



# City of Ansonia

253 Main Street  
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

RECEIVED FOR FILE

13 JAN 11 PM 12:45

*Madeline H. Bottone*

TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

## ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

January 8, 2013

Regular Meeting

Present: Steve Kichar, Vice-Chairman  
Michael Cratty  
Jamie Puro  
Steve Sobolisky

Absent: Tom Lynch  
Al Smith, Chairman

Others Present: Donna Lindgren, ANC Director  
Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order by Vice-Chairman Kichar at 6:11 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

Vice-Chairman Kichar said that all of the football equipment has been returned with the exception of two people. These two people have made an appointment with Shawn Vension to give him their equipment. He said that Shawn Vension did a great job this year. The Cheer squad did a good job. They had one team come in 2<sup>nd</sup> and one team come in 5<sup>th</sup> place in Florida Nationals. The Football Executive Board hasn't picked out a date for the Banquets yet but all of the Commissioners will be invited. The Football program was very successful. There is \$5000

Rec010813

in the line item from when Ansonia hosted the Championship games. This money will be put aside to get work done on the Practice field. They are planning goal posts and work on the field.

Mr. Kichar said there will be a meeting to go over the Registration fees. The numbers are not as high for the Boys levels – they have to get the numbers higher. He would like to get Mead School and Prendergast School involved in registration to bring the numbers up. He said the season was successful and there were a lot of volunteers this year which is a reflection on Jon.

Mr. Puro said a year ago there were no volunteers and this year we have a lot of people volunteering to help the program.

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.

Mr. Sheehy said he has no report this month. The soccer program is in between seasons. The financial report remained the same as last month. He said he has no problem with the fields.

Mr. Sheehy said that he and Mr. Coppola sat down and went over the registration fees. There will be no increase in the registration fees this year.

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

## **3. Baseball & Softball**

Marty Mikos and Robert DeFelice were present.

Mr. Mikos presented the Registration flyers to the commission members this evening. He said the fee includes \$10.00 for the Rocketts, \$10.00 for the Party and \$5.00 for the trophy. The raffle tickets will be given and if the parents sell the tickets they will receive their money back.

Mr. Mikos said he met on Saturday with Mr. Coppola on the fundraiser.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said there will be no fundraising in the Instructional League. He said this is the same rule in Football and Basketball. The instructional leagues do not have fundraising. They don't need referees, etc. and there is no reason to charge \$25 for fundraising.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said that the Baseball directors were to sit down with Mr. Puro and Mr. Coppola and go over the registration fees and the Instructional Program. He said he had no

Rec010813

problem with charging \$90 but there was supposed to be a meeting where everyone went over the fees for the Instructional League. He said the Recreation Commission was adamant that there was no fee for Instructional League. He said there were parents calling the Mayor's office regarding the fee.

Mr. Mikos said he sent an e-mail to Mr. Coppola notifying him of this. He said the funds go for maintenance and use of the field and it helps with the concession stand. He said \$25 isn't too much to pay, it helps the Parent's Association.

Mr. Puro said the Instructional program uses a Tee-shirt and a hat.

Mr. Mikos said if the parents who are complaining don't like it they can go to Derby.

Mr. Puro said it is too much money for the little kids program. The fundraising is supporting the 9 and 10 year olds and the money is going for the older kids.

Mr. Mikos said that registration is being held this Saturday – Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> at the Armory. He said the flyers were sent out through the schools.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said how can the flyers go to the schools for distribution without the Recreation Commission being aware of it.

Mr. Mikos said Mr. Coppola gave them permission but said it has to be approved by the Recreation Commission. He said Mr. Coppola said he didn't think there would be a problem.

Vice-Chairman Kichar asked Mr. Puro if he was available when they held their meeting.

Mr. Puro said yes. He was not notified of the meeting.

Mr. Coppola said the Instructional League fee is \$75 and that included the Rocketts, shirt, trophy and party.

Mr. Puro asked about the \$25 fundraiser fee for Instructional League.

Mr. Coppola said he told them he is not totally against the \$25 fee but it has to be approved by the Commission.

Mr. Mikos said there was one complaint.

Mr. Puro said there were a lot of complaints.

Mr. Mikos said it is an optional fee for the Instructional kids. The charge is \$25 for uniforms. They will not get a party, the Rocketts or a trophy.

The discussion continued on the issue of fundraising for the Instructional League and that the Baseball Board did not get together with the Recreation Commission to agree on the registration fees.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said that he wants to make sure it is made clear to the parents registering their children for the Instructional League that they do not have to participate in the \$25 fundraising.

Mr. Mikos said he will advise them that it is optional.

Mr. Kichar said the registration fees cover the following:

- \$50 uniform
- \$10 Rocketts
- \$10 Party
- \$ 5 Trophy

For each child participating in the program. Then there is the \$25 fundraising fee for each participant registering that covers the entire program.

Mr. Mikos said that those fees cover the Concession Stand, supplies, jackets for the 12 year old graduates, field maintenance, paint for stand, lime for the fields, extra supplies, purchase of equipment for the Concession stand.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said they don't charge the flag football participants for anything for the older kids. He suggested raising the registration fee for the older kids to \$100.

There was discussion on the jackets for the older kids leaving the program and the other items mentioned by Mr. Mikos.

Mr. Mikos asked what happens if the parents want the tickets and purchase them.

Mr. Coppola said the Instructional fee is \$50 and the cost of 5 raffle tickets is \$25. If they sell the tickets they get the money back.

Discussion on the raffle tickets and fundraising continued.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said that Mr. Mikos should let the parents know when they register their children that the fee is \$50 and there is an extra \$25 fee that is optional. He said that Ansonia's registration fee is low compared to other towns.

Mr. Mikos said he is aware of that.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said they should have a \$100 registration fee for the older kids in the future but it must be decided on before the season begins. They should not have to purchase equipment for the program. Before the season starts they should have all of the equipment they need.

Rec010813

Mr. Mikos said the money is for the food for the Concession Stand. They break even with the stand with regard to money. The Little League doesn't do as well as the Football in the Concession Stand.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said a child in the youth/instructional league you can't make it their responsibility to fill your treasury. The Instructional League does great and there are a lot of kids in that program and as they get older we lose them.

Mr. Cratty made a motion to accept the Registration fees with the exception that the Instructional League registration fee will be \$50 and the \$25 optional fundraising fee. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. A voice vote was taken: Cratty, Sobolisky, Kichar – Yes. Puro – No. The motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said no one does anything without Recreation Commission sitting with Jeff Coppola and the Little League and Softball Board. He said Mr. Coppola has no authority to do anything without Recreation Commission approval.

Mr. Puro said he will not sit in on any Little League/Softball meetings. He said Mr. Coppola did not call him or contact him with regard to the meeting that transpired between Mr. Mikos and Mr. Coppola.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said he would have assumed Mr. Coppola and Mr. Puro talked on this issue. He said they can't go forward with registration without it being brought to Commission and being approved first.

Mr. Coppola said he told Mr. Mikos in an e-mail that Recreation commission has to approve it.

Mr. Mikos said he could not wait he had to get the registration out.

Mr. Coppola said he did not call or text Mr. Puro on the meeting.

A discussion followed on the above.

Mr. Mikos said he needs to use the Armory Saturdays and Sundays for clinics to the end of March and then they can go out to the fields.

There was discussion on coaches and if there is an issue in one program could that person coach in another program. All coaches are approved by the Recreation Commission and anyone's name can be submitted for a vote. If a Director cannot support the name then he should not submit the name.

Mr. Mikos said they have been in discussions with Derby with regard to combining the two programs. Derby's players will come to Ansonia because there are not enough players in

Ansonia and Derby to make up a program. He said Derby's baseball doesn't want to combine this year but hopefully next year. They are working on the specifics.

Mr. Mikos asked about the status of the Softball Concession Stand issue.

Mr. Coppola said that it is the Parent's Association and not a City item. It should be taken up by them.

Mr. Mikos said that they have closed the account.

Mr. DeFelice said there is a new account with two signatures.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said that the report should be submitted to the Recreation Commission and the format should be the same as Mr. Mikos's wife's report that she did for the Commission.

Mr. Mikos said that is how they do their reports – it is broken down.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said he received a call from an Alderman asking why the Recreation Commission doesn't allow the Little League to use the Armory. He said the Alderman said there are Color Guards in the Armory and the Little League can't use the Armory.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said that the Alderman had no right to call him and take a shot at Mr. Coppola.

Mr. Coppola said that the Color Guard received permission from the Mayor and the Recreation Commission to use the Armory.

Mr. Mikos said that he just heard about this today and he said he called Mr. Coppola and it was worked out.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said that the Little League Board has to talk to Mr. Coppola and work things out. The Color Guard was in the Armory through the Mayor's Office and they are paying.

Mr. Coppola said it was miss information. Little League will be in the Armory 6 hours per week for 6 weeks.

Vice-Chairman Kichar asked how the sprinkler system installation will affect the activities in the Armory.

Mr. Coppola said there will be no Assumption School gym class when they are in there installing the system. Everything else will be cancelled until the system is in.

Mr. Cratty made a motion to accept the Baseball/Softball report. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. A voice vote was taken: Cratty, Sobolisky, Kichar – Yes. Puro- No. The motion carried.

Rec010813

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

There was no report.

#### **Public Session**

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

There was no one.

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

#### **Reports: Donna Lindgren, Ansonia Nature Center Director**

Ms. Lindgren was present.

Ms. Lindgren said she is requesting to carry over vacation time. She said she updated the Ranger job description and asked for an increase in the hourly rate. She said she is asking the Commission to follow up on the engine idling in city parks. She said there is a Charter Revision commission and she would like a letter sent to them supporting that idea.

Mr. Puro said Ms. Lindgren should send a letter to Chief Hale and the Charter Revision Commission.

Ms. Lindgren said the Nature Center building was broken into again. They stole a new printer and some money from the donation box. She said they need a new security system at the Nature Center Building. She said they know who it is and the Police Dept. has the information. There is no ice-skating on the pond. She will meet with Mr. Schryver, Supt PWD regarding the replacement of the Pavilion. There is grant money to replace it and the work has to be done by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Vice-Chairman Kichar asked Ms. Lindgren if the sign has been put up regarding the parking for vendors in the parking lot.

Ms. Lindgren said that the sign is up. She said there have been no problems.

Rec010813

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

**Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director**

Mr. Coppola was present.

Mr. Coppola said that the Basketball Instructional League meets on Saturdays and there is 75 children registered.

The girl's basketball program has combined with Derby because there are not enough girls registered in either city to make up a league so they have joined together.

Mr. Coppola said there will be work being done at Nolan Field this summer and he is asking for permission to use ANC fields for the summer camps for youth 7 to 12 years old. There are groups that come in and run camps during the summer months and they will be at the Nature Center.

Mr. Sheehy said that he would like to see a soccer summer camp held for the kids in soccer.

Mr. Coppola said he is working on all of this for the summer.

Mr. Coppola apologized to Mr. Puro and asked him to reconsider and be a part of the baseball program.

Mr. Puro said he will participate in the Baseball program as the commission's liaison.

Mr. Coppola said that all of the soccer bills have been paid.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said that everything he signs he wants a copy made for the commission packets.

Mr. Coppola said the stipend for the Solis's has not been submitted, he will do that tomorrow. He asked if the stipend for the Soccer Director was OK.

Mr. Sheehy said that he gave Mr. Coppola the requisitions for payment two months ago when they (Solis brothers) needed new W-9 forms which were submitted. He asked if the commission could vote on the stipends.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said that was done at the beginning of the soccer season.

Rec010813

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

### **Committee Reports**

There are no committee reports this month.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Puro made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the December 3, 2012 meeting. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Approval of Bills**

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

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Proposed Recreation parks Ordinance**

Vice-Chairman Kichar said that the commission has reviewed the proposed Ordinance and he would like to have it approved this evening so it could be forwarded to the Board of Aldermen Ordinance Committee.

Vice-Chairman Kichar went over the sections in the Ordinance with the members. He said that everyone should have a calendar of activities scheduled for the fields. He said there were 47 kids on Nolan Field playing the Sunday after the Newtown event. If there was not a scheduled event at the Field then the Police could ask them to leave.

Ms. Lindgren asked if this section pertains to fields only.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said all fields in the City. He said that Ms. Lindgren should know who will be at the Nature Center using her fields. The Recreation Director should advise her of these activities so she is aware of who is at the Nature Center and on those fields.

Mr. Sobolisky discussed the section (Section IV – item g) in the proposed ordinance that deals with weapons.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said that would be up to the Aldermen to change if they want to change it. He said the Recreation Commission can approve it here and then it goes to the Board of Aldermen and Corporation Counsel.

Mr. Sobolisky said you are taking away their rights if a person is licensed by the State of Connecticut.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said that this language is in the Ordinance for the towns of Prospect and Orange. The Board of Aldermen can have Corporation Counsel Blake and Chief Kevin Hale review it and change it if necessary.

Mr. Sobolisky said he will not vote to put that section in the ordinance.

Mr. Puro made a motion to accept the proposed ordinance and refer Section IV, item g to Corporation Counsel. Mr. Cratty seconded. A voice vote was taken: Cratty, Puro, Kichar – yes. Sobolisky – no. The motion carried.

Ms. Lindgren asked if the areas in the ordinance are conflicting with the Nature Center Rules & Regulations.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said the Ansonia Nature Center is fine. We are talking about the sporting facilities.

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

None

**Executive Session**

Mr. Puro made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:26 p.m. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to go back into regular session at 7:44 p.m. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

There were no motions or decisions made during Executive Session.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Cratty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jo Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary

Rec010813