



# City of Ansonia

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Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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## ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

November 9, 2011

### Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman  
Steve Kichar  
Nicole Carlowitz  
Jamie Puro

Absent: Michael Cratty  
Tom Lynch

The regular meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:02 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

#### 1. Football

Mr. Kichar said that he will give a report for Fred Williams this evening. Mr. Williams is unable to attend because his new business has a grand opening event this evening.

Mr. Kichar said the Cheerleaders are going to Florida. They won their last competition and have qualified for Nationals in Florida. They will be holding fundraisers to raise the money for this event. He said the City of Ansonia and the Recreation Commission will not be contributing any funds for the Florida trip.

Mr. Kichar said there are two homes for this season – 11/12/11 and 11/13/11. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade team has made the finals. They are playing at 10:00 a.m. at Nolan Field. The Championship game if they win will be in one week. This team did not qualify to go to Florida.

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He said the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team is playing Sunday in Bridgeport at 2:00 p.m. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade team is playing home 11/13/11 at 12:00 noon. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade teams are playing Saturday 11/12/11 in New York. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade team is not eligible for the finals. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade team qualified to go to Nationals. All of these teams know that the Recreation Commission and the City of Ansonia will not contribute funding for the Florida trip.

Mr. Kichar said that Amy Butler, Patty Chrisanti and Jon Chryzanowski have put in a lot of time for the AYF football program. They are at the field from 7:30 a.m. until the games are over.

A discussion followed on the amount of time these volunteers are spending up at the field and on the actual operation of the AYF league. The members feel that the parents do not realize the amount of time that goes into a season. It is a year round job. They discussed charging \$100 above the registration fee as an incentive to work ( for example \$50 raffle tickets and \$50 for hours). The members all feel that something has to be done to enlist help from the parents to lighten the work load on the Executive Board and the few parents that volunteer.

Mr. Kichar said the AYF registration fee is \$175 and the program doesn't make any money on the kids. The parents have to participate in volunteering at the Concession Stand and with support at the games (attending games). We need parents there to support their children. The Concession Stand provides the program with the necessary funding that enables them to stay in the league and give the kids a banquet, trophies, etc.

Ms. Carlowitz said the Orange Bowl games begin the week of November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Kichar said that any games not scheduled for the field must go through Sean Rowley.

## 2. Soccer

Chris Sheehy was present.

Mr. Sheehy said Soccer is finishing up their season. The Travel Team is finished also. There are some broken goals at Colony field and Prendergast field. The last game is scheduled for Sunday 11/13/11 at Colony field.

The secretary said that Recreation Director Jeff Coppola stopped by the meeting before he went to the Armory for Basketball registration and said that the Soccer program will be in the Armory on Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to return their equipment and to get their trophies. They will also have a small pizza party.

Mr. Sheehy said he is storing the soccer equipment behind Mr. Coppola's old office in the Armory. He asked that he is notified when they are going to install the new sprinkler system.

Mr. Sheehy said that he is aware that Paul Velardi's letter doesn't have to go to Recreation for approval however it was sent to Recreation Commission for information purposes. He said they just wanted to let the Recreation Commission know they are using the school gyms.

Mr. Kichar said the soccer program is covered under the Board of Ed's insurance.

Mr. Sheehy said that the Soccer Program has their own insurance also.

Mr. Kichar thanked Mr. Sheehy for all the hard work and time he puts into the Soccer program. He said the AHS Soccer team is much better because of the youth soccer program.

Mr. Sheehy said that Art Solis does the Soccer Clinics and teaching for the kids playing in the soccer program. He said Mr. Solis does a lot for the Soccer program and the youth.

Mr. Sheehy said that the Soccer program has the same problem as the football program has with parent participation. The only ones working are himself, Paul Velardi and a small group of the same parents who are always there. He said it is a City-wide problem. There is no parent participation or volunteering.

Mr. Kichar said Soccer should look into charging an additional fee. The parents don't realize the amount of work that goes into the program.

Mr. Sheehy said they are begging for help,

Mr. Kichar said the AHS Soccer team never used Nolan field for their Senior Day games.

Chairman Smith said in the past 90% of the teams the parents were there participating, watching the games and helping. They had to turn people away – now we can't get anyone to help. It is not only here in Ansonia but all over the country.

Ms. Carlowitz said Derby has great parent participation. Her Mom is the Cheer Coach and there is a lot of participation.

### **3. Baseball & Softball**

Marty Mikos and Steve Tamburino were present.

Mr. Mikos said they had a good Fall baseball season. The 11 and 12 year olds were undefeated.

Mr. Mikos said they held a meeting last week. The Concession stand is ready to pour the concrete within the next two weeks. He said they are cutting down on some of the items

to save money i.e. one bathroom instead two. He asked if the Mayor can help the Little League with some funding.

Mr. Kichar advised Mr. Mikos to contact Mr. Schryver, Supt. of Public Works because that is where the line item for the money for the Concession Stand is.

Mr. Mikos said he will contact Mr. Schryver. The registration fees from last year were used by the league and Mr. Miller put the Little League Parents money in a separate line item for them. They will need this money next month to pay for the Concession Stand. He said Little League used all of their Registration money for expenses and they used the City of Ansonia money for the All Star team. He said they did not use much of the City of Ansonia funding last year and he is asking if he could use it this year for expenses.

Chairman Smith said you have to use the funds before the end of the fiscal year or they go back to the general fund.

Discussion followed on use of the funding for the programs. Mr. Mikos said he is in favor of charging a fee for participation. Mr. Kichar said he will sit down with Mr. Miller and Mr. Mikos to discuss the use of the fees in the line item.

#### **4. Basketball**

Mr. Coppola is not present.

Mr. Coppola is at the Armory registering kids for the Boys & Girls Basketball instructional league.

Mr. Kichar said that the Boys & Girls Club is running the Basketball program.

Mr. Tamburino said that there have been complaints for the last two years since the Boy's & Girl's Club took over basketball. He suggested Mr. Coppola take over the program again.

#### **Public Session**

There was no one present for the public session.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to close the public session. Ms. Carlowitz seconded. All in favor, so carried.

#### **Reports: Donna Lindgren, ANC Dir.**

Donna Lindgren is not present.

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

**Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director**

Jeff Coppola is not present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the October 4, 2011 meeting. Ms. Carlowitz seconded. All in favor, so carried.

**Approval of Bills**

There are no bills this month.

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence this month.

**Any other business to come before the Commission**

None

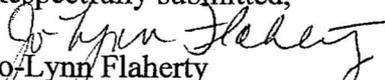
**Executive Session (if needed)**

None

**Adjourn**

Mr. Kichar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Ms. Carlowitz seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary