



City of Ansonia

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Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

April 3, 2012

Regular Meeting

Present: Steve Kichar, Vice-Chairman
Nicole Carlowitz
Michael Cratty
Tom Lynch
Jamie Puro
Al Smith – arrived 6:30 p.m.
Steve Sobolewski

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director
Donna Lindgren, ANC Director – arrived 6:15 p.m.
Robert Beall, Alderman

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

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 and Jon Chrzanowski were present.

Mr. Williams said that Mr. Miller and the commission members have the reports for March 2012. He said he has sent flyers out to the schools for registration. The flyers for Assumption School will go out as soon as he receives permission to send them. He presented a letter regarding Coach Cafaro.

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Mr. Puro made a motion to accept Robert Duffus as the coach for the 4th grade team. Ms. Carlowitz seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Lynch 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 game schedule was included in the report. He said if there are any issues with the schedule to let him know. He gave a copy of the game schedule to Ms. Lindgren.

Mr. Sheehy gave an update on the field and equipment status. He said Mr. Coppola is working hard with the AHS staff regarding the use of their field.

Mr. Coppola said the Youth 19 team is the only team using the soccer field at the High School. They put up the nets and the AHS Soccer coach took the nets and would not give them to Mr. Sheehy. He said the AHS coach is concerned with the condition of the field. There are 11 Ansonia residents on the team and 3 that are out of town residents. Supt. Carol Merlone didn't want the Recreation Soccer using the field.

Mr. Coppola said that Mr. Sheehy ceased playing on the AHS field. There was a meeting with Mr. Rowley, Mayor Della Volpe, John Lawlor and himself and they discussed some of the issues concerning the field. Mr. Sheehy's team was not involved with these issues. He said in the past the Board of Education and the Recreation Commission worked together on the fields. He said the issue seems to be funds. Mayor Della Volpe said the City will find the funds for the maintenance of the field.

Mr. Puro said we take care of the field. The Board of Education doesn't put money into that field.

Vice-chairman Kichar said this is what confuses him. In the past Recreation allowed the AHS teams to use the Armory for Basketball, Soccer, and Cheerleading. Recreation put \$24,000 into the football field and the practice field. He said the Recreation Commission should send a letter to the Board of Education. They use the Armory more than the Recreation programs.

Mr. Coppola said Supt. Merlone and John Lawlor have been good. The complaint was from the Soccer coach on the condition of the field. The Board of Education is strapped for money. There is no problem using the field as long as the City comes up with the money to maintain it. They will give the fields to Recreation as long as there is no money involved to maintain it and keep it up.

Mr. Sheehy said he followed the procedure to use the AHS field. He has insurance and he was approved by the Board of Education. He mailed back the application and when he asked for the nets he didn't get them. He told the AHS coach that the Soccer program will take complete responsibility for the nets.

Mr. Coppola said you can use the field as long as there is no cost to the Board of Education. He said he went to the Board of Education and he got an OK for soccer

Mr. Sheehy said the fields were not lined for opening day.

Mr. Coppola said he spoke with Sean Rowley and Public Works Dept. just got the machine back. It was out for repair.

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

3. Baseball & Softball

Marty Mikos was present.

Mr. Mikos said opening day is April 14, 2012. The numbers are down this year for Little League but the Instructional program has increased in numbers.

Mr. Mikos said they broke ground for the Concession Stand. They will not go up a floor as planned but they will go out and add on to the building. The foundation has been poured and the plumbing is in. They will be finished in three weeks.

Mr. Mikos said he asked the Board of Education to use the Middle School and Prindle Avenue fields. They use these fields every year. He said there are no schedules yet. They will use the fields for practice after 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday at the Middle School.

Mr. Kichar said he and Mr. Coppola will meet with Supt. Merlone on the fields.

Mr. Kichar asked if all of their coaches are in the report. He said Jamie Puro will be the Recreation liaison for the Baseball program. He will go over what is needed in equipment for the baseball program. That way all of the equipment can be purchased for next year in June.

Mr. Mikos said he got equipment from Blanchette's for the league. The Commission should be receiving the invoice.

Mr. Coppola said he will give an update later in the meeting. He said that all of the programs have to have an inventory of their equipment at the beginning and end of the program.

Mr. Mikos said Little League has an Equipment Manager to do the inventory and keep track of the equipment every year.

Mr. Cratty made a motion to accept Mr. Mikos' report and to accept the coaches as listed in the report. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

4. Basketball

There is no report for Basketball.

Public Session

Robert Beall
Alderman 4th Ward

Mr. Beall said the Commission should try to be proactive on complaints received from parents. He said the complaint should go to the Board. There should be a meeting and a decision. It should not be allowed to go on for months.

Mr. Kichar said he called the bus company. There was an issue with the coaches on the bus. The complaint would be received on a Monday after the week end game (football) and a meeting would be held on a Wednesday and the Board would go from there. He said in season any issues with Little League, Soccer or Football they would try to address it as soon as possible. This incident was confusing because it was on the bus and the bus company was asked to call Mr. Kichar.

Mr. Coppola said he dropped the ball on this one. He said he doesn't micro-manage the programs and when something happens involving a coach they should have had an emergency meeting. He was involved and he tried to get the matter resolved. He said he answers to the Mayor and the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Kichar said the Recreation Commission has to have it in writing that something is wrong. They have to let us know what is happening. The Football Board has full approval from the Recreation Commission to take care of any problems or incidents that should arise. Shawn Venson will run a separate meeting with each team advising them of the rules and regulations and how to handle this type of situation.

Marty Mikos
Little League Director

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Mr. Mikos said baseball was running their clinics at the Armory and the Medieval people were there. There was trouble with the parking. The Church across the street was holding an event and there was no parking in the Armory lot or on the street.

Mr. Coppola said a letter was sent out to them advising them they have to contact the Recreation Commission to let us know there is an event so we can schedule the activity at the Armory.

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

Reports: Donna Lindgren, ANC Director

Donna Lindgren was present.

Ms. Lindgren discussed the items in her report. She said there is a bill in the State of CT regarding Municipal Parks SB445 that was supposed to be heard on 3/29/12. She called the Legislative Commission members to voice her opinion. She sent a letter to the Ansonia Police Dept. regarding two volunteers who are patrolling the Ansonia Nature Center Park after 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Lindgren said with regard to the letter sent to her in January 2012 regarding late submissions for the meeting, she is requesting a written copy of the policy. She also stated she did not receive her minutes this month and would like her packet put in her mailbox at City Hall. She said she is endeavoring to get her reports in on time. The copier at the Nature Center is not working however Ms. Flaherty made the copies for her for the packets.

Ms. Lindgren said Earth Day is 4/28/12 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. She said the Commission is invited to participate and enjoy the day at the Nature Center.

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

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Jeff Coppola was present.

Mr. Coppola said he gave most of his report earlier in the meeting. He received a request from Birmingham Group to hold a clean up in the park next to City Hall on 4/27/12 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon as part of Earth Day.

Mr. Puro made a motion to allow the clean up in the park next to City Hall on 4/27/12 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

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

Reports: Committee Reports

Mr. Kichar said there are no committee reports.

Minutes

Mr. Cratty made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the March 6, 2012 meeting. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Bills

Mr. Coppola presented the following invoices:

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|---|----------|
| 1. Little League/Blanchettes: Equipment | \$748.25 |
| 2. Ever Ready Press: Fishing Flyer | \$130.00 |
| 3. Ever Ready Press: Registration Flyer | \$110.00 |
| 4. Blanchettes: Basketball Trophies | \$688.00 |

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Coppola to put the bills in the packet for next month so the commissioners will have an opportunity to review them before the meeting.

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

Correspondence

1. Ansonia Youth/Football and Cheerleading Inc. re: Complaint dated 4/2/12

Mr. Kichar thanked Jeff Coppola, Robert Beall, Jamie Puro and Nicole Carlowitz for attending a meeting at the Armory regarding the complaint against a coach.

Mr. Kichar said the child involved told everyone that Mr. Cafaro never used the swear word at him on the bus. Coach Cafaro was smoking and was rough on the child and he was embarrassed.

Mr. Coppola thanked the Board for coming to the meeting at the Armory. He said everything was inconsistent with regard to the complaint. This was an incident that we all learned from. He

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said the Recreation Commission and the Executive Board of the program will be involved from day one should there ever be another incident.

Mr. Beall said not at any time was the boy questioned by anyone; he said what he said on his own. He said what happened and spoke up on his own.

Mr. Puro made a motion to accept the Football Executive Board's ruling on Coach Cafaro. Ms. Carlowitz seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar said any coach in Recreation programs per the by-laws is entitled to a hearing. If there is a problem in Little League, Soccer or Football your Boards will make a ruling and then come to Recreation Commission to advise us. The Coach has the right to tell his side of the story. If Mr. Coppola is at the field and hears inappropriate language or the rules are not being followed then he and the Recreation Commission can enforce the rules. The Recreation Commission accepts the By-Laws of the Football, Soccer and Little League programs and we will not interfere with your decisions.

Mr. Puro said there are a lot of good people who volunteer their time for these programs.

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Sheehy and Mr. Mikos if they meet with their coaches.

Mr. Sheehy and Mr. Mikos both said they have meetings with their coaches every year and explain the rules and regulations.

Mr. Kichar said the volunteers give a lot of their time and we are lucky to have coaches but they can't abuse the children.

Any other business to come before the Commission

None

Executive Session

Mr. Coppola requested the Commission go into Executive Session to discuss a personal matter of his.

Mr. Puro made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. to discuss Personnel matters. Mr. Beall and Mr. Coppola are invited to stay. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Puro made a motion to go back into regular session at 7:10 p.m. No votes were taken or decisions were made in Executive Session. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

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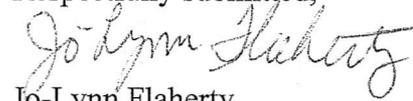
Welcome

Mr. Kichar welcomed our new member Steve Sobolewski to the Commission.

Adjourn

Ms. Carlowitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary