



City of Ansonia
Recreation Commission
253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401
Telephone (203) 736-5226

Jeffrey M. Coppola
Recreation Director

Regular Meeting
February 2, 2010

RECEIVED FOR FILE
10 FEB 17 PM 2:02
Alfonso Smith
Madelaine J. [unclear]
Clerk
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Steve Kichar
Jamie Puro
Sean Rowley
Lynda Williams

Absent: Tom Lynch
Paul Mengold

Others Present: Jeffrey Coppola, Recreation Director
Donna Lindgren, ANC Director
Robert Beall, Alderman

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Chairman Al Smith.

The secretary called the roll.

There was a quorum present.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Kichar stated that once the public session is closed there will be no talking or addressing the commission. When the Sport Director presents his/her report there will be no discussion from the public or that person will be asked to leave the room.

Mr. Kichar thanked those in attendance for respecting the commission's request.

Public Session

Chairman Smith asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the commission. He asked three (3) times.

No one from public addressed the commission.

Rec020210

Director Reports

Baseball & Softball

Kathy Paskiewicz, Softball Director was present.

Ms. Paskiewicz reported Softball held two registrations and thirteen (13) girls signed up for the season.

Ms. Paskiewicz submitted a report for the Softball Hitting League dated 1/28/10. She said the total profit from this program was \$426.

Mr. Coppola said that this program was run by the Parent's Association.

Mr. Kichar asked if it was approved by the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Coppola said yes, at the December meeting.

Mr. Kichar said the Armory was not be used for any profit activities. Registration fees were charged to participate.

Mr. Kichar said a group can't make a profit in the Armory. The City of Ansonia is trying to get a grant to fix the floor and they will not be able to if there is profits made by using the Armory. He said that any group wanting to use the Armory must present the information to Mr. Coppola before the meeting so that the Recreation Commission can receive it in their monthly packets.

Mr. Kichar stated that no financial reports from the Parent's Associations have been received and if they are not received the locks will be changed on the Concession Stands. He said any group using City owned property for their event/activity and make a profit must submit a financial report to the Recreation Commission.

Baseball

Marty Mikos, Baseball Director was present.

Mr. Mikos said that he gave Mr. Coppola \$1,745 in registration fees that was collected for Little League baseball.

Mr. Mikos submitted an information packet.

Mr. Rowley asked if the Recreation Commission recognizes the Little League Executive Board or just the Officers.

Mr. Kichar said that Mr. Sells will not be allowed to represent Ansonia Little League. Mr. Jeanette made that very clear.

Mr. Coppola said he would like to make a recommendation to the Recreation Commission with regard to the appointment of the Ansonia Little League Board of Directors – he recommends all those listed with the exception of Ron Sells.

A discussion followed on the Little League Board of Directors. The commission stated that as long as the City of Ansonia funds the Little League program then the Little League program follows the Recreation Commission rules and regulations. If the Board of Directors doesn't want to follow the rules and regulations of the Recreation Commission they can go out on their own.

Little League Fundraisers

1. 2010 Ansonia Little League Fundraiser – Raffle Tickets
Cost: \$25.00 per family opening day and each book will contain 5 tickets at \$5.00 each
Prizes to be determined

Mr. Kichar made a motion to approve the Fundraiser (raffle tickets) for Little League. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Little League Board of Directors

Mr. Kichar made a motion to appoint the following people to the 2010 Ansonia Little League Board of Directors:

President:	Marty Mikos
Vice President:	Chris Teodosio
Softball Coordinator:	Kathy Paskiewicz
Baseball Coordinator:	Steve Tamburino
Instructional Coordinator:	Tim Stevens
Treasurer	Diane Venice
Secretary	Frank Delibero
Safety Coordinator	John Lowman

Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Little League Evaluations

Mr. Mikos requested the use of the Armory for Little League Evaluations on the following dates:

Saturday, March 6th from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 7th from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Kichar noted that Assumption School is using the Armory on Saturday until 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Smith said Mr. Coppola can schedule the dates with Mr. Mikos when the Armory is available.

Mr. Bob Jones said Assumption School is in the Diocesan Basketball Tournament but they can move their practice up and Little League can get in there at 1:00 p.m. He said they can work out the times.

Ansonia & Derby Little League Games

Mr. Mikos said that Ansonia Little League would like to play Derby Little League again.

The Commission discussed the possibility of Ansonia and Derby playing together again.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to allow Ansonia Little League to reschedule games with Derby Little League. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Mikos will contact Derby Little League to set up the game schedule. He will provide the commission with a copy.

Little League Registration fees

Mr. Mikos said registration was held in January and will be held on February 6 and February 28 for Little League. The registration fees are:

Tee Ball/Coach Pitch:	\$35
Little League:	\$55
Each Add Player:	\$30

Mr. Mikos said that he will give the registration money to the City if the City agrees to help them pay for the uniforms.

Mr. Kichar said that is what the registration money is for – uniforms. You have to do it the right way – not over \$5000. Submit the registration money to Mr. Coppola and then Mr. Coppola and the City will pay for the uniforms.

Mr. Rowley asked about the signs that are fundraisers.

Mr. Mikos said they will use the signs instead of sponsors. It is hard to get sponsors because of the economy.

Chairman Smith asked who keeps the uniforms.

Mr. Coppola said that the child keeps the uniforms. It is paid for out of the registration money.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Mikos has to break the money down in his report. Registration money should not be used for referees. The City pays for referees.

Chairman Smith said it has to be clear. The referee's fee is in the Recreation budget.

Mr. Rowley asked what the uniforms consist of – hats, shirts, socks. The child purchases his own pants.

Jan Stevens said the Parent's Association Report for January 2010 was handed in this evening. She asked the Commission to review her financial report.

Hitting League

Mr. Mikos submitted his report on the Hitting League fundraiser (registration fee \$25) that was recently held. Total collected was \$775. Total profit was \$475.

Soccer

Mr. Paul Velardi was present.

Mr. Velardi reviewed his report with the Commission. The Spring 2010 season will begin April 3rd. He held two sign up sessions and advertised on the web site, e-mailed all current and previous players and registration forms were direct mailed to 300 families. Registration forms were also delivered to Mead, Prendergast, Middle School, Assumption School and the Boys & Girls Club.

Total registered: Boys 141, Girls 93. Total 234

Last year there were 250 and this year 234.

Mr. Velardi discussed the work that needs to be done on the fields. He included a copy of his letter to the Public Works Board.

Mr. Velardi submitted a Financial Status Report citing the short fall in income from the City.

Mr. Velardi said that in comparison to last year the soccer program is about \$2400 short. He said they could make up this difference by cutting back on the games and the travel team games. Reduce from 8 games to 10 games.

Mr. Coppola said Mr. Velardi along with Mr. O'Reilly keep their registration money and submit a Financial Report each month. He said Mr. Velardi has the soccer registration money and he is requesting the Recreation Commission allow him to keep it as long as Mr. Miller is satisfied with the financial reports. He said the commission has to vote on this.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to allow Paul Velardi to keep the registration money per Mr. Miller's approval and as long as he continues to submit a financial report per his satisfaction. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Coppola will meet with Mr. Miller to make sure this arrangement is OK.

Chairman Smith said that Mr. Velardi has to get an OK from Mr. Miller and BOAT on keeping the registration money.

Mr. Kichar said they had a meeting last week with Mr. Miller and BOAT on this subject.

Chairman Smith said there has to be an OK from Mr. Miller on this.

Mr. Coppola said that he will attend the Public Works meeting on 3/10/10 regarding the fields.

Ms. Lindgren requested a copy of the proposed work that is planned for the Nature Center.

Mr. Velardi gave Ms. Lindgren a copy of the letter to Public Works.

Basketball

Mr. Coppola said the Instructional program for 5,6,7 year olds is going OK. Mrs. Lynda Williams is director/coach of the Recreation Girls Basketball program.

Mr. Kichar asked if the City of Ansonia is giving any money to the Boys & Girls Club to help them run the Basketball program.

Mr. Coppola said he thinks so, they are not doing it free. He said all of the registration money collected for Recreation Basketball was deposited into the City of Ansonia account.

Mr. Rowley said the Boys & Girls Club collected money for registration.

Football

Mr. Tim O'Reilly was present.

Mr. O'Reilly said that the Cheer group that went to Florida placed first in the competition. The CVL had their All-Star Banquet and five cheerleaders and five football players were invited to attend.

Mr. O'Reilly said that CVL will go to the East/West format and more teams will join the organization. If they go that way, Ansonia will not have to travel to New York for games.

Mr. O'Reilly submitted the list of football equipment that was not turned in at the end of the season. These players will have an opportunity to turn in their equipment this Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. Three boys returned equipment since the last meeting.

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Coppola if he spoke to Mr. Blake, Corp. Counsel on this issue.

Mr. Coppola said he wants to wait to Thursday and see who returns their equipment and then he will meet with Mr. Blake.

Mr. Kichar said this equipment has been out since December. They should have been contacted to return their equipment.

Mr. Coppola said he contacted them, they have been told to return their equipment.

Mr. O'Reilly said the \$50 deposit was waived. He said the Recreation Commission said it was OK to waive the \$50 for the return of equipment.

Chairman Smith said they had a system in place where the player brought his clothes to the last game and changed after the game was over and turned in the equipment and uniform.

Mr. O'Reilly said that the system is different. They play their games out of town and most of the players don't ride the bus home, they go home with their parents. So it is hard to get them to return the equipment at the last game. He said the players can be at the field for practice but not to turn in their equipment.

Chairman Smith discussed the procedures that were used in the past to collect the equipment from the players ie: street clothes, not allowing them to register for any other Recreation sport program until the equipment is returned.

Mr. Kichar said if they don't turn in their equipment by the time of the banquet, they don't go to the banquet. He said he is suggesting that Mr. Coppola call Chief Hale and have these people arrested. Mr. O'Reilly gave Mr. Coppola the list in December and here it is February and there is no equipment.

Mr. Coppola said he will give Mr. Blake a list on Friday morning.

Chairman Smith said the Recreation Commission should go back to some of the past procedures with regard to the equipment.

Mr. Coppola will look into it.

Mrs. Williams suggested Mr. O'Reilly doesn't let the player register for football if they haven't turned in their equipment. No equipment, no registration.

Mr. O'Reilly said it is not up to the coach to collect, it is up to the Executive Board. They should collect equipment, hand out guidelines and rules and regulations.

Mr. Kichar asked the Recreation Commission members to read and review the rules submitted by Mr. O'Reilly for AYF football program so that a vote may be taken at the next meeting.

Mr. O'Reilly submitted the following to the Commission:

1. AYF football Equipment not returned 12/07/09
2. Ansonia Youth Football team rules
3. Ansonia Youth Football Head Coach Guidelines
4. AYF 2010 Football Coaches
5. AYF letter to parents dated 1/20/10
6. Football/Cheerleading Monthly Report End of Year 2009-2010

Mr. Rowley said that the Commission just received the list for the Coaching Staff this evening. He said he is concerned because there are coaches swapping teams. There was a meeting at the Armory regarding coaches and switching teams.

Mr. O'Reilly said he had a meeting with the coaches.

Mr. Rowley said it is not good to switch coaches.

Mr. O'Reilly said the coach leaves and the most senior person will take his place.

Mr. Rowley said switching grades is not good for the program. That is his opinion.

Mr. O'Reilly said they have a long term plan. 8th grade is out, 7th grade Chris Phipps is going up and will stay for 5 years, 6th grade is Larry Cafaro.

Mr. Kichar said he spoke to Steve Cavanaugh about this. He said, I requested myself, Jamie and Sean were to be there every time you meet with your coaches and before any decisions on the coaches were made we were to be there at the meeting.

Mr. O'Reilly said where is it written down that I have to have Recreation members there at my meetings. This was a preliminary list. We will meet with you.

Mr. O'Reilly submitted his financial report. He said he received an e-mail from the bus company and they will not transport the kids unless they have a check for payment of the bill. He said on November 27th he met with Mr. Miller and Mrs. Flaherty was there. Mr. Miller wanted a format that was good. I submitted my report to him. On 12/5/09 the bill was supposed to be paid and mailed out.

Mrs. Flaherty said that Mr. Miller explained to Mr. O'Reilly that his format was not satisfactory and he gave him a sample format to follow to submit his report. He said that the report should balance to the Finance report.

Mr. O'Reilly said on 1/5/10 the Recreation meeting was cancelled and the bills were not paid. He attended the Board of Alderman's meeting and the Mayor said he would take care of the bills tomorrow. The All Star transportation bill is \$2800 and it is not paid.

Mr. Coppola said Mr. Miller wanted the template format he gave to Mr. O'Reilly and receipts for the bills that he wanted paid.

Mr. Kichar said the bus is allocated out of the City money. He has no right not to pay this.

There was a discussion between the Recreation Commission and Mr. O'Reilly on the submission of the Financial Reports in the format that was requested.

Mr. O'Reilly said he is requiring the teams get involved to make sure the registration money is collected and accounted for and the paperwork is certified properly.

Mr. O'Reilly reviewed the letter he submitted to the commission from the Executive Board to the parents dated January 20, 2010. He said each team will have two (2) parents to be a part of the Executive Board to help out with the paperwork.

The Executive Board members are: Tim O'Reilly, Darlene Zawicka, Amy Butler, Steve Cavanaugh and Ray Cirsoli.

Mr. Coppola asked if the Parent's Association could become part of the Executive Board. The Executive Board can take over their function and they could have representation on the Executive Board.

Mr. O'Reilly said they did have a meeting with the Parent's Association to have them become part of our Executive Board.

Mr. O'Reilly said they need more parent participation in the program. Their team will not be certified if they don't come forward to help out.

Mr. Rowley said the Recreation Commission will recognize Mr. O'Reilly and two coordinators and everyone else will report to Mr. O'Reilly. We can't answer to 20 people.

Mr. O'Reilly said that the Recreation Commission only talks to him and no one else. The Recreation Commission has to OK this and back the Executive Board. Last year they had four (4) people doing the work and it is too much work for four people.

Mr. Coppola said there are 200 kids and they can't get half the parents to help out. 60% do nothing. At the Concession Stand it is the same people every week.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to approve Mr. O'Reilly's proposal to have two (2) parents from each team become part of the Executive Board and the Recreation Commission recognizes Tim O'Reilly as President and the Amy Butler as Cheer Coordinator and Steve Cavanaugh as Football Coordinator. Mr. Kichar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. O'Reilly discussed the letter dated 1/31/10 received from Chris Phipps regarding the winter football league. He said that Mr. Phipps is the first person to approach him about the football equipment. He said we don't have a problem with it.

Mr. Kichar said that this is City equipment.

Mr. O'Reilly said the City will get it back sooner if you allow them to use it. They are just going to go up there and take the equipment.

Mr. Kichar said this should be done earlier and with the knowledge of the City and the Commission. The equipment wasn't returned by those players because they want to use it for this winter league.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept Chris Phipps letter and place on file and give the winter football league permission to use the Armory and use the AYF football equipment pending they sign the forms.

There was no second.

Mr. Coppola said we have the Boys & Girls Club Basketball practice in the Armory.

Mr. Rowley said the League is not sanctioned by the City of Ansonia.

Mr. Kichar said you are 100% approving the use of the equipment and the Mayor wants a waiver signed if the child is hurt, the City of Ansonia is not responsible for the injury?

Mr. Coppola said we have to have a form to fill out. The Winter Football League wants to come in and everyone is covered if they use the Armory.

The Winter Football League is operated by the Connecticut Speed School – John Coughlin and Tom Brockett. There are two teams with 20 kids from Ansonia with the games being played in Trumbull and Woodbridge.

Mr. Beall said the parents will sign a waiver when they register their child.

Mr. Coppola said he will speak with Mr. Blake, Corp. Counsel regarding signing of the waiver form.

Mr. Beall said he will also speak with Mr. Blake on the insurance coverage.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept Chris Phipps letter and give approval to use the equipment and use the Armory as long as the waiver forms are signed and the parents are responsible for the injuries incurred. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Director Reports – Donna Lindgren, ANC Director

Ms. Lindgren was present.

Ms. Lindgren presented her monthly report for January 2010 to the commission.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept Ms. Lindgren's report as presented. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ms. Lindgren presented her monthly report for February 2010 to the commission. Included in her report is the Red Wing Pond House, the incident report, letter to Alderman Kolakowski and a parent survey.

Mr. Puro made a motion to accept Ms. Lindgren's report as present. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ms. Lindgren requested a copy of the game schedules for any games being played at the Ansonia Nature Center.

Mr. Coppola said he will provide a copy of the game schedules to Ms. Lindgren.

Armory Schedule

Mr. Coppola presented the February schedule for the Armory.

There was a discussion on the use of the Armory and the concerns of the commission members regarding insurance coverage, the condition of the floor, etc.

Mr. Coppola said that those who want to use the Armory know when they want to use the Armory and they should come to the Recreation Commission with a written proposal or letter of their event or activity so that the time could be scheduled in the Armory. The commission would have an opportunity to see what is happening and they can vote on whether to approve or disapprove the activity. He said that is the procedure for use of the Armory however they go in and the Recreation Commission has no control over who is using the Armory.

Mr. Kichar said Recreation Commission couldn't sponsor basketball because we had no gym space. The Boys & Girls Club is running the basketball program and they are using the Armory for gym space for practice.

There was discussion that no one notifies Mr. Coppola or the Recreation Commission of what is happening with regard to the Armory or the fields, etc. For example the basketball hoops were removed from Pine Lot because the Boys & Girls Club needed additional parking and no one notified Mr. Coppola or the Commission that this was happening. Mr. Coppola said a lot of it we can't control, we make a decision and someone overturns it.

August 9, 2009 Baltimore Trip

Mr. Coppola said the remaining payments for the Baltimore trip have not been paid as yet. Mr. Blake gave them a date of February 10, 2010 to pay the fee. The fees have to be paid by February 10, 2010 or Mr. Blake will take legal action for payment.

Mr. Coppola said the last return date for the football equipment is Thursday, February 4, 2010 excluding those players using the equipment for the Winter Football indoor program. These players who do not return their foot ball equipment will not be invited to the Banquet.

Mr. Robert Beall said a letter should go out to these people soon advising them of this decision because they may have already paid for the banquet.

Mr. Coppola said at the next BOAT meeting he is requesting that they adjust the revenue side of the budget because Soccer and Football kept their registration money.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept Mr. Coppola's report as presented. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Coppola to contact West Point about attending the Notre Dame/Army game at Yankee Stadium on 11/21/10. He said maybe Ansonia and West Point could attend the game together.

Mr. Coppola said he will call EZ Travel regarding the game and transportation and the cost.

Minutes

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the 12/8/09 meeting. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Bills

Mr. Coppola said that he has two (2) bills to present. He said he will see Mayor Della Volpe on the \$2800 All Star transportation bill and on the Stadium Systems bill.

Mr. Coppola said at the December 2009 meeting the Recreation Commission approved payment of \$600 to Don Palmer for the Instructional Basketball League. Mr. Palmer was unable to run the entire program therefore he will be paid \$300 and Mike Florence who ran the other half of the program will be paid \$300.

Mr. Coppola said there are three refunds for the Instructional Basketball program.

Mr. Coppola reported that the Instructional Basketball League consisted of 5, 6, and 7 year olds. The expense for uniforms for this League was \$710.

Mr. Coppola said that the Youth Girls Basketball League expense for referees for one third of the games is \$910.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to approve payment of all bills presented. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Correspondence

1. Laura Poquette, request to use Nolan Field for the 3rd Annual Conn. Walk for Lupus. They are requesting Saturday, June 26, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Letter dated 12/10/09

Mr. Rowley made a motion to approve the request for Saturday 6/26/10 for the 3rd Annual Lupus Walk from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Nolan Field. Mr. Kichar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

2. Jay Chosczyk, request for \$700 for the American Legion League to cover insurance and registration for the league.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to approve the payment of \$700 to the American Legion League.

There was no second to the motion.

Mr. Coppola said the American League would have to come to the Recreation Commission two to three months in advance. He said they would also have to ask the Board of Alderman and the Board of Apportionment and Taxation for this funding. BOAT would have to create a line item.

Mr. Puro discussed pay to play programs and leagues.

Mr. Kichar said last year Mayor Della Volpe approved payment of the insurance only for the League.

There was a discussion on the American Legion League.

Mr. Puro made a motion to deny the request for funds for the American Legion League. Mr. Kichar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

3. Coach John Poeta, Seymour Soccer, request to use the Armory or any facility for soccer practice for girls U-13 and U-16 soccer teams from December 2009 through March 2010. Insurance Certificate attached to letter. Dated 12/26/09

Mr. Rowley made a motion to deny the request to use the Armory for soccer practice because of unsafe floor conditions. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

4. Restoring Hope Ministries-Hope House Inc. request to use the Armory for Spring Basketball Jamboree on Saturday April 18, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or Saturday April 25, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Dated 1/25/10.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to grant Hope House Inc. permission to use the Armory pending availability of the Armory on those dates and pending receipt of their Certificate of Insurance. Mr. Kichar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

5. Fred Williams re: Parents Association for Ansonia Youth Football & Cheer. Dated 1/10/10

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept Mr. Williams letter and information and place it on file. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

6. Ansonia Gridiron Club request to hold a Car Wash.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to grant approval to the Ansonia Gridiron Club to hold their Car Wash. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

7. John J. Lowman, Safety Coordinator for Ansonia Little League request for 2010 Little League budget information and to discuss a proposed Hitting Clinic.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept and place on file the letter received from John Lowman. Mr. Kichar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

8. Boys & Girls Club Basketball Schedules

9. Tim O'Reilly to Joseph Miller re: Ansonia Youth Football & Cheer. E-Mails and Financial reports.

10. Ansonia Little League Parents Association Monthly Report for January 2010.

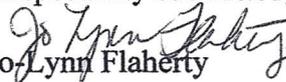
11. Kevin Cegelka re: Financial Statement from Webster Bank for Ansonia Youth Football & Cheer. January 2010

12. Chris Phipps re: Request to use AYF football equipment for the Winter Football League run by Connecticut Speed School. Dated 1/31/10

Adjourn

Mr. Rowley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary