



City of Ansonia

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ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

September 4, 2012

Regular Meeting

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

Absent: Tom Lynch

Others Present: Donna Lindgren, ANC Director
Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director
Sean Rowley, PWD
Chris Sheehy, Soccer

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

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Director Reports

1. Football

Mr. Kichar said that Mr. Chryzanowski is at Nolan Field for practice. Mr. Chryzanowski will attend the Monthly League meeting tomorrow evening. There were three games scheduled for this past weekend. The 8th grade team won Newtown, the 7th grade team played a very good game and the 6th grade team played Shelton.

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Mr. Kichar said Mr. Rowley has the Football Schedule and he will prepare the fields for the home games. On 9/22/12 Ansonia will play a Home Game. He invited the commissioners to attend this special game. He said Mr. Rowley will advise the Football Director if the field is not suitable for playing.

Mr. Kichar said the problem is the field was ruined this summer and this damage will cost the Football program between \$4000 to \$6000 in revenue from home games. The Youth Football program can only use Nolan Field when it is available and there are no high school games scheduled. He said they have the field for September 22nd if the Varsity team doesn't get rained out.

Mr. Kichar said that everyone has a copy of the Financial Report. He said the program will feel the loss of the revenue from the home games that couldn't be played because of the damage to the field by vandals.

Mr. Kichar asked if there were any questions on the Financial Report. He said Rich Bshara is happy with the Financial Reports.

Mr. Puro asked if there was anything that could be done about the lost revenue because the field could not be used for home games.

Mr. Kichar said that they were offered a booth at the Pumpkin Festival in Seymour however they couldn't get anyone to volunteer to run the booth because there are games scheduled for that day.

Mr. Sobolisky asked if outsiders could volunteer to run the booth at the Pumpkin Festival.

Mr. Kichar said it would be too hard to manage and they have already told the Pumpkin Festival they would not be able to do it. The Concession stand is opened every night. He said as of September 14th there will be no practices at the Nolan Field because there are AHS varsity games being played.

Mr. Kichar said that September 22nd is Smitty's night. He invited everyone again to come up to the field.

Mr. Puro made a motion to accept the Football Report as given by Mr. Kichar. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

2. Soccer

Chris Sheehy was present.

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Mr. Sheehy said that everyone should have a copy of his Financial Report and his monthly report. They have started practice and the games begin this weekend. He said nothing much has happened since the last meeting.

Mr. Kichar said that someone is calling PWD about the fields. He asked if there is a 19 youth soccer team playing on our fields.

Mr. Sheehy said there was a youth 23 team that requested the use of Nature Center field and the Recreation Commission approved it back in June.

Mr. Kichar said that there was a youth 23 team in the Spring and now there is a youth 19 team in the Fall. He said Recreation has nothing to do with these teams. The use of the field goes through Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director. They have no permission to be on any field in the Fall and Mr. Rowley should not be bothered with calls requesting him to line the fields.

Mr. Kichar requested that Mr. Coppola advise the people using the fields without permission that they have to request the field and that they should not be calling Mr. Rowley or PWD.

Mr. Rowley said that he spoke to Mr. Coppola and he didn't line the field because he thought it was a practice session.

Mr. Kichar said that no one calls Mr. Rowley for the fields or for lining the fields. All of this goes through Mr. Coppola and they should not be on the field.

Mrs. Lindgren found the original letter requesting to use the field to end of the summer.

Mr. Sheehy said he will reach out to him and let him know he can't call Mr. Rowley and that he doesn't have permission to use the fields without going through Mr. Coppola.

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Sheehy to give Mr. Coppola and Mrs. Lindgren a copy of his game schedules.

Mr. Sheehy said he will give the game schedules to Mr. Rowley and Mrs. Lindgren as soon as they are completed.

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

3. Baseball & Softball

There is no one present.

Mr. Kichar said as usual there is no one here. He said he has been asking them for Financial Reports for five or six months and he hasn't received them. Mr. Coppola has e-mailed them

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requesting they send in their Financial Reports. They have eight to ten people on their Executive Board. They should have someone here to give us a Financial Report and a report on the program.

Mr. Coppola gave Mr. Kichar a Financial Report from the Softball program. (the commissioners did not have a copy of this report)

Mr. Kichar said that there is \$7357 reported as miscellaneous income. He asked if there was a breakdown of the items in this Miscellaneous income line.

Mr. Coppola said that is all he received.

Mr. Kichar said that the football and soccer programs breakdown their income and expenses. He said Recreation hasn't seen them in months. There was no quorum for two months but the Financial Report should be sent one week before the meeting regardless. These people should not be using our fields.

Chairman Smith said he agrees with Mr. Kichar. We went through this with the Little League earlier in the season. He said he is upset about this, the fact that they could send a report like that.

Mr. Kichar said when Mr. Coppola and the Recreation Commission does everything they can do for this program. He said the commission should send Rich Bshara a letter and ask him to do an audit of their finances. Volunteer time was supposed to be donated and the Commission has to pay for the Concession stand work. They have listed \$3000 for equipment.

Mr. Kichar made a motion requesting Mr. Coppola send a letter to Corporation Counsel requesting he send a letter to Little League and Softball requesting a breakdown of all the money they have collected and spent this year – asking for a detailed and in depth financial report. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to send a letter to Rich Bshara asking him to have an audit of the Little League Baseball and Softball finances. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Coppola said he has sent e-mails and asked for equipment and miscellaneous expenses. He said he asked them to send someone to the meeting. He said Marty Mikos called and told Mr. Coppola that he had to take his son somewhere. Kathy Paskiewicz said her computer was down.

Mr. Kichar said that football and soccer does it correct. Little League gets a lot of money from the City of Ansonia and they have to give us a detailed Financial Report. He said they are using our fields and they can't account for \$10,000 for softball and that is not counting Little League baseball and Fall Baseball.

There was discussion on the use of the fields when a program doesn't comply with the rules of the Recreation Commission. The commissioners felt that if they penalize the program and don't allow them on the field it would cause the children to miss out on playing.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to have Corporation Counsel send a letter to Little League Baseball and Softball to get in touch with Jeff Coppola to itemize every single revenue item that has come into the program. The Financial Reports are totally unacceptable. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

4. Basketball (Boys & Girls)

There is nothing for Basketball.

Public Session

Ray Maiorino
46 Scotland St.
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Maiorino stated he is a resident taxpayer and Scoutmaster of Troop 105. He has a proposal for a Boy Scout Eagle Project that he would like to present to the commission. He is proposing repairs to Nolan Field Sport Complex – the baseball dugouts. He said the baseball dugouts are in disrepair, the wood trim boards are rotted and the interior needs to be painted. It will not cost the City of Ansonia any money for this. The cost is usually managed by the Scout in fundraising. His son Cory is the Scout trying for Eagle Scout. He said he is a residential remodeler and he will support his son in this project. The first stop is Recreation and then he has to go to the Boy Scout Council. He said he doesn't know the rules and if there are unions involved if Cory does the work. He said it is something that needs to be fixed.

Mr. Kichar said it is a good idea but he is not sure about the unions and how PWD goes about this.

Mr. Rowley said Seth Gibson did a railing fence at the Ansonia Nature Center for his Eagle Scout and they welcomed it. It is a good cause and other people are asking for projects for Eagle Scouts.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to allow Cory Maiorino to do the Eagle Scout project. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar asked how soon would he begin work.

Mr. Maiorino said he has to get approval from the Boy Scout Council on the project. He has to prepare in writing a full plan of what he plans to do and provide this to Council.

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Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept Cory Maiorino's proposal for Eagle Scout project and he will provide a written proposal for Nolan Field to the Recreation Commission. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mrs. Lindgren said once the proposal is formalized for the project it must be signed by someone in an official capacity.

Sean Rowley
Public Works Dept.

Mr. Rowley said he has a request that the Recreation Commission send a formal letter to the Youth Football and the AHS Athletic Director regarding the use of the field in inclement weather. There is \$14,000 of damage in the middle of the field. There has been no water on field in two weeks. The field cannot take any abuse. It is vital that if it is raining the game is postponed. He said he knows this will be hard for the Youth Football because they play Sundays. And if a game is cancelled it is hard to make up 5 games during the week.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to send a letter to the Youth Football Director and to Mr. Piccolo, AHS Athletic Director and Mrs. Merlone, Supt. of Schools so that everyone knows the rules. The City has spent \$31,000 on the field. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar said he will sit with Mr. Rowley and go over the letter outlining what the commission wants done on the field. He said there is a lot of damage done to the field when it rains. There should be no games.

Mr. Puro said he will set up a meeting with Mrs. Merlone, Mr. Piccolo, Mr. Rowley and Mr. Kichar for this week.

Chairman Smith asked about the practice field and if that could be used.

Mr. Rowley said that the practice field is in better shape than it has been.

Mr. Kichar said that the youth jamboree was held on the practice field and the Freshman have played on the field. He said the Freshman try to work with Mr. Rowley.

Mr. Rowley said that if Mr. Sheehy wants to contact him on the fields that would be OK. He said that Marty and Kathy are good also. The other people for Fall Baseball he doesn't know who they are.

Mr. Kichar said they don't give Mr. Coppola a schedule. He needs a schedule so he can give it to Mr. Rowley for field preparation and he also needs it to schedule all of the games that are played on the fields.

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Mr. Rowley said there were e-mails stating that Colony Park field was a mess. He said he didn't know anyone was playing on this field.

Mr. Kichar said when you get a schedule then you know. That is why we need to have the schedules go to Mr. Coppola and he gives them to you. He said that Little League should not be calling Mr. Rowley for anything. They have to give Mr. Coppola a schedule. He said Mr. Rowley doesn't work for Little League.

Mr. Coppola said they have to go through the right channels for use of the fields. They have to contact him and then go to Recreation for the fields.

A discussion continued on the procedures for scheduling games at the City fields. Mr. Kichar said that Mr. Rowley should not take any phone calls from anyone regarding field usage except Jeff Coppola.

Mr. Rowley said that if Mr. Coppola is not available they call him.

Mr. Kichar said if Jeff Coppola doesn't call you on a field you don't do anything.

Mr. Rowley said he told them the procedure.

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

Reports: Donna Lindgren, Ansonia Nature Center Director

Mrs. Lindgren was present.

Mrs. Lindgren said she is still waiting for the Vendor sign. The ice cream vendor had another altercation with a staff member. She said she is thinking about writing a letter to Chief Hale asking that they deny the application for this vendor at Ansonia parks.

Mr. Kichar said that he and Mr. Puro asked Public Works Dept. about the sign.

Mrs. Lindgren said the vendor was issued a ticket by the Police Dept. She is asking that the July and August reports and the Fall Calendar of Events be approved.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to approve the July and August reports and the Calendar of Events for the Fall. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mrs. Lindgren discussed Corp. Counsel's recommendation regarding parking in Pavilion #1. She read the Ansonia Nature Center Rules and Regulations regarding parking at the picnic pavilion. The new language proposed is if they have a vendor down at the pavilion or the field

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the group must provide 24 hour notice to the ANC staff on who the vendor is and what time he will be there.

Mr. Kichar asked if they have to go through Mrs. Lindgren.

Mrs. Lindgren said yes. She asked the group using the pavilion and they said one car for emergency would be down there. The other cars are left in the parking lot. The Vendor went down there and told the staff he was invited down there by the group. Corp. Counsel suggests we put in the Rules and Regulations that there is 24 hour notification.

Chairman Smith said this is all good but there is not supposed to be any Vendors in the park. Vendors wanted to go down there and they were told they were NOT ALLOWED.

Mrs. Lindgren said they have to provide 24 hours notice by the group using the pavilion and picnic area. What vehicle will be driving down there and what they will be selling. She said she is considering a letter to the Chief of Police regarding the Vendors.

Mr. Kichar said that this Vendor went to the Board of Aldermen for permission to go to City parks to sell his product. Mrs. Lindgren should write a letter to the Board of Aldermen on his behavior also.

Mr. Puro asked if there is a problem at Nolan Field.

Mrs. Lindgren said if you don't think a vendor should be allowed down there then they will not be allowed down there. She said she will modify the application form.

Chairman Smith asked about alcohol in the park.

Mr. Kichar said that alcohol is not allowed in any City park. He asked about the release from Tony Montero.

Mrs. Lindgren said Mr. Montero provided a waiver and Corp. Counsel Blake said it was fine.

Mrs. Lindgren said that the Valley United Way Corporate Volunteers will clear the playground of weeds in September.

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

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Mr. Coppola was present.

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Mr. Coppola said he went over all of the Sport programs this evening. He said that he and Steve Kichar are up at the field every day. He said Mr. Kichar puts out “fires” every day and he puts in a lot of time and work. He said the football program is going very well since Ansonia left Pop Warner.

Mr. Coppola said he attended the Ordinance Committee meeting and they made some minor changes to the ordinance. He will bring the final document to Recreation Commission for review and comment. There will be a fee chart for the field and Armory. He said Kevin Blake helped them a lot and worked with them. He said he gave them a copy of the Town of Prospect’s Park Ordinance. He told the commissioners to call him on any changes for the Ordinance Committee. He said that the commissioners should have a copy of the Prospect Ordinance.

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

Committee Reports

Mr. Kichar said there are no committee reports this month.

Armory

Mr. Kichar said that the Armory is totally under Mr. Coppola’s jurisdiction and the Recreation Commission asked Mr. Coppola not to criss-cross the seasons in the Armory. He said he doesn’t feel Recreation programs should put Basketball in there when there are cheerleaders, football and baseball using the Armory. There is a lot going on in the Armory and Recreation has limited use of the Armory

Approval of Minutes

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

Approval of Bills

Mr. Coppola said there are no bills this month.

Correspondence

There is no correspondence this month.

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Any other business to come before the commission

Mr. Kichar asked how do we handle softball at Nelligan Park because she can't be up there at the field because of the Financial Report.

Mr. Puro said you have to do both Little League and Softball.

Mr. Coppola said Mr. Mikos gave it to us. Both reports need to be broken down. He asked Mr. Kichar to call him and he will meet with them this week to straighten out the financial reports. Mr. Coppola said the reports haven't changed since the last report.

Mr. Kichar said no new reports have been received from Little League. It has been months since the Commission received a Financial Report from Little League. The Softball report was given to him and the commissioners this evening.

Mr. Kichar said if Mr. Coppola doesn't meet with the Little League people this week they don't use the field this weekend. He said he doesn't want to see this happen because the children are hurt by it.

Mr. Kichar reminded everyone to come up to Nolan Field on Sept. 22, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary

REMINDER: Saturday, September 22, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. Nolan Field

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