



City of Ansonia

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Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

October 4, 2011

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Nicole Carlowitz
Michael Cratty
Steve Kichar
Tom Lynch
Jamie Puro

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

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, AYF Director was present.

Mr. Williams said that he has submitted his financial report which is in the packet. He said that he would like to pay for the bus transportation up front and then submit a bill for reimbursement from the City. The AYF has used all of the registration money.

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Mr. Kichar said if the registration money has been used then the program will have the City funds to pay expenses.

Mr. Williams said that is correct. He said there are problems with getting volunteers to help at the Concession Stand and with other duties that the program needs help with. He said that he and Jon cannot do everything for the program. The parents have to step up and help out. He said the Executive Board is thinking of charging a Volunteer Fee. If they volunteer they will get the money back – if they don't it will be a donation. Another thought was to see if there are Freshman and Sophomore football players who would work at the Concession Stand.

The discussion continued on the situation of Volunteers and it was agreed that Mr. Kichar, Ms. Carlowitz and Mr. Williams will meet to see if they can come up with a solution.

Mr. Kichar said a lot of groups sell raffle tickets and charge a fee up front. Our program fee is low because the City of Ansonia pays.

Ms. Carlowitz said Derby charges \$50 and the parents receive raffle tickets. When they sell all of the raffle tickets they get their \$50 back. She said she agrees with Mr. Williams that it is a struggle to get parents to work and help out. This is not fair to those who do work. There are positions vacant at game time and we have no one to fill them. We are filling at minimum so we don't have to forfeit the game.

A discussion followed on the above.

Mr. Williams said that they don't get any Cheer parents to help out either.

Mr. Coppola said that Amy Butler was telling parents that we need to help.

Ms. Carlowitz said we have the bare minimum in volunteers and help.

Mr. Coppola said that Derby's parent participation is great and they can do a lot of things for the program.

Mr. Williams said next week is the last home game. He said that the Cheerleaders have competitions coming up.

Incident Reports

There was discussion on the large amount of injuries during these games.

Mr. Williams gave Vice-Chairman Kichar the incident reports. He will keep them because they cannot be made public and put in the Town Clerk's file because of the HIPPA law. He explained how the insurance coverage is when a player is injured.

Mr. Kichar said that ARMS does a really good job with the injuries and transports.

Mr. Puro made a motion to accept Mr. Williams' report. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Soccer

Chris Sheehy was present.

Mr. Sheehy said there is nothing major going on. They have abandoned playing at the Emmett O'Brien complex. The Youth 12 Boys & Girls team is at Abe Stone Park. PWD moved the soccer goals.

Mr. Puro asked if they were getting bumped from the field at Emmett O'Brien.

Mr. Sheehy said the Comets are using the Emmett O'Brien field every day.

Mr. Kichar asked the age of the group.

Mr. Sheehy said they are older girls and it is a travel team.

Mr. Coppola said he thought they were only using the field on Saturday.

Mr. Sheehy said they use it every day. The Football program uses it on Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

The discussion continued on the fields that would be available for the Soccer program to use i.e.: Pine Lot, AHS soccer field, ANC soccer field, Abe Stone Park. Mr. Sheehy said the Youth 12 Travel team needs a unique size field. He said right now the soccer program is fine with the fields. In the Spring hopefully the field at the ANC will be ready.

Mr. Kichar said that he would like to have enough fields for the Recreation programs. He said our programs have never been this good. The Recreation programs are doing very well.

Mr. Sheehy said Mr. Nemergut keeps him informed of the availability of the field but he didn't say we couldn't use the field. They line it with yellow paint. He said he has been using Abe Stone park and Mr. Rowley moved the goals and lined the field.

Mr. Kichar said when the fields are good enough we'll get you on them.

Mr. Sheehy said Abe Stone Park is in great shape and he has no complaints. He said he sent in the budget numbers for the program. There is a balance of \$6200 in registration money left for the season. This will get him through the season with possibly \$2000 left.

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Sheehy if he needs portable goals.

Mr. Sheehy said he is OK with the ones he has. They are iron and heavy and anchored down. Mr. Rowley saved the program \$2500 by moving the goals.

The soccer fields that are used are: Abe Stone Park, Ansonia Nature Center and the lower field at Ansonia Nature Center was redone.

Mr. Sheehy said that he will use other fields for practice instead of using the playing fields. These fields (Prendergast and Linett) are easier to maintain. They need grass and cones, etc.

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

Baseball & Softball

Softball

There is no one present.

Mr. Coppola said that Kathy Paskiewicz couldn't make it this evening.

Baseball

There is no one present.

Mr. Coppola said that Marty Mikos couldn't make it this evening.

Chairman Smith asked about the Fall Baseball program and how it was doing.

Mr. Coppola said there is no Fall Baseball program. They have just Coach/Pitch this Fall season.

Basketball (Boys & Girls)

None

Public Session

Ryan Santos, AHS Soccer Coach.

Mr. Santos said a few parents approached him to see if the AHS Soccer Team could use Nolan Field for their Senior Night game. He said that they have to play their games in the afternoon at 3:00, 3:30 or 4:00 because there are no lights at the AHS soccer field. If they could use Nolan Field they could play at night under the lights and that would attract the parents. They would be able to attend. It would be great for the program. The Senior Night game is against Derby on October 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. and there are no football games for two days after that game. The lines are not an issue for his game. They need lines and Derby did theirs in yellow and you could paint over it. He said he did not know about the girl's game. He said they could play a 5:00 p.m. game at Nolan Field.

There was discussion on the use of Nolan Field for the AHS Soccer team's Senior Night game.

Mr. Cratty said there has been a lot of rain on the field and a lot of activity could damage the field.

Mr. Kichar said it is a great idea for your Senior Night but there is a problem this year. Ansonia has a home game and playoff games and the AYF has a home playoff game. He said he will talk to Sean to see if it is feasible to use the field this year.

Ms. Carlowitz suggested the Football Practice field at Nolan Field. She said the AYF uses it for practice at night.

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Santos if the Practice field would work for him.

Mr. Santos said he didn't know.

John Fillaos said the balls will hit the houses.

Chairman Smith said there is a problem with the lining of the field for soccer and tearing up the field.

Mr. Kichar said it is a good idea to put the kids under the lights. The Practice Field will work for them.

Mr. Santos said if it has lights and we can make announcements it should work. We charge at the games and it will be good for the program.

Mr. Coppola asked if we are the only town that charges.

Mr. Santos said no, everyone charges.

Ms. Carlowitz said the Practice Field will work. If Public Works will have an issue if they are playing they can move the game to play after the home games.

Mr. Kichar said we don't want them moving games. If the Practice Field works they will have the lights for their game.

Mr. Santos said they need 120 feet for the soccer field. Derby played their game on their football field.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to allow the AHS Soccer Team to use the Practice Field at Nolan Field on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. for their Senior Night game. Ms. Carlowitz seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Santos asked if the girls can play their game at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Kichar said they can use the field at the earlier time.

Discussion on the use of the fields including football vs. soccer at the same time.

Mr. Kichar told Mr. Santos to let Mr. Coppola know if the girls will be using the field at 5:00 p.m. on October 26, 2011 for their game.

Discussion on who will operate the lights and open the Concession Stand. Mr. Santos said he will bring a portable speaker for announcements.

Mr. Kichar will speak with Mr. Williams regarding the Concession Stand.

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

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Jeff Coppola is present.

Mr. Coppola said the Grant Writer was able to get a grant to do the Armory floor. The amount of the grant is \$500,000. There are other things that will also be done with the money from the grant. Ms. Krugel can tell the commission what else will be done.

The Little League Concession Stand went before BOAT and the Board of Aldermen and they approved doing the work. The bathrooms and the meeting room are in process. There are a lot of parents volunteering their time to finish the work.

Mr. Coppola said he is running some trips. They are through Silver Mill Tours and EZ Travel is handling them. Right now they are working on three trips. He will let the Commission know when they are finalized.

Mr. Coppola said there was a meeting with Assumption School regarding the use of the Armory for their Basketball programs. They are asking for more time in the gym. They

are using the gym every day after school and on Thursday evening. They also use the Armory gym for their gym classes during the day.

Mr. Coppola said Recreation doesn't have the time and space to accommodate Assumption School. We still have Recreation programs to run and we need the gym on Saturday and Sunday.

Chairman Smith said Assumption School can work around our program schedules that way they can get some gym time.

Mr. Kichar said that Cheerleading is in the Armory every night.

Mr. Coppola said we need to keep it open for our Recreation programs.

Mr. Coppola said the Concession Stand will be opened for the Emmett O'Brien game on Tuesday November 22, 2011. Mr. Williams will help them out that night. He and Jon Chryzanowski will do everything and they will donate something back.

Chairman Smith asked who is using the Armory at 11:30 p.m. in the evening. It is lit up and there are people in there.

Mr. Coppola said he didn't know – people with keys.

Mr. Kichar said people with keys.

Chairman Smith asked for a list of the people with keys.

Mr. Kichar said it is out of our hands. We voted not to allow people in there.

Mr. Coppola said that Mr. Schryver changed the locks.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to allow Emmett O'Brien the use of the Concession Stand at Nolan Field on November 22, 2011. Fred Williams and Jon Chryzanowski will be there to help them. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Chairman Smith said once we get the floor fixed in the Armory the Commission has to "draw the line" on who is using the Armory and why are they using the Armory.

Supt of Public Works, Mike Schryver came into the meeting at this time.

Supt. Schryver said they will begin installing a new roof at the Armory on Monday, October 10, 2011. He is asking that Assumption School is not in the Armory using the gym during that week from 10/10/11 through 10/15/11. He said the City received a grant for \$500,000 and it will be used for a sprinkler system, gym floor and elevator for the Armory.

He also asked that everything be cleared from the rooms when the Sprinklers are installed.

There was discussion on clearing the rooms.

Mr. Kichar asked Supt. Schryver if the sign at the Ansonia Nature Center for Ms. Lindgren has been installed.

Supt. Schryver said the sign has been ordered.

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

Reports: Donna Lindgren, ANC Dir.

Donna Lindgren is not present and no report was received.

Approval of Minutes

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

Approval of Bills

Mr. Kichar said that Mr. Miller has the football bills that have to be paid.

Mr. Kichar said he will stop by to see Mr. Miller regarding the reimbursement for the buses for the three away games. He said Mr. Miller is usually agreeable if the money is being reimbursed.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Any other business to come before the Commission

None

Executive Session (if needed)

None needed.

November Meeting

The November meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Mr. Kichar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Carlowitz seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary