



City of Ansonia

253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

December 4, 2012

Regular Meeting

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Madelaine N. Bottone
TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

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

Others Present: Donna Lindgren, ANC Director
Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director
Robert DeFelice, Softball
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 everything is going OK. The football season has ended and there are two teams that played in competitive games. There are two cheer groups that will be traveling to Florida for the National Competition. They are planning for the return of the football equipment and the annual banquet will be held in February. He said that the Recreation Commission members will be invited to attend.

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Mr. Kichar said that he is planning a meeting with the football staff and Shawn Venson with regard to recruiting more players for the teams. He said they have small numbers on a couple of the teams.

Mr. Kichar commended the Football Staff and coaches for all of the work that they do for the kids in the program. He also commended the members of the Commission who have pitched in and helped out.

Mr. Kichar said that Ansonia hosted the Colonial League Championship Games at Nolan Field and we received many compliments on our field and on the food we served them.

Chairman Smith asked what is going on with Norwalk and the one player who was big. He asked how he was allowed to play.

Mr. Kichar said that this program is grade orientated and size doesn't matter.

Chairman Smith said there were some big kids.

Mr. Kichar said that size doesn't matter – they have to be in the grade in school. They are also the same age. So if you have a kid that is bigger than average but in the 6th grade and 11 years old he will not have to play with freshman in high school because of his size. He will play with the 6th graders that are 11 years old.

Mr. Coppola agreed with Mr. Kichar. He said this is a better league for the boys. You don't have a younger player going against a freshman in high school. It is less dangerous for the kids playing.

There was discussion on the above where there are younger children playing against older children and they are not mature. They may have the size but they are not a match for high school children. AYF says they are still kids.

Mr. Kichar said that Colonial League added one team in Bridgeport (5th) and two in Monroe (6th & 7th). He said that none of the coaches in the Colonial League run up the scores. They let the kids play other positions if the score is high. They have good sportsmanship in Colonial League. No running up of scores because the President of the league doesn't allow it.

Chairman Smith said that size doesn't matter in the Colonial League and you would not have a kid that size allowed to play football anywhere else.

Mr. Kichar said in the next packet there will be information on the Football Banquet.

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

Rec120412

2. Soccer

Chris Sheehy was present.

Mr. Sheehy said that everyone should have a copy of his Financial Report and his monthly report. There is nothing significant to report. This is Soccer's quiet period. The Travel Team placed first place in the South Central District for Fall 2012.

Mr. Sheehy said he spoke with Jeff Coppola, Rec. Director regarding the fees for Soccer and they agreed there will be no increase in the Registration Fee.

Mr. Coppola said that they will be installing a new sprinkler system in the Armory and it will take one week so no one will be allowed to use the Armory during that time. He advised Mr. Sheehy to contact him and let him know when he is planning to hold Soccer Registrations.

Mr. Coppola also advised Mr. Sheehy that the soccer equipment that is currently being stored in the Armory will have to be moved because of the sprinkler system installation so that the equipment will not get ruined.

Mr. Sheehy asked if there was room in the garages there.

Mr. Coppola said that they are used by Public Works and the Police Dept.

Mr. Kichar said that Kevin Rowley offered the football program some room in the Field house. He said there may be some room for the soccer equipment also. He said most of the football equipment will be going out to Stadium Systems for reconditioning so they won't have that much stuff. He told Mr. Sheehy to check with Mr. Rowley.

Mr. Sheehy said he will find someplace to store the equipment.

Mr. Kichar thanked Mr. Sheehy for all of the hard work he does for the Soccer Program.

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

3. Baseball & Softball

Robert DeFelice was present.

Mr. DeFelice said that he was recently appointed the Softball Director. He said that Marty Mikos will have an update on the Little League for the next meeting.

There was discussion on the baseball line item and the registration fee.

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Mr. Coppola said that the Commission will sit down with the Little League and Softball Board and discuss the registration fees. He said they are concerned about the Instructional League fees.

Mr. Coppola discussed sponsorships for the teams and he said that the cost is about \$450 per team. He said that the teams could split the cost and they could hold fundraisers. He told Mr. DeFelice he will attend a meeting to discuss what they can and cannot do.

Mr. Coppola said that Supt. Mike Schryver will change the locks on the Concession Stand.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. DeFelice will have to be approved by the Recreation Commission as the Softball Director. He said Mr. Mikos will have to send a letter with the names of the Directors and the Board members and come to the meeting so the Commission can vote on them. He said the Commission can't approve anyone without the recommendation from Mr. Mikos.

Mr. DeFelice said the next meeting for the Little League Board is Monday, December 10th. He said they closed the bank account (balance \$1167) and they requested copies of checks that they had questions on. The \$7000 they haven't heard anything about it.

Mr. Coppola said that Rich Bshara said we have to be very careful. He asked Mr. DeFelice if he e-mailed her asking for information on the \$7000.

Mr. DeFelice said he sent her an e-mail requesting information on the players, equipment, etc. and has heard nothing.

Mr. Kichar thanked Mr. DeFelice for stepping up and taking the Softball program. He said the commission will be happy to help in any way they can.

Mr. Kichar told Mr. DeFelice that the Commission requires a monthly report along with a monthly Financial Statement. These reports must be to the secretary the Wednesday before the meeting so they can be mailed in the members monthly packets.

There was discussion on the cages that were put up in the Armory. Mr. Coppola said he doesn't know who put them there or who is using the Armory.

4. Basketball (Boys & Girls)

Mr. Coppola said that the Instructional Basketball program will play on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Armory. Instructional league is for 5th, 6th and 7th graders. Registration is \$30.00.

Mr. Coppola said 3rd grade and above is at the Boys & Girls Club.

Mr. Coppola said the Skyhawks will be running programs this summer.

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Mr. Kichar said that the Practice Field will be unavailable this summer.

Mr. Coppola said that Girls Basketball Travel Team with Derby is doing good. It is the same as last year. The coaches are Dennis O'Connell and Pat Lynch.

Public Session

Chairman Smith asked three (3) times if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the commission.

There was no one.

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

Ms. Lindgren was present.

Ms. Lindgren said that she sent her November report to the commission and is asking that they accept and approve that report with the activities listed.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept Ms. Lindgren's November report and approve the activities. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ms. Lindgren asked the commission to consider supporting an Anti-Idling law as part of the Ansonia Recreation & Parks Regulations. She said the State of Connecticut and the Federal government have laws on the books regarding vehicles idling. It is an important law and supports people with asthma and pollution of the environment by stopping the exhaust from vehicles that are stationary. She asked that the members take some time and just look into it.

Ms. Lindgren submitted information from CT DEEP – "Idling is Fuelish" for the members to review.

Mr. Puro asked how will this law or regulation be enforced and who will enforce it.

Ms. Lindgren said it may be difficult but if there is a law there and there is an offender it is something to back up the enforcement of idling in a public park.

Chairman Smith suggested that signs be put up referring to idling in a public park.

Ms. Lindgren said in order for this law to be considered by the City of Ansonia a recommendation has to come from the Recreation Commission. She said she will bring it up again next month after the members have time to review the information she submitted.

Ms. Lindgren said the Friends of the Nature Center are selling calendars as a fundraiser. They are available for purchase at \$15 each.

Mr. Puro suggested Ms. Lindgren send a flyer to schools letting them know these calendars are available.

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

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Mr. Coppola was present.

Mr. Coppola said he went over all of the Sport programs this evening.

Mr. Coppola said the 5th, 6th and 7th grade Basketball program is a 12 week program. Patrick Lynch was going to coach but he had another commitment. Mike Florian may be able to help out with the program. The registration fee is \$30.

Mr. Coppola said he in the process of getting sponsors for the Basketball program. He has approached the Fire Houses to sponsor at \$75 a team. He said he has sent out letters for the sponsorships. This \$75 goes for the extra things and to pay someone come in for clinics. He said the Recreation Commission has given a donation for the Girls Basketball travel team.

Mr. Coppola said the Skyhawks program if the kids. They will sponsor clinics. He said he will ask Rich Bshara where the money was going. Skyhawks does the program, they collect the money for the program and then they give the City a donation. If we collect the checks we would keep them until the service is done. The cost is \$100 a week for a 4 hour per day session. The problem is field space.

Mr. Kichar said the football camps are free.

Mr. Sheehy said he received a lot of requests for soccer camps.

Mr. Coppola said he could work together with Mr. Sheehy and the Skyhawks on getting something going for soccer.

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

Ansonia Nature Center

Ms. Lindgren said that in her November 2012 report there was a request to use the Softball field for a tag sale. She is asking for approval for this event.

Mr. Kichar said that approval was part of the overall approval of her report.

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 October 2012 meeting. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Coppola said there are no bills to present this month.

Correspondence

1. Removal of Coach.

Mr. Puro made a motion to accept the correspondence outlining the removal of a coach. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

2. 2013 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Kichar made a motion to adopt the 2013 Meeting Schedule. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Any other business to come before the commission

None

Executive Session

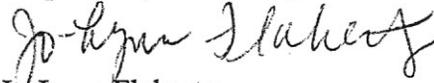
None

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Adjourn

Mr. Kichar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary