



City of Ansonia

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ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

Madeline H. Battone

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Regular Meeting

April 5, 2011

Present: Al Smith, Chairman – arrived 5:45 p.m.
Steve Kichar, Vice-Chairman
Paul Mengold
Jamie Puro
Sean Rowley

Absent: Tom Lynch
Lynda Williams

Others Present: Donna Lindgren, ANC Director – arrived 6:05 p.m.
Jeffrey Coppola, Recreation Director

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Kichar.

There was a quorum present.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Session

Vice-Chairman asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the commission.

There was no one.

Mr. Puro made a motion to close the public session. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

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Director's Reports

Baseball & Softball

Kathy Paskiewicz, Softball Director was present.

Kathy Paskiewicz reviewed her report that was sent in the packets to the members. There is \$4027.98 in the account. At the last meeting the numbers were down for registration. They are up to 73 girls for softball. They are working with Seymour to schedule games. She presented three (3) game schedules for the commission. A copy was given to Mr. Rowley for PWD.

Ms. Paskiewicz said they are holding a fundraiser Big Brothers where there is a Donation Clothes Bin put at the field and the group will profit 10 Cents per pound of clothing donated. She has advertised in the Valley Gazette to try to get more donations. Anyone bringing a donation will receive a tax receipt. The first game for the Majors is 4/19/11. Bob Lang from Seymour does the scheduling and hopefully all the schedules will be finished this week.

Vice-Chairman Kichar asked if there was a list of the coaches available for the Commission to review.

Ms. Paskiewicz said that Mr. Mikos had them.

There was discussion on the fields that will be used for the games.

Marty Mikos came into the meeting at this time.

Mr. Mikos said there were late signups for the program. Opening day is 4/16/11. The schedules are not completed as yet. He said he is waiting for Derby and Beacon Falls. The Little League will host a Golf Tournament fundraiser on 4/29/11. The cost is \$125 per person.

Mr. Mikos said the numbers are down this year. He attributes that to the travel teams and soccer. In the Major league they lost one team and in the Minor league they lost one team.

Mr. Rowley asked if they were still using Colburn Field at the AMS.

Mr. Mikos said yes they use that for the coach/pitch program.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to deviate from the agenda to allow Mr. Dan Nemergut, Emmett O'Brien A.D. to speak. Mr. Nemergut just arrived at the meeting. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Emmett O'Brien Presentation

Mr. Dan Nemergut, Emmitt O'Brien Athletic Director was present.

Mr. Nemergut gave a brief history of what is happening at Emmett O'Brien. He said there was a 4 year co-op with Derby High School and the numbers changed – they dropped from 37 to 32 and the Co-op no longer exists. The CIAC allowed them to finish the season and Emmett O'Brien started their own team.

Mr. Nemergut said he has been involved with Emmett O' Brien for a long time. In 1995 through 1997 he was a teacher, from 1990 to 2003 he was Basketball Coach – he left and then he went back. He is the English Dept. Chairman. He has a long history with the school and wants what is good for the school.

He gave a history of the football program and that the Superintendent for State of CT schools in Middletown gave Emmett O'Brien three coaching positions, They got the coaches and \$5000 and "good luck". They advertised for the coaches and have hired Ken Roberts as the varsity coach. There are 6 seniors and 2 underclassmen left. He said the CSC level will not be overmatched. There are no improvements for their field this year. They are hosting a Golf Tournament on 6/27/11 to raise money for the football program. He said he is hoping to have their field repaired because it is not in good condition. He said this year the first they are doing is to safely equip the kids with gear and uniforms.

Mr. Nemergut said he is here this evening to ask if Emmett O'Brien can use Nolan Field for two (2) home games. He knows what he is asking for is large and that is why he is here this evening. He had a meeting with Mayor Della Volpe, Mike Schryver and Jeff Coppola regarding the use of Nolan Field.

Vice-Chairman Kichar asked for a motion to table to next month. The Recreation programs use the field and we are looking to cut back on our use of Nolan Field and put the games on the practice field.

Mr. Nemergut said what they are asking for is week 1 a game on a Wednesday or Thursday and a game Thanksgiving Week which can be played on Wednesday evening. It doesn't have to be Thanksgiving Day. If we can't use the field we will have to stay on the road and play the games away for this year. There will be renovations beginning in September which includes the field. He said the field could be football accessible if the Youth Football program play there.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said the Recreation Commission should meet with the Youth Football Director and Public Works Dept. and hold a Special Meeting the end of April to make sure there are no conflicts. He said to have our Youth Football program play at Emmett O'Brien field would be hard because there is no Concession Stand.

Mr. Nemergut said his team doesn't want to use the Concession Stand or the Field House at Nolan Field.

Mr. Nemergut said he spoke to Eileen Krugel regarding a grant for turf for the field. It might help if Emmett O'Brien's name is in the grant.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said the Commission will schedule a meeting and advise Mr. Nemergut of the date and time.

Mr. Nemergut left the meeting at this time.

Soccer

Chris Sheehy is present.

Mr. Sheehy submitted his Financial Reports and Monthly Report to the Commission. He said there is nothing major going on at this time.

Mr. Sheehy discussed the status of the soccer equipment. He said they have to work around Emmett O'Brien's field schedule. He said he wrote a letter to Mayor Della Volpe asking him if he could support the repair of the lower field at the Nature Center for soccer use. He said he and Paul Velardi will meet with Mayor Della Volpe on April 7, 2011.

Mr. Rowley said he spoke to Mike Schryver about the field at the Nature Center and it depends on what is there and what is under the field. Either they will have to build it up or cut out the center field. If there is ledge there they will need money for loam. He said he spoke to the Mayor and there are no funds available for manpower to line the 7 fields for soccer. There are currently 2 fields at Colony and 1 at the Nature Center and 1 at Emmett O'Brien. There is not enough time to maintain more fields than that. They have to lay out the field and line it. He said that soccer hasn't been played at Prendergast School for years.

There was discussion on using the field at Prendergast School for soccer this year. Vice-Chairman Kichar asked if they use the soccer field at Emmett O'Brien.

Mr. Sheehy said that they use it only on Saturday. The out of town team uses the field every night and on Sunday.

Vice-Chairman Kichar asked if the Athletic Director is aware that our kids used the field for soccer in the past and they were pushed out.

Mr. Sheehy said they are using it for practice and games.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said Mr. Puro and himself were not happy that our program was pushed out of the Emmett O'Brien field.

Mr. Rowley said the Premier Team did it themselves. They received permission from Emmett to use the field.

Mr. Coppola said Mr. Sheehy said he would rather not push it because he is using Premier goals. Our soccer program doesn't have funds enough to purchase the goals needed.

Mr. Sheehy said Emmett O'Brien starts a football program and they run it from that field they will not be able to use the field in the Fall.

Vice-Chairman Kichar asked Mr. Coppola to speak with Mr. Nemergut right away and then address it.

Mr. Sheehy said he is planning on not using the field in the Fall and using the lower field at the Nature Center and/or Prendergast School. He said the soccer program has permission from the Board of Education to use Prendergast School for soccer.

Mr. Rowley asked if he was using the AHS soccer field.

Mr. Sheehy said this year is the first time they will use the AHS field. He said he spoke with Mr. Piccolo and received permission.

Mr. Rowley said the AHS team has 3 to 4 plus games. If we have games with the girls at one end of the field and the boys at the other end the field will be ripped up.

Mr. Rowley asked if there is a possibility of the Soccer program using Linett Park. It is not that bad and it is fairly flat. The infield is filled in and there is parking.

Mr. Sheehy said for the Youth 12 Travel Team there are a lot of people in and out of the field and Linett is not the best place for this type of traffic.

Mr. Sheehy said the Kick Start Clinic for 3 and 4 year olds opens 4/11/11. It is running at Prendergast School right now and another team is practicing there. The Travel U12 is at AHS on Tuesday and Thursday. They will clear enough money to pay for the referees. They are fielding a U19 team. They will lose the U19 in the Fall to AHS.

Mr. Sheehy said the CJSA Insurance bill is \$946 for all of the players and the background checks. He asked if the City will pay this bill.

Mr. Coppola said that he should ask Mr. Miller if the Recreation Commission can take it out of the line item.

Vice-Chairman Kichar asked if the Little League pays their own insurance.

Mr. Coppola said that the Little League pays their insurance.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said to pay the insurance bill and then if soccer needs money for the referees, Mr. Sheehy can ask for a transfer.

Mr. Sheehy said that would be fine. He will be short for the referees.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said Mr. Sheehy can fill out the form for the referees for \$2000 payable to Parent's Association to pay for the referees.

Basketball (Boys & Girls)

There is no one present.

Football

Mr. Fred Williams and Mr. Jon Chryzanowski were present.

Mr. Williams submitted his report and financial reports to the commission.

Mr. Williams said there are 110 kids registered to play at the first registration. He said he has received calls already for the registration session at Tinney Center. The Cheer group is looking into Dance and Step Team. They want to cross participate in both.

Mr. Williams said Coach Brockett gave him the Varsity schedule. The Athletic Director doesn't have the J.V. and Freshmen schedules yet. He said he has to turn in his schedules to the CVL. They will go by the Varsity schedule and they may have to move a game or two.

Vice-Chairman Kichar asked that Youth Football avoid games when AHS varsity is home. Play the next weekend.

Mr. Williams said they have 4 home games.

Mr. Rowley said he would like to send a letter to the NLV to switch the varsity and freshmen home games so that they play Friday and Saturday. He said Mr. Mengold spoke to the Director and he thought it was a good idea.

Mr. Williams asked if they can have the practice field lined.

Mr. Rowley said yes, the goal is to seed next week and fertilize and water the field.

There was discussion on using or not using the practice field and the softball field. Vice-Chairman Kichar said there is no one using that field for softball. He said Recreation has

been trying for years to have that field made into a practice field for football. Mr. Rowley said he will check with Mayor Della Volpe regarding this field.

Mr. Rowley said he hasn't received the softball schedules.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said the Commission should use the softball field as a football practice field for the Youth Football program.

Mr. Williams said the Youth Football program will have Flag Football this year.

Mr. Rowley asked where they are playing.

Mr. Williams said he is here asking for a field for them.

Vice-Chairman Kichar asked how kids are registered for Flag Football. He said the Commission needs to know the numbers so they can assign a field. He suggested they use the outfield.

Mr. Coppola said OK he will look into it.

Mr. Rowley said to keep the cheerleaders off the game field. Put them out there on the outfield.

Mr. Williams said they will not tackle and they play on Saturday 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said they should be able to use the outfield of the Baseball field.

Mr. Rowley said that is not a good idea. There will be damage from the Cheerleaders. He said he will line the Practice Field.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said no one is using that softball field at Nolan Field.

Mr. Mengold suggested putting the Flag Football team on the practice field.

Mr. Rowley said the High School practices there.

There was discussion on the maintenance of the fields, the repairing of the fields and the making of a new field on the softball field.

Mr. Williams said the Youth Football is hosting a fundraiser in the Armory. It is "Retail 101" where they sell name brand clothes at discount prices. They will use the Armory from Thursday to Sunday. The Football parents will have to man the booths.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said to work out the schedule with Mr. Coppola. He said this is not an issue for the Recreation Commission.

Vice-Chairman Kichar asked if the Football presentation can be moved up on the agenda because Mr. Williams and Mr. Chryzanowski have an early Youth Football meeting they must attend.

The secretary will change the agenda to accommodate this issue.

Mr. Mengold asked how the Football program was doing with the collection of uniforms that were not returned.

Mrs. Flaherty said that she sent a letter with the list of players and cheerleaders that did not return their uniforms to Kevin Blake, Corp. Counsel.

