



# City of Ansonia

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Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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## ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

*Elizabeth Lynch*  
TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Special Meeting

April 19, 2011

Present: Al Smith, Chairman  
Steve Kichar  
Tom Lynch  
Paul Mengold – arrived 5:45 p.m.  
Sean Rowley

Absent: Jamie Puro  
Lynda Williams

Others Present: Mayor James Della Volpe  
Jeff Coppola, Rec. Dir.  
Michael Schryver, PWD Supvr.  
Dan Nemergut, Emmett O'Brien Athletic Dir.  
Jon Chryzanowski, Youth Football

The Special Meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m by Chairman Smith.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll. There was a quorum present.

Chairman Smith read the call of the meeting. He asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the commission on this matter.

Mr. Chryzanowski said his concern is the wear and tear on the field. There are three high school teams using the field along with the Youth Football program.

Mr. Dan Nemergut said he is looking for two days (9/14/11 and 11/22/11 or 11/23/11) this year. He said a lot of the Youth Football games are finished by the second date he is looking for. He

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said his first game is one week before Ansonia High School will start their season and he is looking at Wednesday evening. He is not asking for any games of sub-varsity play. He said they will play the rest of their games on the road. Emmett is planning improvements to their field and he is hoping to host the sub-varsity games and lower attendance games at the Emmett field.

Mr. Nemergut said next year they will play these two high attendance games away. This year (Fall 2011) the two games that bring in a crowd are Seymour and Platt Tech and these are the games that they want to play at Nolan Field. He said hopefully by next year the Emmett facility will be able to host a varsity game. He said he is looking at using Nolan Field every other year for those two games.

Mr. Nemergut said he has endorsed having Emmett O'Brien placed on the grant to have turf at Nolan Field. They will see our relationship with the Town. Emmett's track (running) is the only one in town and it gets a lot of use by the public.

Mr. Nemergut said he understands the wear and tear on the field. He is asking for two dates. Emmett's opening game is with Seymour and it would be nice if they could play at a facility that can host the game and bring Emmett a little prestige. The Thanksgiving Day game is with Platt Tech.

Chairman Smith said he heard Mr. Nemergut say he is asking to use the field for more than one year. He asked Mr. Nemergut if this is an ongoing event.

Mr. Nemergut said he is asking to use the field next year (fall 2011) and the following year they will play away and then the year after that (2013) for the big gate games. He said if the school is updated then the Athletic facility will be updated by then.

Mr. Coppola said tonight we are voting on allowing them to use Nolan Field this year, if it is OK for these dates – 9/14/11 for their opening game against Seymour and 11/22/11 or 11/23/11 for their Thanksgiving game against Platt Tech.

Chairman Smith said Mr. Coppola is stating this year but Mr. Nemergut is asking for more than one year on the field.

Mr. Lynch said we are talking about this year only.

Mr. Nemergut said he is asking for this year only – Fall 2011.

There was discussion on the use of the Emmett O'Brien field by the Youth Football program and the Soccer program. Mr. Nemergut said there is no problem with those programs using the field. He will make it open to them.

Mr. Schryver said that two games equal 2% more use on the field. This is not taking into account the practice sessions. They practice in the same location and this hurts the field. If there is rain and the field is muddy you have to stay off the field. He said that Emmett O'Brien will

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fund the lining of the field and the clean up at the field for the day of the games. He said Nolan Field is an athletic field and we want kids to play on the field.

Mr. Nemergut said he is sensitive to field use and maintenance of a field. He is hypersensitive to when a field could be used and when it can't be used. He said he understands how a field could be damaged.

Mr. Nemergut said they do not need to use the Concession Stand or the Field house at Nolan Field. They will bring their tents but they will need power.

Chairman Smith opened the meeting for discussion with the members.

Mr. Kichar said he would like to get together with Mr. Nemergut to discuss the use of Emmett O'Brien's field for the Youth Football Flag team. They have eliminated one team (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) and will need a field for the Flag team. He said he doesn't know what happened and he doesn't think Mr. Nemergut was the A.D. at Emmett but the Youth Soccer was taken off the Soccer field and replaced with the Premier Team.

Mr. Nemergut said he is confused as to what happened and who is using the field and when. There was a group up there on the field and he went over to ask who they were. It was a Recreation Soccer group that was at the Nature Center and couldn't use that field so they went down to Emmett field and used their field for practice. He said he walked into this with the Premier Travel team. Mr. Nemergut said if Ansonia Soccer needs the field he will tell the New England Commons team they can't use the field. He said that they do pay and Emmett allowed them on the field to make money. He said he didn't realize.

Mr. Coppola said that Ansonia Soccer uses Emmett fields on Saturday and Sunday but the Premier Team uses it Monday through Friday.

Mr. Kichar said Ansonia Soccer doesn't use the Emmett field during the week.

Mr. Nemergut said they were playing at the baseball field. He said it is difficult for him to monitor who is using the fields because he lives in Goshen.

Mr. Kichar said Ansonia Youth Football will have a flag football program because they have eliminated the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team, he said this team can use the Emmett O'Brien field. He said he is concerned that the week of Thanksgiving and there is bad weather the field might not be playable. He said that Mr. Rowley and Mr. Schryver will know if you can play on the field or not but that is a concern.

There was discussion on using the field if the weather is bad and the field can't be used.

Mr. Nemergut said they don't need to use the Field house. The Emmett O'Brien team will come to the field dressed and the out of town team will also be dressed for the game.

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Mr. Kichar said the Recreation Commission doesn't have a say in the Field house and who uses it. It is not a Recreation authority and we don't want to get involved with who uses it or who doesn't use it.

Mr. Nemergut said he started the football program with nothing. He is not coming in with lofty ideas. He said Ansonia has a first class facility and they would appreciate using it for those two games. That would give the Emmett O'Brien program credibility and they could gain respect.

Mr. Coppola suggested that the week of the Thanksgiving game Emmett schedule their game for Tuesday, November 22, 2011 with a rain date of Wednesday, November 23, 2011.

Mr. Kichar said the varsity team does a walk through on Tuesday.

Mr. Coppola said yes.

Mr. Mengold asked what the long range goals were for the football program. He asked Mr. Nemergut if he could live with the format that Oxford High School currently has. Their field is roped off, there is no Press Box, there are five rows of portable bleachers and a portable concession stand (tables and coolers).

Mr. Nemergut said that would not be a problem. Their renovations should begin this September. The field on site will be gone and the baseball field will be used for practice and the tennis courts will be used for practice. He said he spoke with the carpenters regarding the Press Box and the Bleachers and a Field House because Emmett wants to use the field for all of their varsity games in the Fall of 2012.

Mr. Nemergut said the State will build a cafeteria on the old field. The water system will be repaired.

Mr. Mengold said in the Fall of 2012 Emmett envisions their program will be on site for these two games.

Mr. Nemergut said the two games – Seymour and Platt Tech and after that we can sustain the remainder of games. When the Grant comes through we can partner with Ansonia and have the turf put at Nolan Field. He said knowing the games that Emmett has the only two games that have a large gate are Seymour and Platt Tech. Those are the two games Emmett is asking to use Nolan Field to play. He said they can't be in a situation where it will cost more to run the games.

Mr. Mengold asked if the games were evening for afternoon games.

Mr. Nemergut said they are asking for the field on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 and Tuesday, November 22, 2011 for their home games.

Chairman Smith asked if anyone had anything else they wanted to say before the Commission votes.

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There was no one.

**Mr. Kichar made a motion to allow Emmett O'Brien Tech School to use Nolan Field on the two dates requested: Wednesday, September 14, 2011 and Tuesday, November 22, 2011. Mr. Lynch seconded.**

Mr. Mengold asked if the commission discussed the stress on the field.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Nemergut mentioned the Youth Football team can use the field at Emmett for their games and Mr. Kichar mentioned the Recreation Commission is eliminating a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team and implementing a Flag Football team that could use the Emmett field because they don't need a Concession Stand whereas the Youth Football program depends on the concession stand for funds.

Mr. Mengold asked what Public Works thinks about the stress on the field.

Mr. Schryver said there should be no problem with the stress – the field will be OK.

Chairman Smith asked if there were any more questions before the vote.

Mr. Mengold said this request is for one year only.

Mr. Nemergut said at this time he is asking for this year only.

**Chairman Smith called for a vote: All in favor with one abstention (S. Rowley abstained). The Chair declared the motion carried.**

Mr. Rowley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary