



City of Ansonia

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ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

July 5, 2011

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Nicole Carlowitz
Michael Cratty
Steve Kichar

Absent: Tom Lynch
Jamie Puro

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Rec. Director -- arrived 6:05 p.m.
Donna Lindgren, ANC Director -- arrived 6:17 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Smith.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Director's Reports

Football

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

Mr. Williams said there are 129 football players registered and 72 cheerleaders registered for this fall season. The car wash was held on June 25th and it was a good day for all who attended. The AYF Board will host a Football Camp on July 16th from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and July 17th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. This camp will be free to all Ansonia youth registered to play football with AYF. The name of the clinic is the Stephen F. Zuraw Football Clinic.

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Mr. Williams said Taylor Jones along with a group of former high school players will be hosting this clinic. He said hopefully they will be able to continue this clinic every year. There is no cost to the children attending and no cost to the City. Everything has been donated and what is not donated the AYF Parents Club will pay for.

Mr. Williams said June 25th all football registrations have been complete. He said he will have sign up registrations at the July 16th and July 17th clinics and by July 23rd that will be the end of registrations for this Fall season. He said all of the teams are full.

Soccer

Chris Sheehy was present.

Mr. Sheehy said that the soccer program is going well. The Kick Start Clinic for 3 and 4 year olds went well. There was a lot of good feedback. There has been some fundraising to finish paying the invoices.

Mr. Sheehy said the Fall 2011 season has 175 children registered. They are down a few players but 175 is a good number. They held their registration at the Armory. They also did on-line registration for returning players.

Mr. Sheehy said the Travel Team did great this season. The Youth 12 girls are undefeated three years in a row. The Youth 12 Boys also won their games and the Youth 19 Team took first place in their division and the Youth 14 Co-Ed team placed 2nd.

Mr. Sheehy said they have started their Fall planning for fields for playing games and practices. The field at the Nature Center will be ready for Fall. He said he spoke with Mr. Schryver and he assured him the field will be ready. The Athletic Director at Emmett O'Brien said the Complex is slated for renovations in the Fall so as long as they are not revamping the field Ansonia Soccer could use it.

He said if the Youth 12 program can play another year at Emmett O'Brien that would be good. Prendergast School field is good for a practice field. He will continue to use that field as long as the Board of Ed allows them to use it. He said he would like to keep the traffic off the Abe Stone Park field as much as possible. The field is getting beat up.

Mr. Kichar said Sean Rowley will maintain the field at Abe Stone park. The field will be ready for Spring.

Chairman Smith asked how the soccer program was doing at Linett Field. He said PWD was maintaining the field for use. He asked if they were using Linett field.

Mr. Sheehy said Linett Park field is a good level field for practice. The PWD has been keeping it up pretty well and it is in good shape.

Chairman Smith said he just wants the field to be used. Public Works is maintaining so we should use it.

Mr. Sheehy said he forwarded his financial statements to Mr. Miller and to the Commission.

Mr. Kichar said he has to speak with Jeff Coppola because someone is going on the High School field (Nolan Field). He cautioned Mr. Williams to make sure the Cheerleaders know they can't use the high school field for practice.

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Williams if he could put the younger players in the Armory for football practice.

Mr. Williams said they can come up with a plan for them.

Mr. Kichar said to work something out because the Commission wants the grass to grow on the field.

Mr. Williams and Mr. Coppola will meet at the High School field at Nolan Field to see what can be done with regard to practice on the fields.

Mr. Williams said the Armory is not under the Recreation Commission any longer so he could just send out an e-mail to Mr. Coppola with his request to use the Armory and it can be put in the monthly packet.

Mr. Coppola said Volleyball is up at Nolan Field using the field. They should be at the left field for their practice. He will go to the field and talk with them on where they should be with regard to fields.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept Mr. Sheehy's report and Mr. Williams' report as given at the meeting. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Baseball & Softball

There is no one present.

Mr. Coppola said there are baseball and softball All Star games being played this evening. Mr. Mikos sent an e-mail advising us they would not be here. He said he will cover baseball and softball in his report.

Basketball (Boys & Girls)

Mr. Kichar said the Recreation Commission doesn't handle basketball.

Public Session

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

Chairman Smith closed the public session.

Reports: Donna Lindgren, ANC Dir.

Donna Lindgren was present.

Ms. Lindgren said she gave copies of her report to the members this evening. She said there is still no sign for Mr. Softee. The season is here and there is no designated area for him to park.

Ms. Lindgren said the No Smoking on the Playground area sign is not posted. She said that no smoking in public parks is standard procedure in other towns and cities.

Mr. Coppola said he will bring it up at the Friday meeting with the Mayor. He said Mr. Schryver is also in attendance at this meeting.

Ms. Carlowitz said there is a big issue at Nolan Field with the dogs on the field.

Mr. Coppola said if you have a sign posted you can enforce it.

Ms. Lindgren asked if the dogs are on a lease.

Ms. Carlowitz said at Nolan field, yes.

Mr. Coppola said big dogs are a liability if the dog nips at a child. It is not just the dog poop at the field but also the liability if they bite someone or hurt a child.

Ms. Carlowitz said it is a big issue and they should clean up after their dogs.

There was a discussion on creating a dog park. Mr. Coppola said he brought that up at a meeting. He said make a dog park at Abe Stone Park near the tennis courts.

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

Ms. Lindgren said if the commission has any suggestions or if they have something they would like to see happening at the Nature Center to let her know.

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Mr. Jeff Coppola was present.

Mr. Coppola said he wanted to ask permission of the commission to sit down with Easy Travel to entertain some trips. They changed the process and format so trips go through Easy Travel. Easy Travel will take all the responsibility for insurance and the financial responsibility to run the trips. He said he would bring the trips in to the Commission to get them approved.

Mr. Coppola discussed summer camps to get the kids into activities. He said he could bring people in to run the camps and clinics now that the fields are in good shape and can be used again. He said he had to keep away from the fields because they were in bad shape and now they are good. He stopped running the summer programs for the last two years. He said it is a good idea to start up again. The people running the clinics can charge the kids and that would be how they are paid.

Mr. Kichar said the fishing clinic at the Armory was a good activity.

Mr. Coppola said there were 30 kids at the Armory and Abe Stone Park for the Fishing Clinic. They were catching fish and they really enjoyed it. He said he could start to use the Armory for this type of activity.

Mr. Kichar said he discussed this with Mr. Coppola for the Senior Citizens. He said Mark Lanzieri could hold a concert in the Armory for Senior Citizens. The City could set the Armory up with chairs and a stage. He said Mr. Coppola will look into it.

Mr. Kichar said the late Fall would be a good time for this.

Mr. Coppola said he will look into it at the Armory.

Mr. Kichar said he will speak with Mark Lanzieri about performing a concert.

Mr. Coppola discussed the American Legion Baseball Team. He said they did not come to the Recreation Commission to use the field and they did not give us a schedule. He said they put pressure on Mr. Schryver to use the field and to prepare the field. He said the Board should send him a letter advising him that he must send a letter to the Recreation Commission asking to use the field so the Commission is aware of the dates and times.

Mr. Kichar said the Commission had no idea who was up there playing at Nolan Field.

Discussion on the American Legion team using the field without prior approval and notification to the Commission. Mr. Coppola said they have damaged the outfield grass and they are trying to repair the field. There should be consequences if they continue to use the field and damage it.

Mr. Coppola said the Softball All Star finals were held at Nelligan Park and the Public Works Dept. did a great job in preparing the field and the park for this event.

Mr. Coppola discussed the Baseball All Star teams. He said there were three Major teams and three Minor teams and a special AAA Miner All Star team. This AAA team was not on the roster. The Little League Board wanted them to play against the Little League Minor team. That would be playing 9 year olds against 12 year olds. There is a liability to have such a difference in age playing against each other. He said he put a stop to the Minor League team playing against the AAA Team because of the liability.

Mr. Coppola said they have to have a procedure and format on how we do this. 80% of the kids are picked by the players and the coaches pick the rest. He said he was called by three parents on this.

Mr. Kichar said the Commission should speak with the Mayor on the members that don't show up for a meeting. He said the Commission has to sit down and map out how they want to do things with regard to these leagues because the City does give them funds to operate.

Mr. Kichar said he would like to get Mr. Cratty involved in the baseball program and Ms. Carlowitz in the AYP Cheerleaders because she is on their Executive Board and knows how it works.

Mr. Kichar said baseball is the biggest challenge.

Chairman Smith said the All Star team should be made up of a player from each team.

Mr. Coppola said the Districts have 9 & 10 year old and 11 & 12 year old All Star Teams. He said he asked the Little League Board the logic in that AAA team.

Discussion on 9 & 10 year old All Star teams. Ms. Carlowitz said she agrees with Mr. Kichar --- do we need a 9 year old All Star team. They are too young. It should be for the older kids. It is the same with the football and cheer it should be for the older kids. There are some coaches that want to form their own teams and travel to other towns to play games.

Mr. Cratty said who gathers the kids up to play the other towns. This team should be separate from the Recreation Commission. The parents should pay dues and fees to play on this team and they should support themselves.

Mr. Coppola said the Recreation Commission let's people run their own programs. All they have to do is come down to see him if there is a problem. We don't usually bother them. The American Legion has to do it the right way and no one will bother them.

