



**City of Ansonia**  
**Recreation Commission**

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TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

**Alfonso Smith**  
Chairman

March 9, 2010

Regular Meeting

**Jeffrey M. Coppola**  
Recreation Director

Present: Al Smith, Chairman  
Steve Kichar  
Lynda Williams  
Sean Rowley – arrived 6:40 p.m.

Absent: Tom Lynch  
Jamie Puro  
Paul Mengold

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director  
Mike Schryver, Supt. of Public Works

The regular meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chairman Smith.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll.

There was no quorum present. Chairman Smith said that there will be an informal discussion at this time because there are people present from the public.

**Public Session**

Supt. Schryver said that a letter was received from Paul Velardi at the Board of Public Works meeting requesting that the Public Works Dept. do the work on the softball field at the Nature Center to make it into a soccer field. He said that Public Works has no problem with doing that however once they make it a soccer field the softball field will be gone.

Rec030910

Mr. Kichar said the Recreation Commission is fine with that – they have no problem making the softball field into a soccer field.

Supt. Schryver said that the CIAC has contacted him regarding the use of Nolan Field for the CIAC Tournament in June. They use the field every year for their tournament. He said he contacted Mr. Balsamo and Mr. Balsamo said that someone from the city would have to be the Site Director.

Mr. Kichar said that Ms. Soldra, our Athletic Director has always been the Site Director for the CIAC Tournaments.

There was a discussion on how the CIAC Tournaments were run in the past. Mr. Kichar said that Mr. Gleason was always the Site Director in the past. He was the A.D. at the high school. The Recreation Commission is OK with the CIAC Tournament as long as the field is available.

Mr. Kichar said he has two questions: 1. Do we know when we can play on the field.

Mr. Schryver said that the field has to be dry and it has been raining for three days straight. The practice field at Nolan Field will be repaired. PWD will grass the softball field. The baseball field will be re-sod.

Mr. Kichar asked if there is someone responsible for the field maintenance in the Public Works Dept.

Mr. Schryver said right now we have Judd Blaze and himself.

Mr. Coppola said that he is usually up at the fields during the games. He said it is his call on the Little League field and the Softball field as to whether or not to “call/cancel” a game during bad weather.

Mr. Coppola said that the first call is to Mr. Schryver and then he will make a decision.

Mr. Schryver said that in the evening it is up to the Recreation Director to make the call as to whether or not to cancel a game due to weather and field conditions.

Mr. Kichar said that if Mr. Coppola said there are no games – then there are no games. He said that the schedules for the games must come through the Recreation Commission. He said if Mr. Coppola doesn't know what is going on up there and the Commission does not know what is going on and there is NO schedules for the field then there is NO play on the field.

Mr. Schryver said that some things are done on a daily basis for the field maintenance for example the Little League field is done every day. Nolan field is the first field done. Colony Park is not ready.

Mrs. Williams said you have to get permission to use the AHS Softball field from Tony Piccolo and clear it with the high school.

Mr. Kichar said Mrs. Soldra has to give permission to use the softball field at Nolan Field or AHS.

Supt. Schryver said that PWD needs a week of dry weather to get any work done on the football field.

#### Fred Williams

Mr. Fred Williams said he submitted a letter stating he would like to serve as President of the AYF & C program. He is interested in working with the kids and he is up for the challenge. He contacted Tim O'Reilly and Mark Velardi former Presidents and they will sit down with him and give him information.

Mr. Kichar said that the Commission can't vote until there is a quorum present. He said whoever is President of the Ansonia Youth Football & Cheer will also oversee the Concession Stand. They will work with the Recreation Commission and Fred Williams.

Mr. Kichar said that Mr. Coppola met with BOAT and there will be cutbacks in the budget and all monies have to go back to the program. It will get more expensive as the League grows.

Mr. Williams said it is a big commitment and he hopes the Commission will consider him for the position.

Mr. Kichar said the AYF meeting is next Tuesday, he asked if Mr. Williams will be able to attend.

Mr. Williams said yes, he will be there.

Chairman Smith said that if necessary he will call a special meeting if there is no quorum this evening.

#### Tim O'Reilly

Mr. O'Reilly said that Fred Williams is a good choice for President of AYF and he will help him out. He said there are bills still not paid – Stadium Systems and All Star Bus Co.

Mr. O'Reilly said that there were two extra bills from All Star Transportation for the tournament games. The Cheerleading bill for Stadium Systems is \$4200.

Mr. Coppola said payment will be from the City line items to pay Stadium Systems and All Star Bus.

Mr. Kichar said Recreation should write a letter to BOAT to remove the freeze on the money.

Mr. Coppola explained the revenue and expense line items and the problems that have occurred because Mr. O'Reilly did not deposit the registration fees into the City line items.

Mr. O'Reilly said he spent the registration money and he was told to go into the City money to pay the bills. He said he submitted requisitions for equipment – he asked “how is the equipment going to be paid for?” He said he gave Mr. Coppola an order for equipment and the registration money is gone – it was used for referees, etc. He asked how do we get the money to pay for this equipment that was ordered.

Mr. Coppola said BOAT and Mr. Miller are looking for the receipts and backup for the registration money that was spent. He asked Mr. O'Reilly to provide the receipts and invoices, etc. for the money spent. He explained the BOAT revenue and expense in the line items.

Mr. O'Reilly said what is the number of meetings a member can miss before being replaced.

It was explained to Mr. O'Reilly that the Ansonia Charter states for P&Z only that a member can miss three (3) meetings and they are replaced.

Mr. Kichar asked if the people not listed on the letter are returning to the Program.

Mr. O'Reilly said they are waiting to see who takes over the program.

Mr. Kichar discussed the members of the Executive Board and their charge. He said the next AYF meeting is the first Tuesday in April.

#### John Chrzanowski

Mr. Chrzanowski said he would like to serve on the AYF Committee with Mr. Fred Williams.

Chairman Smith asked if there was anyone else from the public who wished to address the commission. There was no one.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to close the public session. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Directors Reports**

#### Baseball & Softball

Marty Mikos was present for baseball.

Rec030910

Mr. Mikos gave Mr. Coppola all of the Little League registration checks. He said the total was \$8000. He said they have collected over \$10,000 in registration fees.

Mrs. Williams said she thought there was a separate line item for softball that she would be using.

Mr. Coppola said next fiscal year there will be a separate line item for softball.

Chairman Smith advised Mr. Coppola to check the totals on the sheets against the checks listed on the sheets to be sure they match up and nothing is missing.

Mr. Coppola said that Mr. Greski takes the checks and deposits them into the line items.

Mr. Mikos is handing Mr. Coppola sheets with lists of names along with checks and requesting he sign the sheets that he received the checks.

Mr. Kichar said that in the future Mr. Mikos does not give Mr. Coppola checks during a meeting and expect him to sign for them. This must be done at a different time.

Mr. Mikos said that the estimate (#25) for uniforms from City Stitchers is \$2592. This is for Little League Baseball. City Stitchers wants their money up front.

Mr. Miller said they need a Purchase Order. If Recreation Commission approves it this evening Finance will do the P.O.

Mr. Mikos said registration is down. They have 4 Major teams and 5 Minor teams.

Mr. Kichar asked if there is a Parent's Association for Little League.

Mr. Mikos said yes, Jan Stevens is the Treasurer.

Mr. Kichar said she has money in an account and we need a financial report from her.

Mr. Mikos said the money was in the account and a report was submitted last money and nothing has changed.

Mr. Kichar said the Recreation Commission must have a report every month even if there is no change.

Mr. Kichar said there were two parents in the Armory for Little League and Ron Sells was in the Armory representing the City of Ansonia in some way. He said "I told you myself that Ron Sells would have nothing to do with Little League and now you have him in the Armory – I'm baffled".

Rec030910

Mr. Coppola said he can sit in a meeting in a public facility.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Sells can't have anything to do with Little League. The City of Ansonia paid the bills we had nothing to do with. If he is in the Armory again you will not use the Armory again. He can't do anything for the program. He is not a representative for Little League or the City of Ansonia for anything.

Mr. Kichar continued stating he heard that Little League is trying to break away from the City of Ansonia. The fields are ours and the City of Ansonia gives you the money for the program. We would be happy to keep the money – whatever you handed in for registration - \$15,000. He said "I'm not jumping on you. We were told something by BOAT and the Board of Aldermen."

Mr. Coppola said just because it is there doesn't mean every cent has to be spent. We guess-imate the money because it depends on the revenue. The spending has to be authorized by the Recreation Commission. Little League has plenty of money to make it work with money left over – you just can't spend it all.

Mr. Rowley said the problem with Ron Sells is the All Star Uniforms. We stated no names on the back of the uniforms and every year I say that. They spent \$1000 or more on uniforms with names on the back when Recreation Commission voted no names on the shirts.

Mr. Kichar said this Recreation Commission doesn't want to be involved in running your program. We are looking for everyone to be treated fair and equal. There are kids that should have been on All Star teams and weren't because their parents weren't part of the group.

There was discussion on the \$20,000 being held by the City. Mr. Kichar said that Mr. Mikos should sit down with Recreation Commission, Mr. Miller and Mr. Coppola – it is not the City's money.

Mr. Mikos said that his group is looking to put bathrooms in at the field with that money.

Mrs. Williams said how did the Parent's group make \$20,000.

Mr. Mikos said fundraising.

Mr. Rowley asked about the softball field that Recreation would like to make into a football field.

Mr. Kichar said that field hasn't been used for years. If it is a football field it can be used for night games. It hasn't been used and we need more room for football. It has already been discussed with Supt. Schryver.

Mr. Mikos said he talked about fixing that field for baseball and nothing came of it – now it will be for football.

Rec030910

Discussion followed.

Kathy Paskiewicz was present for Softball.

Ms. Paskiewicz said the Parent's Association could not be present this evening and she has given their report to Mr. Coppola.

Ms. Paskiewicz said softball registration is finished and there are ten girls from last year who have re-registered. There is one Instructional team, 2 Minor teams, 2 Major teams and 1 Junior team.

She said she is meeting with Bob Lane who does their scheduling. Mr. Lane does the entire league's scheduling. She will provide a schedule to the Commission and Mr. Coppola.

Mr. Kichar asked when the softball season begins.

Ms. Paskiewicz said the second or third week of April.

Mr. Mikos said that Opening Day for Little League is April 17, 2010.

There was discussion on the field conditions at Nelligan Field.

### Soccer

Chris Sheehy was present representing Paul Velardi.

Mr. Sheehy said they held late registration and picked up 20 plus kids. He said he was going to ask about the field at the Nature Center however that question was answered.

Mr. Coppola said the Nature Center Director has requested that a schedule be given to her for practice sessions and games.

Mr. Sheehy said the first game is April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Sheehy said that Jen Garrity was the past Parent's Association and she is willing to get a new group started. There are two people who may be interested in starting a Parent's Association.

Mr. Sheehy presented Mr. Velardi's report.

## Basketball

Mr. Coppola reported on the basketball program.

Mr. Coppola said that there is 2 weeks left for the Instructional Basketball program. There is enough money for an end of the year Pizza Party. There are trophies left over from last year that will be used this year.

Mr. Coppola said that Lynda Williams coached the Girls Basketball program this season.

Mr. Coppola said the City of Ansonia worked out something with the Boys & Girls Club with regard to the registration money collected for Basketball. The Boys & Girls Club ran the Basketball program this year. Next year grades three through eight will not be run by the Ansonia Recreation Commission.

Mr. Mikos asked where did the registration money go that was given to the Boys & Girls Club for the Basketball program. There were a lot of kids in that league. He asked if the Boys & Girls Club have to give a financial report to the Recreation Commission on the program.

Mr. Steve Tamburino asked what did the participants get for their \$50.

Mr. Mikos asked again where did the money go.

Mr. Coppola said that all of the money went to the City and we paid the Boys & Girls Club the cost to run the program.

There was discussion that the Ansonia Recreation Commission ran the basketball program better than the Boys & Girls Club.

Mr. Kichar said to go to the Board of Aldermen and tell them the Recreation Commission ran the Basketball program better. We ran a good program.

## Football

Mr. Kichar said that the Commission covered the football program earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Kichar thanked Mr. O'Reilly and Mr. Cavanaugh for all their hard work on the football program.

## **Reports: Donna Lindgren**

Donna Lindgren is not present this evening she is on vacation.

Rec030910

Ms. Lindgren left her written report with the secretary for distribution.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept Donna Lindgren's report as written. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Reports: Jeff Coppola**

Mr. Kichar said that Mr. Coppola gave his report during the meeting.

### **Minutes**

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Bills**

Mr. Kichar said the bills were already discussed.

### **Correspondence**

1. Jon Chrzanowski, AYF & C Executive Board, re: request to serve as Vice-President

Mr. Kichar suggested that Mr. Chrzanowski reach out to Mr. Beaton to see if he is interested in remaining as the Vice-President. If he is not interested and we appoint Mr. Williams you will be willing to help him.

Mr. Chrzanowski said he would contact Mr. Beaton. He said he is willing to help Mr. Williams.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to allow Mr. Chrzanowski to take a position on the Executive Board once Mr. Williams is appointed. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar said that the Commission will need a list of the Executive Board members from Mr. Williams.

2. Fred Williams, AYF & C Executive Board, re: request to serve as President.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept the letter and appoint Fred Williams as President of the Ansonia Youth Football and Cheer Executive Board. Mr. Kichar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Rec030910

Mr. Kichar said that Mr. O'Reilly was above board and honest and for the children – it was about the kids.

3. Noreen DeCiucis re: request to serve as Treasurer and Coordinator for the AYF & C Executive Board.

Mr. Kichar said that Mr. Williams will present a list of officers to the Recreation Commission for consideration.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to table this request and Mr. Williams will submit a list to the Commission. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

4. Kevin Cegelka and Salvatrice Cegelka re: request to service on the Parent's Association

Mr. Rowley made a motion to table and forward the requests to Mr. Fred Williams for his review and approval.

No Second.

Mr. Kichar said there is no more Parent's Association. We are going back to one entity like it was a few years back. Mr. Williams will oversee all aspects of the Parent's Association. I'm not comfortable with the way it was handled – the Parent's Association will fall under Fred Williams. It is very important for Jeff Coppola to let the Cegelka's know that the Parent's Association is under Mr. Williams.

Mr. Coppola said that Kevin Cegelka has come down here and given me the bank statements. It was not what we were looking for but he did hand in the bank statements. He said he will let the Cegelka's know.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to forward all of the letters requesting to serve on the Executive Board and the Parent's Association to Fred Williams. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

5. CIAC request to use Nolan Field for the CIAC Baseball Tournament.

A letter was received from the CIAC requesting the use of Nolan field for their annual baseball tournament.

Mr. Kichar said that letter should go to Mrs. Soldra, Athletic Dir. For the High School.

Mr. Rowley said it came here to grant use of the field and to Public Works to maintain the field for the tournament. He said the Athletic Director at the high school should be the Site Director – it was always Dennis Gleason when he was the A.D.

Mr. Rowley said that the CIAC appoints the Site Director.

Mr. Coppola said the money goes to the Board of Education if we allow the Athletic Director to be the Site Director. The money will go to the City of Ansonia if Public Works appoints the site Director.

Mr. Rowley said Public Works never went after the money in the past. Paul Mengold tells the CIAC the cost to CIAC and they pay.

Mr. Coppola said Mr. Schryver gave a number this evening.

Mr. Rowley said the Public Works Dept. pays for the paint, etc. and the High School pays for nothing and they receive the money from the CIAC. The high school uses all of our fields.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to approve the use of the field for the CIAC Tournament as long as the money goes to the Public Works Dept for the maintenance of the field. The Site Director should be the Athletic Director as in the past. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

#### 6. Tim O'Reilly re: resignation

Mr. Kichar made a motion to place the letter on file and to accept Mr. O'Reilly's resignation along with the resignation of Steve Cavanaugh, Ray Cirisoli and Darlene Zawisza and thank them for their time. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

#### 7. Thank you note from Steve Kichar for the fruit sent for the passing of his Father.

### **Director Report: Jeff Coppola**

Mr. Coppola gave the following report.

Mr. Coppola said that the Boys & Girls Club use the Armory for their practice time and they requested additional practice time which was granted. He said he gave them set days and times every week so that the Armory would be opened and closed by him.

He said that there is no more practice as of this week because the Boys & Girls Club coaches weren't using the Armory for their set dates and times – sometimes they showed up and he was there waiting and sometimes they didn't show up. He said he gave out schedules for them and they weren't being followed. He will open the Armory for the Boys & Girls Club when they request a date and time.

Rec030910

He said he has no problem with opening and closing the Armory for practices however he must know when and where and there must be a schedule.

Mr. Coppola said that Little League evaluations were held last week.

Mr. Coppola gave a summary of the BOAT meeting held last evening with regard to the budget and the past due invoices.

Mr. Kichar said the busing to the football games is an issue because only 4 or 5 players ride the bus home from the game.

Mr. O'Reilly said that AYF is changing the format and going from East to West so there may not be a need for buses in the future.

Mr. Kichar said he doesn't want to eliminate the bus transportation at this time.

Mr. Coppola said he has the following bills to be paid:

1. Ever Ready Press: \$120 for flyers for Bidy Basketball

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Coppola if he personally handed out the flyers in the school system.

Mr. Coppola said yes for the Instructional program.

2. Little League Uniforms from City Stitchers Estimate #25 for \$2592

Mr. Rowley made a motion to pay the Ever Ready Press bill for \$120 and authorize the purchase of the Little League Uniforms for \$2592. Mr. Kichar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

#### **Any other business to come before the commission**

Mr. Kichar said that on February 9, 2009 there was a discussion on the use of the Armory. There are things going on in the Armory that are not authorized by the Recreation Commission and they are not Recreation Commission sponsored activities.

He continued stating that Mr. Coppola goes about it the right way, the people using the Armory should have insurance coverage. We have a Men's Basketball League in there that we did not authorize. They are not all Ansonia residents and they have no insurance. This is clearly not Mr. Coppola or the Recreation Commission – this does not fall under the responsibility of the Recreation Commission if someone is hurt.

Rec030910

Mr. Kichar said there is the Winter Football League in the Armory. He asked if they have an insurance policy to cover them while they are using the Armory.

Mr. Coppola said yes, their insurance is under the Connecticut Speed School which is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Mr. Kichar said the Men's Basketball League has nothing to do with Recreation.

Chairman Smith said they came through the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Kichar said they did come to the Commission and the Commission said no.

Mr. Kichar said also the only thing allowed in the Armory is water – no food, no coffee, no Gatorade, etc. He said if he sees anyone in there he is asking for permission to remove them from the Armory. He said if they don't follow our rules and regulations they will not use our facilities. He said half of the men are not Ansonia Residents and not authorized by us.

Chairman Smith said the Recreation Commission has charge of the Armory and if anyone gets hurt the City and the Recreation Commission is responsible. He said nobody goes into the Armory unless they come to the Recreation Commission first and are approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kichar said that is not what is happening.

Chairman Smith asked who is allowing them to use the Armory without approvals.

Mr. Kichar said it is clear there are people in the Armory and Mr. Coppola and the Recreation Commission did not approve them to be in the Armory. We have a letter from Corporation Counsel that there should not be anyone in there – so why are they in there?

Mr. Coppola said we have a form like the Board of Education has that has to be filled out by the people wishing to use the Armory and it has to be approved by the Commission and signed off by Mr. Coppola, the Mayor and the Applicant to use the facility.

Mr. Ed Norman said that letter was generated last April because the Charter Hose wanted to use the Armory for their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball. This is a different situation. If people are using the Armory without permission, change the locks. Access is controlled by who has a key. He suggested they get secure keys. He said secure keys are expensive but if someone breaks or sprains an ankle on the floor it could save money.

Mr. Kichar said he has tried to limit the use of the Armory because of the floor. The floor is in bad condition and they let this one and let that one go in there and use it. We should not be in the Armory at all because of the floor.

Mr. Norman said that the Commission should take it up with Corporation Counsel and maybe get the floor repaired.

There was a discussion on repairing the Armory floor. The concern of the commission is that someone may get hurt on the floor.

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Kichar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary