



# City of Ansonia

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Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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## ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

October 2, 2012

Regular Meeting

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

Absent: Tom Lynch

Others Present: Donna Lindgren, ANC Director – arrived 6:25 p.m.  
Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director – arrived 6:10 p.m.  
Chris Sheehy, Soccer  
Chris Saddler, Little League  
Steve Tamburrino, Little League

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

Steve Kichar said that the rosters have been sent to the commission members. There have been two coach changes: Jim Benjamin, 4<sup>th</sup> grade coach and David Tackach, 5<sup>th</sup> grade coach. These two coaches have been appointed by the Executive Board. Mr. Cafaro is no longer with the football program.

Rec100212

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade games were moved to the practice field. The program is doing great.

Mr. Kichar said that Jon Chrzanowski, Alex Stanko, Amy Butler and Patty helped him with "Smitty's" Night at Nolan Field.

Mr. Kichar said the volunteers working on the program are putting in 30 hours. He said he has been up at the field for the past 6 weeks and he has spent 8 to 10 hours a day doing football.

Mr. Kichar said that Jamie Puro has also been up there at the field helping with the program. The foot ball program is going well and the Colonial League will not be able to use our field this year. The more we stay off of the field the better it will be for next season.

Mr. Kichar said he will make sure that everything is in the monthly packet for the commissioners.

Chairman Smith said the children on the Norwalk Team that played Ansonia were big kids and they were in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. This league is grade orientated and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders are huge. They have two 7<sup>th</sup> grade teams, two 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams, two sixth grade teams, one 4<sup>th</sup> grade team and two 5<sup>th</sup> grade teams. There were two injuries in the game. A young girl broke her wrist in Cheerleading. A young boy had a concussion. They are covered 100% through the Colonial League insurance.

## 2. Soccer

Chris Sheehy was present.

Mr. Sheehy said it is in the middle of the season for Fall Soccer. The soccer fields are great, they are lined and mowed. He said the season is good. There was a five year old that fell and broke her arm. He said Soccer has supplemental insurance to cover the costs. CJSA will cover 100% for injuries. The finances are good. The Travel Team is going good. They are first or second in their division.

Mr. Sheehy said there is a seasonal bill for CJSA membership that covers the players (insurance and background checks).

Mr. Puro asked if the Ansonia field is ready for play.

Mr. Sheehy said that he doesn't have that many children playing so he told Mr. Rowley the Soccer program can wait another season before using that field.

Mr. Kichar said that they (Jeff Coppola, Jamie Puro and Steve Kichar) brought up the soccer program when the commissioners met with Carol Merlone, Supt. of Schools. He said she was very agreeable and cooperative with regard to Recreation Soccer using the AHS soccer field. She said if they need the field to go through her office.

Rec100212

Mr. Kichar said that Supt. Merlone was not aware of the amount of time the AHS programs spent using the Armory.

Mr. Coppola said there was an issue at the Nature Center field and an e-mail was sent. There is No Parking down at the Pavilion. If there is a lot of equipment, etc. that must be brought down to the field then Ms. Lindgren will give permission for one car to go down to the field. This car can remain there in case of an emergency.

Mr. Sheehy said he will send an e-mail to all of the parents advising them that only one car is allowed down at the field for emergencies.

Mr. Coppola said that Mr. Sheehy should advise Ms. Lindgren when the practice sessions will be held so that she and her staff know the practice schedule as well as the game schedule.

Mr. Sheehy said that the travel team using the ANC field is not affiliated with Recreation.

Mr. Coppola said that is why Ms. Lindgren must have the practice schedule as well as the game schedule so that if the people on the field are not on the schedule she will have them removed from the field.

Mr. Sheehy said that about a week and a half ago there was adult soccer at Colony and they were asked to leave.

Mr. Kichar said the Travel Team that was on the field that was discussed last month – he asked Mr. Sheehy if he reached out to him.

Mr. Sheehy said that he sent him an e-mail that his approval to use the field has expired and that he would have to go to the Recreation Commission for approval to use the field.

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

Joan Mikos, Chris Saddler and Steve Tamburino were present.

Ms. Mikos said that she has sent in the Financial Report to the commission.

Ms. Mikos thanked Chris and Steve for all the work they have done for the program. She said Chris cut the grass because there was a game on Sunday.

Ms. Mikos said that there are still a lot of items needed for the concession stand. She said they need a fire suppression system, a grill and a lot of other items. There is still a lot of work to be done. There has been a lot of progress and the program is keeping the kids busy and off the street.

Mr. Kichar said the Varsity team is playing there next week.

Rec100212

Mr. Tamburino said he spoke to the Coaches and to the AYF personnel about the concession stand.

Mr. Kichar said these guys have done a great job with the baseball program.

Ms. Mikos said they have been doing an excellent job.

Mr. Kichar asked about the "cash receipts" and if people pay in cash.

Ms. Mikos said yes, they do and that is why they have a receipt book.

Mr. Kichar said they should make these people pay with a check or money order.

Ms. Mikos said they accept the cash because there have been bounced checks.

Mr. Kichar said they should receive only money orders or checks and NO cash. They also can pay on line with a credit card.

Ms. Mikos discussed the State sponsored reimbursement for food that is not eaten. She said the Little League can send a receipt for the food not eaten and the District will reimburse them.

Mr. Kichar said the Little League is fine. There is no report from the Softball program. He said Mr. Coppola can handle that with the Chief.

Mr. Kichar made a motion that on the last day of Fall Baseball Season the locks are changed on the Concession Stand. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar said after that anyone caught there will be trespassing.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept as presented the Football, Soccer and Baseball reports. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

#### **4. Basketball (Boys & Girls)**

Mr. Kichar asked if there is Instructional basketball for the Recreation program.

Mr. Coppola said there is for the first and second graders.

Mr. Tamburino said the fifth and sixth grade is also instructional.

Mr. Kichar said we instruct the little ones under our program. He said the Boys & Girls Club also has an instructional program and they do not play any games. Their program is only instructional. He asked if that is something new for them.

Rec100212

Mr. Coppola said their program is Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

Mr. Tamburino said yes it is new.

Mr. Coppola said our program is on Saturday and there are 85 kids participating.

Mr. Kichar said there are two leagues.

Mr. Tamburino said it is two for one.

There was discussion on the Recreation basketball program and the Boys & Girls Club basketball program.

Mr. Flaherty said there are 285 grammar school kids attending the Boys & Girls Club a day. There are 50 teenagers a day and the kids are there. They are offering instructional because the kids are there and they want to learn the game.

Mr. Tamburino said the program was at night and it was expensive (\$60).

Mr. Coppola said the Boys & Girls Club program didn't do anything to our program. We asked them to take over the Basketball program because we didn't have anyone to run it and we didn't have the gyms.

Mr. Kichar said the Recreation program numbers are getting worse and worse.

Mr. Coppola said the Girls Basketball program coach Pat Lynch and Dennis O'Connell, Derby Recreation Director are doing a travel team for 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 grade girls. They are combining the two teams into one team and they are asking Ansonia Recreation for a donation.

Mr. Coppola said he needs to get permission from the Recreation Commission to give this combined team a \$500 donation from our line item. He said Derby has given the team a donation.

Mr. Kichar said he has no problem giving the donation of \$500 to this Travel Team but he is asking why we have to donate money.

Mr. Coppola said try to get games for the 3, 4 and 5 graders at the Armory. Pat Lynch will get the games together with Woodbridge and Orange. This Travel Team will be the Ansonia/Derby Travel Team.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to donate \$500 to the Ansonia Derby Travel Team once Mr. Coppola finds out the proper way for Ansonia to give this donation and who to give the donation to. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Rec100212

## **Public Session**

### Bart Flaherty

Mr. Flaherty congratulated Mr. Kichar and the Commission on "Al Smith Day". He said it was certainly a well deserved honor and the Commission should be commended for the fine tribute they have given to Mr. Smith.

Chairman Smith said he appreciates it. He said he had more fun through the years and he enjoys the children. He thanked everyone for working on the event.

### Steve Tamburino

Mr. Tamburino said he and Mr. Kichar discussed the fact that the numbers for Little League have gone down. District 3 is combining the program with Derby because their numbers are also down. He said that Tony Coppola, Derby is combining the softball teams. They will play in our program.

Mr. Kichar said that Jeff Coppola and Dennis O'Connell, Derby Recreation Director should get together to do this. He said that Ansonia Recreation tried to combine the two programs.

Mr. Tamburino said that there is one major team and three minor teams this year.

Mr. Kichar said he will meet with the Baseball Executive Board, Jeff Coppola and Jamie Puro and talk about the combining of the programs. He said they will try to make it work to keep the kids off the street and playing baseball.

Mr. Tamburino said Dave Segur took a look at the numbers across the board. He said he and Tony Coppola also looked at the numbers and Tony is in District 3. He said he will set up a meeting with them and invite Steve Kichar and Jamie Puro to represent Ansonia.

Mr. Coppola said if they regionalize the sports they will have to go before BOAT and the Aldermen. He said it is not a bad idea to regionalize the sports. He said that he doesn't see football or soccer joining in regionalization. They have enough players.

The commissioners continued the discussion on regionalization, not enough players to field a team and allowing out of town children to play in our program.

Mr. Kichar advised Mr. Tamburino to meet with his Board and then with Mr. Coppola, Mr. Puro and himself to discuss the situation. He said that Ansonia is fortunate that BOAT gives them funds to support these programs. He said if BOAT doesn't fund the programs there will be some hardship cases. He said that the City of Derby of gives the funding to the program and they are done.

There was discussion on the baseball teams playing teams from out of town.

Mr. Flaherty suggested that they speak with Corporation Counsel Blake about forming an Inter-municipal Agreement between the two towns so that the program can go forward and draw players from either town to build a team. He can prepare a formal agreement so there is no problem with insurance.

Mr. Tamburino said that the Little League District signs off on what towns are playing who. If they are playing in different towns in the same league the Little League Charter covers that. He said that he will work on the Inter-municipal Agreement and get it implemented over the winter.

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.

Mr. Kichar asked Ms. Lindgren if she received the sign for the Vendor Parking space at the Nature Center.

Ms. Lindgren said that she did receive the sign. She thanked the commission and Mr. Kichar and Mr. Puro for attending the Public Works meeting.

Mr. Puro said that if there is any problems at the Nature Center Ms. Lindgren should call Chief Hale.

Ms. Lindgren said if he refuses to shut off the truck, Public Works will move the sign.

Ms. Lindgren thanked Ms. Flaherty for making the copies for her for this meeting. She said her copier is not working. She said at the last meeting of BOAT she told them it was important to the Nature Center to have a copier that worked. She said there is a letter from Conn. Economic Development that the Nature Center is in line for some type of grant. She said Ms. Krugel and Supt. Schryver both advised her to get this information to Ms. Krugel. She said there are many things that could be done up at the Nature Center. She said she will prioritize what to do at the Nature Center for tomorrow's meeting.

Ms. Lindgren said that the Rules & Regulations are the same except for Section 10 – Parking, Number i.

Ms. Lindgren read number i to those present. This section addresses vendors at the Pavilion and Picnic field. She said that Corporation Counsel Blake approved the language as read.

Ms. Lindgren said that there was a resignation from one the Rangers. The Vendor parking sign has been installed. The annual Report for the Nature Center is on file in the Town Clerk's office. The Autumn Festival for the Nature Center will take place on November 20, 2012. They will have wagons pulled by horses, storytelling and hay mazes.

Ms. Lindgren said that she believes the Friends of the Nature Center have a table at the Harvest Festival that will be held on 10/06/12.

Ms. Lindgren said the Friends of the Nature Center are planning to hold a tag sale on the Softball field next to the playground.

Ms. Lindgren had one set of flyers which were read by the Secretary. The flyers will be on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Mr. Coppola said that Chris Sheehy sent out an e-mail on vehicles down at the Soccer field. He said that there will be one coach down there at the playing field. He said he will get the game and practice schedules from Mr. Sheehy and forward them to Ms. Lindgren. He said there was a Mother and son that cleaned up two bags of trash from the soccer field and pavilion area.

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

Mr. Puro made a motion to allow the Friends of the Nature Center to use the Babe Ruth field on October 20, 2012 for a tag sale. Mr. Kichar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director**

Mr. Coppola was present.

Mr. Coppola said that the Commission covered everything in his report. He said that the Little League and Softball situation will be covered with Rich Bshara.

Mr. Coppola said the Commission approved the Girls Basketball team with Pat Lynch.

Mr. Coppola said that the Instructional Basketball program for 5, 6 and 7 year olds will begin at the Armory. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders go to the Boys & Girls Club.

Chris Sheehy said that after the children play in the Recreation Instructional Program they practice one time a week they are moved to the Boys & Girls Club. At the Boys & Girls Club they are receiving Instructional all over again – there are no games – they are going backwards.

Mr. Coppola said there are some issues but it is a good program and they took it over after the City asked them to. Ansonia Recreation couldn't handle a basketball program and the Boys & Girls Club put together a program.

Rec100212

A discussion followed on the program at the Boys & Girls Club and the instructional program sponsored by Ansonia Recreation. Mr. Sheehy said there should be a way that if the 4, 5 and 6 grade level are playing the game – they should be brought forward and doing more challenging things in Basketball and they should be playing games. Mr. Kichar said that the Recreation Commission has nothing to do with the program sponsored by the Boys & Girls Club.

Mr. Puro said do we send the kids who are in our Instructional Basketball program to the Boys & Girls Club?

Mr. Tamburino said Ansonia Recreation should take Basketball back. They should practice two times a week and have three games a week. He said at one time they had 25 to 26 games.

Mr. Coppola said Ansonia Recreation went to the Boys & Girls Club to take the pressure off of us. They agreed to take the Basketball program to help us.

Mr. Kichar said as Mr. Flaherty said it is about the kids.

Mr. Flaherty said the only time the Boys & Girls Club was involved with Basketball was when the City of Ansonia asked them to help out. The Boys & Girls Club has nothing to do with the City of Ansonia Recreation programs and the funding they receive is \$5000 a year for everything. There are 285 children from Ansonia attending the Boys & Girls Club every day. He said if their program is interfering with the Recreation Commission league they should speak with Jim Queen at the Boys & Girls Club. The children participating in the program are Boys & Girls Club members and they go there every day.

Mr. Coppola agreed and advised them if they want games they should speak with Jim Queen.

Mr. Kichar said Recreation Commission didn't know that Basketball was gone - it was taken from Recreation.

Mr. Coppola said the Board of Education would not let us in to use the gyms. We had no gym space to hold the Basketball program.

Mr. Puro said he is there in the schools. The Superintendent is there in the schools and there are kids running around and causing problems. This was going on for years with these kids. He said Mayor Della Volpe talked to Mr. Queen to take the basketball program for that one year only.

Mr. Kichar said we have nothing to do with this program.

Mr. Coppola said as Mr. Puro said we don't have the manpower to take the basketball program back. There is a lot of vandalism and stealing. We called the Boys & Girls Club and asked them to take the Basketball program.

Mr. Puro said have Mr. Queen come here to talk about the Basketball program with us.

Mr. Flaherty said Mr. Puro you are on our Executive Board, come to the meeting. The Boys & Girls Club is totally separate and does not impact the Recreation program. They are two totally separate programs. Mr. Flaherty invited Mr. Puro to be a conduit between the Recreation Commission and the Boys & Girls Club. He said the Boys & Girls Club is receptive to enhance their programs.

Mr. Puro said he will be at the next meeting of the Boys & Girls Club.

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

### **Committee Reports**

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the September 10, 2012 meeting. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Approval of Bills**

Mr. Coppola said there is one bill for the CJSA members in the amount of \$1519.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to pay the CJSA members invoice in the amount of \$1519. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Correspondence**

There is no correspondence this month.

### **Any other business to come before the commission**

Mr. Tamburino said they were holding off on the funds for Fall Ball. He said they will turn over the funds to the Parent's Association after the report was sent in.

Mr. Coppola said that the registration is a separate account.

**Executive Session**

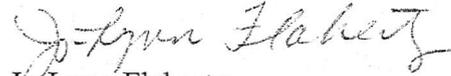
Mr. Kichar made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Puro made a motion to go back into Regular Session at 7:40 p.m. There were no decisions or motions in Executive Session. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Cratty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary