scheduled from April 15-May 27.

(5) Home races at Hains Park are currently scheduled for April 19, 26, May 3, 10 and 13.

It has also been requested that a "scrimmage" race vs Stonington be held on April 8 at Hains Park.

It was the consensus of the Commission to agree to the five home races to be held at Hains Park and for a scrimmage also to be held at Hains Park on April 8 against Stonington.

**Any other new business**

There was no other new business.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no other correspondence than what was discussed earlier in the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Martha Shoemaker thanked the Commission for a great meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mary Ellen Garbarino moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM and Sara van Vliet seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

**The next meeting of this Commission is scheduled for April 6, 2023.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Garbarino  
Secretary

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Letters received on March 2, 2023

Lyme Old Lyme Soccer Club  
PO Box 705  
Old Lyme, CT 06371

Parks and Recreation Commission  
52 Lyme St  
Old Lyme, CT 06371

Dear Parks and Recreation Commission,

The Old Lyme Soccer Club (LOLSC) would like to thank the Commission and the Directors for the programs and resources that afford the opportunity for team-based sporting options for this community that facilitate the physical and mental development of our children. As Board Members, parents and community members we have children that participate in Lacrosse, Softball, Baseball and Soccer each spring and are all supported in some way by this commission. The support and resources provided by this commission makes us all proud to be part of the L-OL community.

Over the last two weeks the LOLSC has continued to try to find a compromise regarding field usage at TWP with the regional Lacrosse organization that represents L-OL, Old Saybrook and the Region 4 TriTown area. Hayden Reynolds and Phil Orlando have agreed on a compromise this morning that sets aside TWP3 (M-Th 4-8pm, F TBD) and TWP1-2 (M-F 4-6pm) for use by the LOLSC. We believe this compromise supports the best interests of the over 250 children represented in our L-OL Community participating in both sports.

We would like to thank the commission and the directors for their assistance in brokering this compromise and believe there is no longer a need to have a slot in tonight's meeting. We are prepared to attend the meeting if required to confirm that a compromise has been achieved but do not believe it is necessary.

LOLSC  
President Hayden Reynolds

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From Phil Orlando (Ticks LAX)

Good Morning Don-

Since our last meeting, Hayden Reynolds and I have been in regular communication trying to work through a resolution on TW field usage that will work for each of our clubs. We think we may have figured out a schedule that will work for both organizations and the next steps will be that both clubs' Schedulers and Team Coordinators will get together to share schedules and work on field assignments so there is no overlap or confusion during the spring. What we proposed was that the Lacrosse club will forgo the use of Town Woods 3 from Monday-Thursday (and possibly Friday) for all timeslots that OLSC needs. Both clubs have reached out to LOL High School about use of the turf field which they made available to our club last season. If LOL HS allows us the same access to the turf field as last year, we will work with OLSC to share that field as we would only need it 2 (possibly 3 nights a week) and OLSC would use it the other nights.

Hayden and I also discussed use of TW prior to 6 pm, and I assured him that the Ticks will not schedule any practices or games prior to 6pm during the week so they would have access to all the fields at TW prior to 6pm. He believes that with this combination of field and time availability we their club will be able to make their spring schedule work.

I realize you have already added this issue and our clubs to the agenda for tonight's meeting however, since there really isn't anything that Parks and Rec needs to do right now, if you would like to postpone our topic until after our two clubs get together and finalize our collective schedule that would be understandable. Once we have worked together and mapped out both of our seasons we can report back to Parks and Recreation and present our unified solution.

Thank you for all your ongoing support to our club and the kids in our town.

Phil Orlando