Mr. Coppola said he spoke with Corp. Counsel Blake on this issue and Mr. Blake assured him he was working on it.

There was discussion on how the Football program is handling "hardship" when a family cannot afford the registration fee. Mr. Williams said they call it "scholarships" and they have a set of criteria that they follow in determining hardship i.e. low income, etc. and it is a case by case basis.

Vice-Chairman Kichar asked that Mr. Williams write down the procedure and give it to the Commission.

A discussion continued on people who are working behind the scenes to get rid of coaches that they don't like. The Commission wants to be very clear on this that if there are parents that don't like a coach they can take their child out of the program. The members feel that there should be a meeting with the parents so that they understand the Recreation Commission approves the coaches who are appointed by the Executive Board presented to the commission for approval.

Deviate from the agenda

Mr. Rowley made a motion to deviate from the agenda to take up Baseball. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Babe Ruth

Kevin Wright was present. He said all of the players will be returning to play Babe Ruth again this year. There are 22 players registered and paid. He said they have collected \$4800 for registration fees. The registration fee is \$75 per player. They are currently short \$2650 and are present this evening to ask the Recreation Commission if they could help the Babe Ruth program with funding.

Mr. Wright said that in the past the City of Ansonia has given the Babe Ruth program funding.

Mr. Coppola said that Babe Ruth usually receives \$2000 from the City of Ansonia. He said whoever wants to be President and Vice-President of Babe Ruth should write a letter requesting to be appointed to that position.

Mr. Wright said he will send a letter for next month's meeting.

Reports: Donna Lindgren, ANC Dir.

Mrs. Lindgren is present.

Ms. Lindgren said the Friends of the Nature Center will be hosting Earth Day on April 30, 2011. She said she wants to sell vendor space.

Ms. Lindgren reviewed the information in the packet with the Commission. She said the vendors will be in the parking lot. She said she presented a list of work that should be done at the Nature Center and she is working on a draft agreement for the Friends of Nature Center for the Nature Based Pre-school.

Ms. Lindgren said there was a call and e-mail sent to the Nature Center complaining about the smoking on the Playground.

Alderman Beall said that you can't smoke on Nolan Field only in the parking lot.

Ms. Lindgren asked how they are keeping the smoking off the field.

Mr. Rowley said the Board of Education had to put up the sign.

Mr. Mengold said there should be no smoking on the school campus or school property.

Ms. Lindgren mentioned the dogs that are up at the Nature Center and leave their "surprises" and the owners don't pick up after them.

There was discussion on dogs that are walked at the Nature Center and at the other City fields and parks. Ms. Lindgren asked Mr. Rowley to get a sign to put up at the Nature Center and the fields that says "NO SMOKING".

Chairman Smith said that someone will have to write a proposal that everyone will have to abide by. He suggested that this is referred to Corp. Counsel.

Mr. Rowley said Recreation proposes all City parks and fields be smoke free and that the dogs must be on a lease and any mess picked up.

Mr. Coppola said he will speak with Corp. Counsel Blake on the "No smoking" signs.

Ms. Lindgren said she didn't receive the sign yet for the "vendor parking".

Mr. Rowley said Mike Schryver has ordered the signs for vendors and "No dogs allowed on fields".

There was discussion on signs and dogs at the Nature Center and city parks and playgrounds and field.

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

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Mr. Coppola is present this evening.

Mr. Coppola said he is asking for the commission's approval to allow Dave Connolly from DEP to conduct the Fishing School at the Armory. Last year's school was a huge success and they want to run it again. This year it will be a one day clinic – 2 hour session and a 6 hour field trip. They need permission to go to Colony Pond. He said Mr. Connolly did a wonderful job for the kids and the program is free through the State of CT. He said he doesn't have a date yet but will advise the commission once he has one.

Mr. Puro made a motion to approve the request to run the Fishing School at the Armory and Colony Pond at a date to be announced. Mr. Mengold seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Coppola said that Jim Queen, Boys and Girls Club requested the use of Pine Lot on May 1, 2011 for a baseball version of punt, pass and hit competition (same as football punt, pass, and kick). They need the two baseball fields and the outfield.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to approve the request from Jim Queen, Boys and Girls Club to use Pine Lot on May 1, 2011 pending the receipt of a letter explaining the event. Mr. Mengold seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said we have to get people to understand that they have to get the letters in to the Secretary or Recreation Director before the meeting so that the Commission members can receive them in their packet.

Vice-Chairman Kichar told Mr. Coppola that the Commission needs to have his report in writing to the commission.

Mr. Mengold asked if the Boys & Girls Club needs to submit a Certificate of Insurance to use Pine Lot.

Mr. Coppola said he will check and verify if they need to submit a Certificate of Insurance.

Mr. Puro made a motion to accept Mr. Coppola's verbal report as presented. Mr. Mengold seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Minutes

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

Vice-Chairman Kichar advised the secretary that if there is no meeting because there is no quorum she doesn't have to write minutes.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Coppola said there are no bills this evening.

Correspondence

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept all of the correspondence received, dispense with the reading, and place them on file. If a member requests one read or acted upon the correspondence will be brought up individually. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

1. Color guard Group: request to use the Armory.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said this was discussed at the workshop meeting last month and they are using the Armory.

Chairman Smith is concerned with the liability of anyone using the Armory without Recreation approval.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said that Mr. Coppola is in charge of the Armory. He will handle what has to happen with the use of the Armory.

There was discussion with the use of the Armory and the commission members feel that they are not taking the responsibility for the Armory. Mr. Coppola can have charge of the Armory and communicate the use with the Mayor's office. Everyone has a key to the Armory and it should not fall under the Recreation. The scheduling could be worked out with Mr. Coppola and Mayor Della Volpe.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said as long as Mr. Coppola gives our Recreation Programs first preference in the use of the Armory.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to relinquish all hours at the Armory. Contact Mr. Coppola, Recreation Director and the Mayor's office to schedule use at the Armory as long as the Recreation Programs have first choice on dates and times. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Coppola said the Mayor asked for a list of the people who have keys to the Armory.

2. Lupus Walk-a-thon at Nolan Field on 6/25/11 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to approve the annual walk-a-thon. Mr. Smith seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ms. Lindgren asked that the commission approve her February report.

Mr. Puro made a motion to approve Ms. Lindgren's February 2011 report. Mr. Mengold seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Any other business to come before the Commission

Mr. Rowley made a motion to send a letter to the Naugatuck Valley League requesting the current schedule format and to switch the Freshman and J.V. games. That will ensure that there are no games on the field prior to the Varsity game. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Mengold said he will call NVL if they choose not to do that. The Freshman should play opposite the J.V.

They discussed the play schedule and "leap frogging" for the Freshmen, J.V. and Varsity teams so that they are not on the field prior to when the Varsity has a home game.

Agenda Format

Mr. Puro made a motion to move Football to number 1 on the agenda. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Puro made a motion to change the agenda and put reports first. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Special Meeting – Emmett O'Brien

Mr. Puro made a motion to schedule a Special Meeting to discuss Emmett O'Brien's request on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor so carried.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said there is a meeting scheduled with Sean Rowley, Mike Schryver, Fred Williams, Steve Cavanaugh and Jeff Coppola with the Mayor to discuss the fields.

Mr. Mengold said that there is a lot of stress on the field and it should not happen – the field needs to recoup.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said the Commission is looking to eliminate the Youth Football games on the main field.

Discussion continued on the use of the field and the stress on the field by too much activity and games being played on it.

There was a discussion on the members that do not attend the meetings and that they should be replaced.

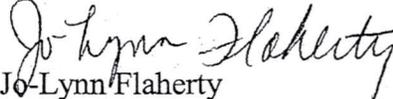
Executive Session (if needed)

None

Adjourn

Mr. Rowley made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:10 p.m. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary