

## Oak Bluffs Park Commissioners Minutes December 21, 2009

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Members present: Nancy Phillips & Richard Combra, JR

Others present: Gail Barmakian (Oak Bluffs Resident), Judy Shemit (Oak Bluffs Resident), Heidi Raihofer (Oak Bluffs Resident)

Minutes Approved: August 17, 2009 (amended), September 10, 2009, September 21, 2009 (amended), October 5, 2009, & October 19, 2009

Item	Minutes	Goal	Person(s) Responsible	Date of Completion
Veira Park	<p>Commissioner Phillips advised that she is working partnership agreement with Little League to identify the communication process &amp; spelling out responsibilities for Veira Park use &amp; maintenance</p> <p>Commissioner Combra said it was to clarify the guidelines not turning it over to Little League</p> <p>Gail Barmakian said that the neighbors are upset about the intensification of the use of Veira Park; may seem minor to Commissioners or on paper but devastating on a neighborhood. She stated that is in the Copeland/Historic District &amp; is a residential area. Her issues: Parking on paper road – no control of parking Shed was suppose to be moved off paper road Brand new lights for night games – every day Concerned about new scoreboard &amp; noise</p> <p>Commissioner Phillips answered that baseball scoreboard don't have sound, the lights have not been adjusted yet &amp; there are shields to direct light down. She added that due to rain outs during the season more games at night were played.</p> <p>Ms Barmakian stated that she has been at Park meetings where Little League has said one thing &amp; then way it is practiced is different due to different people overseeing the games.</p> <p>Commissioner Phillips replied that we will discuss how late the lights can be on. Will also work on getting shields to direct lights away from her windows.</p> <p>Ms Barmakian said that every year it is something &amp; feels that the baseball field is overtaking the neighborhood as it is every day event. She doesn't like ads or banners.</p> <p>Commissioner Phillips advised that maintenance of field is paid with money raised thru the banners, it is a system done throughout the country during Little League season.</p>	Agreement with Little League	Nancy Phillips	02/01/2010

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<b>Veira Park (con't)</b>	<p>Ms Raihofer objected to the current system; she felt that it is a Town park &amp; Little League should use it when Town citizens aren't using it. She said that Little League should not have priority.</p> <p>Ms Raihofer had previously objected to banners along the fence as when the sprinklers hit them very early in the morning, it sounds like a machine gun.</p> <p>Her reason for being vigilant about Veira Park is because she doesn't want it to become like Niantic Park and doesn't want encroachment on Veira Park.</p> <p>Judy Shemit said that people don't realize what goes on in Town parks unless you live next to one, therefore the Commissioners need to listen to abutters.</p> <p>Ms Barmakian said that what is good for Little League is not necessarily best for the neighborhood or Town.</p> <p>Commissioner Phillips said she travels past Veira Park on a regular basis &amp; has not seen the intensive use of the Park during the day that Ms Barmakian does, after all Ms Barmakian did build her houses next to a pre-existing baseball field on a Town park.</p> <p>Ms Raihofer said she is not complaining about it being a baseball field but what is next; possible soccer field, night lights, PA system, score board, dugouts, etc</p> <p>Commissioner Combra said that he hears their concerns; banners are a good revenue source to maintain the field, historically there have been lights with Little League using Veira Park. He said the main objective was to be able to finish a game by using the lights, not scheduled night games.</p> <p>Ms Barmakian felt that Little League saw it as an entitlement to use it and that the neighbors also feel care for the park that they abut. She felt that it was everyday use that she saw as too much. She wants the abutters to be involved with any agreement made with Little League.</p>			

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<b>Veira Park (con't)</b>	<p>She was concerned about liability issues as her map showed the field being on Barmakian property.</p> <p>Commissioner Phillips replied that she had a survey that does not indicate the same lay out.</p> <p>Commissioners thought perhaps it should be resurveyed to get a definitive answer to the property lines.</p> <p>Ms Barmakian said that the area between fences has become a parking lot and people should park on the street.</p> <p>Commissioner Combra commented that there was an issue with that as well when they were parking along Canonicus Ave.</p> <p>Ms Raihofer said she enjoys the baseball field but she does not want an expansion (lights, PA system, scoreboard), not appropriate for the neighborhood. And she added that it is in a historic district so those things should not be included.</p> <p>Ms Barmakian felt that Little League should be concentrating on the development of the Leonardo Property and not at Veira Park.</p> <p>Commissioner Phillips said they are waiting for Wastewater to give OK to continue with that project.</p> <p>Commissioners said that the purpose of the agreement is to spell out exactly what will be allowed and take in the neighbors' concerns.</p> <p>They agreed to inform Ms Barmakian when Veira Park is on the Park Commission agenda.</p> <p>Ms Barmakian would like a public meeting regarding the partnership agreement with Little League and discussion of the paper road liability issue.</p>			

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