Mr. Cratty said are the Minors playing each other or are they playing games outside of the league and out of town.

Mr. Coppola said when Mr. Cratty played there were usually 8 teams – 4 on the east side and 4 on the west side that played each other. Now we are down to 3 teams in the Majors and 2 teams in the Minors and 1 AAA Minor All Star team. They usually play each other and they play teams in Beacon Falls.

Mr. Cratty asked if there is a lottery to pick the teams or is there try outs.

Mr. Coppola said it goes to the draft for the Majors and those that don't make it play in the Minors.

Mr. Cratty asked if the kids try out or is it by names.

Mr. Coppola said they hand picked the AAA All Star Minor Team.

There was discussion on the 9 year old playing against the 12 year old. The Commission needs to know this – they can't over see something like that.

Mr. Kichar said we can't give baseball funds and then let something like this go. They don't listen to Mr. Coppola and Mr. Coppola covers the City, the Commission and the children.

There was discussion on the lack of respect given to the Recreation Commission by the Little League Baseball and Softball program in the last five years.

Ms. Carlowitz asked why the Commission hasn't done something to change the people involved in the program.

Mr. Coppola said Little League says they don't have to do anything through the City but they use our funds and we have to look out for each and every child participating in the program.

Mr. Kichar said he suggested Ansonia leave the Little League program. He said he met with the Baseball people and nothing happened, they said they would do what they wanted to do.

Chairman Smith said Recreation stayed with Little League in case we had a great team.

Mr. Kichar said there has been a lack of kids in the baseball program also.

Ms. Lindgren said good communication and a cooperative effort may bring more kids in to play. She said she will list all registration dates for all Recreation programs in her quarterly newsletter. She said it is mailed to a lot of Ansonia residents. She said for the next newsletter she would need the information on registration as soon as possible.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Williams stated that the July 16th and July 17th dates will end AYP football registration. He said that you can't turn anyone away. There is a window through the league.

Ms. Carlowitz said they held on-line registration and it went very well.

Mr. Coppola said Kevin Blake has been very good on getting the uniforms returned to the league. He also collected from the people who failed to pay for a trip.

Ms. Carlowitz said Steve Cavanaugh has called the kids on the phone to get registration done by August 1st.

Ms. Carlowitz said that there are kids on the field without physicals, etc. on August 1st. Physicals are good for 2 years but the Doctor has to sign the paper. There are dates that must be complied with because there is a liability. Mr. Williams has been good this year getting parents involved in the program.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept Mr. Coppola's report. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Minutes

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

Approval of Bills

Mr. Coppola presented the following bills for payment:

1. Baseball and Softball stipends at \$250 each: Jan Stevens, Kathy Paskiewicz, Chris T. and Steve Tamburino.
2. Ever Ready Press for football flyers and tumbling flyers: \$205
3. Naugatuck Babe Ruth League Registration: \$1400
4. Ansonia Softball reimbursement for All Star team: \$472
5. Blanchettes for Little League equipment: \$3473
6. Blanchettes Girls Softball: \$1615.50

Mr. Kichar made a motion to pay all bills if found to be correct. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Correspondence

Mr. Kichar 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. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Any other business to come before the Commission

There was discussion on cancelling the August meeting. It was agreed that the Commission will hold their August meeting this year.

Gridiron Club

There was discussion on whom is responsible for the Concession Stand at Nolan Field. The Board of Aldermen gave permission to use the Concession Stand for Varsity home games. Mr. Morse was to oversee the Concession Stand.

Mr. Coppola said this was discussed at a Board of Aldermen meeting and he will look for the minutes.

Monthly Packets

Mr. Kichar said that if the information from a league or program or reports are not in the monthly packets, the Commission will not entertain discussion on the item.

Red Wing Pond House

Ms. Lindgren said she has asked before if the Recreation Commission would support the Red Wing Pond House Nature Pre-school but there hasn't been a quorum. She would like to have the commission send a letter to the Board of Aldermen in support of this project.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to have Donna Lindgren write a letter from the Recreation Commission to the Board of Aldermen in support of the Red Wing Pond House Pre-school for Chairman Smith's signature with a copy for the Commission. Ms. Carlowitz seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar said that Amy Butler and Patty Crisanti will CoCheer Co-ordinators for the Cheerleaders this year. They will split the stipend and each receive half.

There was some discussion on recruiting new members to the Recreation Commission. The commission members are concerned because some of the members don't attend the meetings and it is hard to get a quorum to conduct business.

Executive Session (if needed)

None

Adjourn

Mr. Kichar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Ms. Carlowitz seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary