



City of Ansonia

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ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

March 6, 2012

Regular Meeting

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

Absent: Nicole Carlowitz

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

1. Football

Fred Williams was present.

Mr. Williams said that Mr. Miller and the commission members have the reports from January and February. He said he wants to thank Steve Kichar for helping him with the budget and for all of his help throughout the season.

Mr. Williams said the Candlewood League is dissolving and Ansonia has joined a new league called Colonial League. This new league is comprised of teams from Newtown, Monroe, Bethel, Shelton, Aspetuck, Danbury, New Milford, Bridgeport and Oxford. There has been good feedback on the Cheer groups also. The registration fees will remain the same as last year.

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Mr. Williams said he will meet with Mr. Kichar on the fields.

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

2. Soccer

Mr. Chris Sheehy was present.

Mr. Sheehy said he has sent his report to Mr. Miller and the commission members. The season is getting underway. Practice will begin in two weeks and everything is running smoothly. He said he has nothing else to report.

Mr. Kichar asked if Mr. Sheehy has spoken with the Public Works Dept. on getting the fields ready for the soccer season.

Mr. Sheehy said that Mr. Rowley told him he would prefer the soccer program waited until the Fall season to use the fields. Mr. Sheehy said that would be OK, he will use the Emmett O'Brien field.

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

3. Baseball & Softball

There is no one present.

Mr. Kichar said that Mr. Mikos is not here this evening because his Father has passed and his Mother is very ill. He said Mr. Mikos did submit a report to Mr. Miller.

4. Basketball

Mr. Kichar said the Recreation Commission doesn't have anything to do with Basketball except for the Instructional Program.

Mr. Cratty said that the Instructional Basketball program is going well. He said next week is the last week for them.

Chairman Smith asked if they were going to have an Instructional program in the Fall.

Mr. Cratty said they may expand in the Fall per Mr. Coppola.

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Public Session

Joe Czajkowski

Mr. Czajkowski asked why the registration fee for the Coach Pitch/T Ball baseball program was \$75 and \$25 for the fundraiser.

Mr. Kichar explained that the children are given candy, etc. to sell as the fundraiser.

Mr. Czajkowski asked what does his son get for the \$75 for T-Ball and Coach Pitch. He said this fee is expensive.

There was discussion on the Recreation liaison for the Baseball program. Mr. Kichar said that he meets with Mr. Williams on a regular basis for at least 2 hours to go over the events of the program. If the Baseball liaison would meet with the Baseball group to go over the registration fees and budget it would be very helpful.

Mr. Lynch said the Recreation Commission has a Recreation Director to do that. He is supposed to go over the budget and registration fees and program events with these groups.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Mikos said he had to purchase bases, helmets, T's and supplies for T-Ball. He said his understanding is Mr. Mikos did not meet with Mr. Coppola on the equipment that is needed for the program. The registration fee this year is \$50 which he needs for equipment.

Mr. Czajkowski said bases, T's and balls is not \$50 each player. What do we get for the \$50 plus the \$25 fundraiser? That is a lot of money.

Mr. Kichar said the Instructional program should be the lowest cost to operate.

Mr. Czajkowski questioned if some of the fees the Instructional program is paying is helping to support the other baseball programs. He said these children are not playing on the All-Star team. They may get a hat and a shirt which doesn't cost more than \$25. He asked how much of the fee is coming back to T-ball and Coach pitch. He also asked why they have to pay this fee.

Mr. Puro said that it is on the same basis as the football program. If you volunteer you will get your \$25 back.

Mr. Czajkowski asked if the Commission knows the number of kids that have signed up to play Little League and Softball. That is a lot of money for bases, T's and baseballs and for equipment for the Coach pitch and T-ball program. He said he doesn't know the liaison for the baseball program.

Mr. Kichar said he doesn't feel that it is right. Flag football and cheer they charge what they need to get them through the season.

Mr. Czajkowski said \$30 may be fair but not \$75.

Mr. Cratty said that the registration fee for Instructional Basketball is \$30.

Mr. Kichar said he will reach out to Mr. Coppola tomorrow and get an answer for Mr. Czajkowski on the registration fee and fundraiser fee for coach pitch and T-ball.

Mr. Czajkowski said when you speak with the Baseball Director, the fee is \$50 plus \$25 for Coach pitch and T-Ball and Little League is \$90 plus \$25.

Mr. Kichar said they try hard not to raise the fees. He said he meets with the Football group and helps them do their budget to keep the expenses down.

Mr. Czajkowski asked if Mr. Kichar can tell him what his son is getting for the \$50. He said a shirt and hat cost - \$25.

Mr. Kichar said the City of Ansonia gives money for equipment for Baseball. Mr. Mikos said on the phone that he needs equipment.

There was discussion on the purchase of equipment for the baseball and softball programs and that last year no equipment was purchased.

Mr. Czajkowski thanked the commission.

Mr. Puro said that baseball has been a problem for five years.

Mr. Kichar said he doesn't know the liaison for the Little League or the Soccer groups.

Mr. Lynch said the Recreation Director should be sitting down with the League Directors on their budget and on their equipment needs.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Mikos said there are no helmets, no baseballs and no T's.

Mr. Puro asked if there was any equipment left over from last year.

Mr. Kichar said Little League didn't use their money last year to purchase equipment.

Mr. Puro said why didn't they call and ask Mr. Coppola to purchase the equipment with the money in the line item.

Chairman Smith said the equipment needed has to come through the Baseball Director to Mr. Coppola who is the Recreation Director and is getting paid to do this.

Lelia Alicea

Ms. Alicea said she is here this evening on behalf of her son, David Hudak. She said that there was an issue with her son's coach (Larry Cafaro) in November 2011. She said the coach said nasty things to her son, he swore at the children and she wants to know what is being done about it.

Ms. Alicea said she has been calling and chasing after Mr. Coppola for a long time and nothing is being done. She said she has four children and they moved to Ansonia because it was a football town. Her son didn't go to the banquet because of this incident. She said she understands that they don't have another coach to fill that spot and that is why he is still there. He has had numerous incidents in the past and should be suspended for one year.

Mr. Kichar said this was brought to our attention last year in November. He said he and Mr. Williams had a meeting with the coaches of the 4th grade squad concerning who was there, what happened. He said they asked for a written letter from the bus company on what happened.

Mr. Kichar said they asked for a meeting with the bus driver and the bus company and Mr. Coppola to discuss the note written on a piece of paper. He said he asked to have the lady on the bus come forward and meet with the commission and Mr. Williams' Board. She has not come forward for a meeting. He said they met with the coaches and asked what happened. All three coaches said Mr. Cafaro never swore. With not having anything in writing from the lady on the bus or the Bus Company, we met with the Coaches (Mr. Cafaro was not present and did not know of this meeting).

Mr. Kichar said he kept asking Mr. Coppola to set up a meeting with the lady and the Bus Company. The three coaches swear it did not happen.

Ms. Alicea said what about the kids – their words don't count.

Mr. Kichar said they have to listen to the coaches.

Ms. Alicea said he said a lot of nasty things to all of the players in the locker room. (she told the members a statement that was made which could not be printed)

Mr. Kichar said this happened in November 2011 and you are coming in to Recreation Commission in March 2012.

Ms. Alicea said she kept calling Mr. Coppola about a meeting. She was told to show up tonight at this meeting.

Mr. Kichar said they have zero tolerance for a coach doing this type of thing to children. He said they have to have a meeting with the Lady on the bus and the Bus Company. They will meet with Mr. Williams' Executive Board. There is no excuse for a Coach to swear at a child.

Ms. Alicea said there were two Ladies on the bus. She said she will ask her (2nd lady) to sit with Mr. Kichar and she will ask her to write a letter. She will set up a meeting with the two ladies (bus driver and an Assistant driver) with Mr. Kichar, Mr. Coppola and Mr. Williams.

Mr. Kichar gave Ms. Alicea his home phone number and his cell phone number so she can contact him regarding the meeting.

Mr. Kichar said he wants to make Ms. Alicea and her son comfortable with the program. He said he is trying to get a meeting with them also. He asked who was driving the bus at the time. He said the Bus Driver witnessed the incident. He asked who the other Lady was on the bus because he didn't know there was another person on the bus. This was not brought to our attention in November 2011.

Ms. Alicea said Mr. Coppola had called her at the Bus Company.

Peggy Hudak

Ms. Hudak said she is not impressed with this meeting. Everyone should be in the same room to discuss what happened. She said the rules and regulations are not clear. If a parent or child is unhappy there is no procedure to follow.

Mr. Kichar said yes there is a procedure. This could have gone to the Football Executive Board when it happened. This he said/she said is not good. We have requested meetings with the Lady on the bus and we assumed the Lady didn't want to do anything because she did not meet with us. If a child is not comfortable and is not having fun and doesn't want to come back to play then it will be addressed by the Board. He said he met with the Coaches – not with Mr. Cafaro and asked what happened. If there is another Lady that was on the bus in addition to the bus driver we will meet with her also. We were told only the Bus Driver was on the bus. When there is an incident or a problem go to Fred Williams and he will address it. He said he is concerned and he will make sure her grandson has fun and comes back to play. He said the football program does nothing without his approval.

Ms. Alicea said she wrote a letter. She said she has been calling Mr. Coppola about this. The other lady was sitting behind the driver on the bus. She will call Mr. Kichar to set up a meeting with the bus driver and the other lady on the bus.

Ms. Hudak said in the future if she sees things that are not fair or something happens who does she see about it. She said some kids sit all through a game and don't play or play for a few minutes.

Mr. Kichar said Shawn Venson is having a meeting with the coaches. Shawn will be there at the games – he is your first contact. Tell him how you feel and he will go to Mr. Williams and myself and we will get together and address the situation.

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Mr. Kichar said they held a meeting last year and the parents didn't attend. There are 100 girls and 150 boys registered for the program. He said they will hold the meeting by teams this year. He said Mr. Williams doesn't tolerate this type of thing. He said he has reached out to Mr. Coppola to settle this.

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

Commission discussion was had regarding the budget funds and the registration fees.

Reports: Donna Lindgren, ANC Director

Donna Lindgren is not present.

There was no report received from Ms. Lindgren this month.

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Jeff Coppola is not present.

Mr. Coppola's report was received and forwarded to the commission members in their monthly packet.

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

Minutes

Mr. Puro made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the February 7, 2012 meeting. Mr. Kichar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Bills

None

Correspondence

1. Christopher Saddler re: request to use Middle School field from Board of Ed for Instructional Baseball. Request for Porto-potties for Day St. and Pine Lot. Dtd. 3/3/12

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Mr. Kichar said that Mr. Saddler has to get permission to use those fields from the Board of Education.

Any other business to come before the Commission

Mrs. Flaherty advised the members that she has spoken to Jared Heon, ARMS Chief regarding the OSHA training that is outlined in the newspaper article Ms. Lindgren gave to the commission. Mr. Heon said he will be available to provide some training and he will also provide ARMS policy for the Recreation Commission.

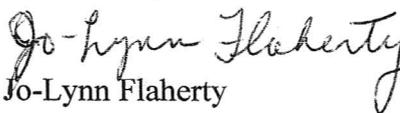
Executive Session

None

Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary