



# City of Ansonia

253 Main Street  
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

## ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

February 22, 2011

Special Meeting

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*Elyse Lynch*  
Asst. TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Present: Al Smith, Chairman  
Steve Kichar  
Tom Lynch

Absent: Paul Mengold  
Jamie Puro  
Sean Rowley  
Lynda Williams

Others Present: Donna Lindgren, ANC Director  
Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

The Special Meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman Al Smith.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll.

There was no quorum present.

Chairman Smith said there is no quorum at this time and the commission cannot conduct business or vote on anything. He will entertain the reports from those present.

### Director's Reports

#### Softball

Kathy Paskiewicz was present.

Ms. Paskiewicz said that she is holding registration at the Armory for Softball this Saturday and Sunday. These are the last two registrations. She said the numbers are not good. There are 45 girls registered. Last Year there were 80 girls. She is trying to get the numbers up.

#### Soccer

Chris Sheehy was present.

Mr. Sheehy said he is trying to get a group of volunteers to participate in the field clean up day where they walk the fields and fill the holes and clear the brush. If it is OK with Recreation the Soccer Program will schedule the clean up day in March. The lower field at the Nature Center really needs to be fixed. He is asking that a letter be sent from Recreation to the Board of Public Works and the Mayor because his letters don't work.

Mr. Sheehy also said that the Soccer program needs another practice field. He said he would also like to thank all of the people who helped him and the soccer program. He named these individuals and businesses in his report. The report is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Mr. Sheehy said registration for Spring 2011 is underway. Registration dates were held up to last week. He said he can't take any more children. There are 273 registered players and they are at capacity for coaches, volunteers and fields. The youth teams are practicing at Mead School.

Mr. Sheehy said he is looking for approval for a Soccer Clinic for the 3 and 4 year olds. It is a "Kick Start Program" which will be held for 6 Saturdays at Colony Park. The cost is \$30 per child and they will receive a shirt and trophy. He said there are about 20 children interested in this program.

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Sheehy if he has gone to a Board of Public Works meeting to discuss the ANC field.

Mr. Sheehy said no, they hold their meeting too early in the afternoon and he cannot attend. He said they need another practice field for the 273 kids registered. He said there was discussion on using Linett Park.

Mr. Coppola said that there was a Boy Scout who cleaned up the park last year.

Mr. Sheehy said that Prendergast field would be ideal for practice.

Mr. Coppola said there are geese at Colony Park and that is a problem. He has received complaints already. He said the Mayor's office has also received complaints regarding the geese.

Mr. Sheehy said they looked into using some organic material to help remedy the situation. He said that Prendergast would be ideal.

Mr. Kichar advised Mr. Sheehy that he would have to go through the Board of Education to use the school property.

Mr. Coppola said he can request the Prendergast field and the City can line it.

Mr. Kichar said that Supt. Merlone is very good and works with the Commission.

Mr. Sheehy said he didn't include the full financial report because it doesn't include the full registration fees that were collected. The registration fees were about \$6000.

Mr. Coppola said he will address the field at the nature center at the Friday morning meetings with the mayor.

Mr. Kichar thanked Mr. Sheehy.

### Basketball

There is no one present to report on the Instructional league.

### Football

Mr. Williams and Mr. Chryzanowski were present.

Mr. Williams submitted an updated list of unreturned uniforms from last year. He asked that this list be forward to Corp. Counsel Blake for action. He said these parents have been notified by certified return receipt mail.

Mr. Williams said that the coaches will remain same as last year with the exception that Mr. Robert Duffus will coach 4<sup>th</sup> grade and Mr. Larry Cafaro will coach 6<sup>th</sup> grade. He said that they are forming a Fly Football program for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

Mr. Williams discussed the new laws that are in effect because of the number of concussions in children playing football. The Fly Football program will educate the players on the fundamentals of football.

Mr. William said Jim Benjamin will coach the Fly Football program. He is a champion himself in Fly Football and will give the children a good basic education in football.

Mr. Williams said the Financial Report has been sent to the members. There was a discussion on the previous Board applying for a 501C3 certification from the IRS. The end of the year they failed to file taxes and their certification has been revoked. The present Board is meeting with their tax attorney to get it re-instated. The meeting will be March 2, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Williams said that everything else is running smoothly.

### **Reports: Donna Lindgren, ANC Director**

Donna Lindgren is present.

Ms. Lindgren said that there is information in the packet that was in the mailing for the meeting. With regard to Mr. Carpinella she did contact a company that has solar panels for his truck. They sent back a letter and she forwarded this letter on to Mr. Carpinella and Recreation so that Mr. Carpinella can follow up.

Ms. Lindgren said the Garden Club would like to hold their meetings at the Nature Center.

She discussed the area schools connecting to the web site with the activities going on thus educating everyone of the activities at the Nature Center.

There will be a forum on the Naugatuck River on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. It is called "Naugatuck River Forum" There is a lot of recreational activities that take place on the Naugatuck River. Ms. Lindgren said she would like to attend this Forum.

Chairman Smith said he had no problem with Ms. Lindgren attending the forum.

Ms. Lindgren said there will be a Maple Festival on March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Nature Center and the Friends of the Nature Center will host a Pancake Breakfast.

Ms. Lindgren gave the members flyers of programs and activities at the Nature Center. She said she would like an approval for all of her activities.

Chairman Smith said there is no quorum and the commission cannot vote on anything.

Ms. Lindgren said that she has a complaint about the snow plowing at the Nature Center. She said the plows come in and go around and leave. She said she is aware that they have been hammered with snow storms but she is looking at the other parks and they are cleared better than the nature center. She said she has workers up there and people coming there for the Nature Center programs. There is a fishing class on Saturday and there is nowhere for them to go.

Ms. Lindgren said PWD were up at the Nature Center today and she is happy about that. She said that P&Z wants an updated site plan for the Redwing Pond house project. The Friends of the Nature Center want to open the school in the Fall. She said the Friends will have to deal with it.

Ms. Lindgren asked the commission to approve her requests this evening.

Chairman Smith said that the commission can accept her report and put it on file because there is no quorum to vote on anything.

### **Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director**

Mr. Coppola said that the commission has covered everything. He said he received a phone call regarding an issue with the geese at Colony Park and at the other parks. He said he will speak with Mr. Schryver, PW Supt. on this. The geese are a major issue in the City's parks.

Mr. Coppola said he will meet with Ms. Tara Kolakowski on charging fees for the use of the Armory.

Mr. Kichar said that the Commission should have nothing to do with the Armory. There was a Board appointed a few years ago with 3 Aldermen, Recreation members and PWD members and nothing was accomplished.

### **Black Lavender World Colorguard**

Mr. Coppola said the request from Cheryl Curran for the Black Lavender World Colorguard to use the Armory was taken care of by Tara Kolakowski.

Chairman Smith asked about the activities that are being held at the Armory and if there was a schedule prepared by Mr. Coppola for the Commission. He said there are people using the Armory and Recreation doesn't know who is in there.

Mr. Coppola said that it is out of control and anyone who has a key uses the Armory. They get an OK from someone to go in and use it for their activity and that is what is happening.

Mr. Kichar said that the Recreation Commission should not have anything to do with the use of the Armory. We should send a letter to the Mayor.

Chairman Smith said who will have control of the Armory. Who is going to be in charge of who is in there using the Armory. Someone has to have a key to let them in.

Mr. Coppola said they get permission and go in. He said he changed the lock and keys are still floating around. Mr. Williams goes in there for his appointed time and there are people in there already. Assumption School has permission to be in the Armory.

Mr. Kichar said the Little League fields are in bad shape and we should have them in the Armory practicing because this Spring the fields will be wet. We have no idea who is using the Armory.

### **Walk with Us to Cure Lupus**

Mr. Coppola said that Laura Poquette is planning the annual walk-a-thon for Lupus at Nolan Field this year. The date is June 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending approximately 1:00 p.m. He said there is nothing scheduled for that date and he will schedule the walk-a-thon.

The commission members agreed because this is an annual event.

Baseball

Marty Mikos is present.

Mr. Mikos said there were two registrations. So far the registration for Little League is down. He is holding another registration this week. The numbers are off in the Majors and Minors. He said hopefully they will be able to use the Armory for some practice time.

Mr. Mikos said registrations will be held this Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Armory.

There was discussion that there is indoor football program in the Armory and Mr. Coppola doesn't have a schedule for them. Mr. Williams asked if there is a Master Schedule for the Armory as to what activities are using the Armory and at what times they will be in there so that other programs can have an opportunity to use the Armory.

Marty Mikos said he will e-mail his financial reports to Mr. Miller tomorrow. He asked if the City will pay for the Little League Charter from the baseball line item.

Mr. Kichar said that Mr. Mikos will have to use his registration fees first and then the City will pay for what is needed.

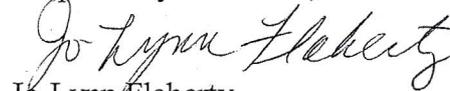
There was a discussion on spending the registration fees first and using the line items after that money is spent. The Commission stressed that the Little League program has to do things the right way.

Mr. Kichar said that it is important to get the financial reports to Mr. Miller and to the commission.

Chairman Smith asked three (3) times if there was anything else to come before the Commission. There being nothing else, Chairman Smith closed the meeting.

The Recreation Commission workshop meeting closed at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary