



City of Ansonia

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Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

November 12, 2013

Special Meeting

Present: Steve Kichar, Vice-Chairman
Michael Cratty
Anne Lynch
Tom Lynch

Absent: Al Smith
Jamie Puro
Steve Sobolisky

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director
Donna Lindgren, ANC Director
Jerome Fainer, 4th Ward Alderman

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

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll.

There was a quorum present.

Director Reports

Football

Vice-Chairman Kichar said the Cheer Squad won the last two competitions and they will compete on November 23, 2013 in Hartford to qualify for the Nationals in Florida.

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He said the 4th grade team had a successful season, the coaches did a good job. He discussed the Pop Warner 79er's program for the 7, 8 and 9 year olds. The 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade teams did not qualify however the 7th grade team was 4 and 4 and the 4th grade team was 4 and 4.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said the Flag program definitely missed J. Benjamin. He did a great job running the program and he kept the lines of communication going between the parents and the Board. He said they have been in contact with Pat Sullivan who runs the Oxford Flag Program for next year. He said the parents were supposed to have a meeting with the Board and the events of the season were to be discussed.

Mrs. Lynch said that no one spoke to the parents on this.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said it was unfortunate that the game schedule was not taken care of so that all of the teams had games. He said the Flag program will be separate from the Youth Football program in the future. He said they will have someone else handle the Flag program. He has spoken with Mr. Sullivan in Oxford to get our program up and running for next season.

There was discussion on the fee that the parents are paying for the Flag football program. Vice-Chairman Kichar said they will have to run the program on a minimum cost. Last year the cost was \$157, this year \$90. Vice-Chairman Kichar said the City of Ansonia covers the insurance and the Football program doesn't have to pay for referees so that should make the cost almost free for those participating. He said that the program needs to recruit the kids at a lower level so that it builds the teams.

Mr. Coppola said there are kids in Derby who want to play Flag football also.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said Ansonia wants to build our own teams. He said we have to reach our own kids. He said when Tom Maffeo ran the Little League program we had 10 to 12 teams.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said the Financial Report is in the package. They decided to hold their Banquet in the Spring this year so they can do something outside in the warm weather.

Mrs. Lynch said the numbers in Derby are very low. She said it would be great to bring the cost of the program down. She said the football program has to advertise registration.

There was discussion on getting the kids out to play sports and being active. It was suggested that someone go to the schools and speak on the football program and the other programs to let the children know what is offered.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said there is still \$2200 owed to the program by people who refuse to pay. He said he is trying to figure a way to eliminate this type of situation where the Executive Board cannot collect the funds owed. He said the \$2200 is needed in the program and the money is not owed by "hardship" participants. The Hardships are about \$750. He said that \$6000 is still owed to Blanchette's for cheerleader uniforms. The people are not paying but he will figure it out for next year.

Mr. Coppola said the Scholarships are OK – they don't mind that but these people who have scholarships don't volunteer to help the program either.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said maybe we should eliminate the fundraising and the volunteer fee and go with \$200 flat fee for registration.

Mr. Cratty made a motion to accept the Football Report. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Soccer

Mr. Chris Sheehy is present this evening.

Mr. Sheehy said it is the same as Football, the money is tight this year. There was a jump in cost for the uniforms for the Travel Team. The registration fee is \$85 and the cost for the uniform is \$50 and we have to pay for the referees. He said they are working on sponsors and holding fundraisers to make up the cost. They purchased new Goals and equipment. He said the Soccer program is doing OK and they will continue fundraising through the Spring. The Soccer program finished their season Sunday.

Mr. Sheehy said the U-12 boys and girls finished OK. The U-14 girls did well. They held open registration for this season and the numbers are down: 225 last year to 200. He said he had four or five girls from Seymour at the U-14 level play. He said registration fees are: \$65 for the regular season and \$85 for the travel team.

Mr. Sheehy said the numbers are low this season. The travel team loses kids to the premier and travel teams. He said he wanted to thank his coaches, Paul Velardi and Randy Tomlinson, they took the top of their division (U-12 boys and girls).

Mr. Sheehy said in Public Session there will be a proposal for Spring Season for U-19 and U-16 Girls travel team. He said the Soccer Program is in full support of them.

Mr. Cratty made a motion to accept the Soccer Report. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Baseball & Softball

There was no one present from Baseball and Softball. There was no financial report received this month.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said Softball did a great job. They combined with Derby this year. He said Mr. Coppola should look into combining with Derby for this program. He said the registration fee for baseball is high at \$75 and we should look into lowering the cost.

Mr. Coppola said the Little League Executive Board will be getting new Members this Thursday, 11/16/13. There is a meeting to elect new members. He said the Instructional program registration fees goes to offset some of the costs for the other teams. The expense for the Instructional program is the uniforms.

Basketball

Mr. Coppola said he was told the Recreation Commission is running the Basketball program for the 5, 6 and 7 year olds. He said the Boys & Girls Club goes from 3rd grade up to 8th grade. He said he has spoken to Ron Sells.

Mrs. Lynch said she received a flyer as a parent from the Recreation Basketball for 5, 6, and 7 year old program. She gave the secretary a copy for the record. She said this is the Instructional program.

There was a discussion on the Recreation Commission basketball program and the Boys & Girls Club basketball program. Vice-Chairman Kichar said the Recreation Program in the past had 8 girls' teams with 8 to 10 girls and there were 12 boys' teams of 8 to 10 boys. He discussed playing the games at Mead School and the Middle School.

Mrs. Lynch said she remembers playing basketball when she was in school because it was one of her favorite activities.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said we never had trouble with the basketball. He said Recreation has to figure something out for basketball.

Mr. Coppola said Recreation should look at what the Boys & Girls Club wants to do – they have a lot of Travel Teams.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said Ansonia should sit with Dennis from Derby and make the program an Ansonia/Derby program.

Mrs. Lynch suggested the Recreation Commission look into the basketball program in the Spring to get it going.

Mr. Coppola suggested recreation Talk to the Boys & Girls Club also.

Public Session

Vice-Chairman Kichar asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the commission.

Vin Forleo
44 Hoinski Way
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Forleo gave everyone a copy of his proposal for a U-16 Girls and U-19 Boys Soccer Team for the Spring 2014. (copy attached)

Mr. Forleo said that the City Recreation only supports soccer up to the 8th grade. He is proposing two teams for this Spring. He is asking to use "Ansonia Soccer Club" in name only. The use of the name would allow them to use the Certificate of Insurance that would be on file with the City for the Ansonia Soccer Club. Their registration fee would cover all of their expenses. They would not use any funds from the City. They are asking for approval to use the AHS field and the ANC field for practice and five home games. He said he has spoken with Mr. Piccolo on the use of the AHS soccer field and they were granted permission.

Vice-Chairman Kichar said he has no problem with this as long as Mr. Forleo works out the use of the fields with Mr. Coppola and that the Nature Center is notified when they will be using their field.

Mr. Coppola advised Mr. Forleo that he has to fill out the forms at the Board of Education to use their fields and they will grant him permission.

Mr. Forleo asked how he gets the fields lined.

Mr. Coppola advised him to contact Sean Rowley, PWD because he is in charge of the fields.

Mr. Forleo said he will not bother the Recreation Commission with the fields he will contact Mr. Rowley. He said the registration fees will cover their expenses so there will be no impact on the City of Ansonia. He said he will piggy back his registration with Mr. Sheehy's program.

Mr. Forleo introduced Mauricio Viteri who will be the soccer coach for this program.

Mr. Viteri said he will continue the program. He has had these same kids since they were 8 and 9 years old. They will continue to play so that they can go further in the program.

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

Reports: Donna Lindgren, Ansonia Nature Center Director

Ms. Lindgren is present this evening.

Ms. Lindgren said they held the Recycle Soda Bottle program last week end. She said that she called everyone to get approval.

Ms. Lindgren discussed that she sent a letter to the Board of Aldermen seeking approval for Louis Granato to apply for a vendor's license to sell sandwiches and beverages at the Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center. She said the staff is in full support of this. He will share his profits with the Friends of the Nature Center. She said that the Board of Aldermen have to approve all vendors. She sent a letter to the Board of Aldermen in support of Mr. Granato. She wanted the Recreation Commission to be aware of this.

Ms. Lindgren said her Annual Report has been submitted. The numbers are down for the nature day programs (snow) but it was a successful year.

Ms. Lindgren said the Director position has been filled by Allison Rubleman. She will be taking over the end of December.

Ms. Lindgren asked if there were any complaints from the soccer league on the parking during the Autumn Festival. She said they were parking all over the place.

Mr. Coppola said there were no complaints.

Ms. Lindgren said that some of the people were abrasive to the Jr. Rangers. She said that the Recreation Commission has always been notified of the Nature Center's big events. She said there are activities where they have to keep the area clear.

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

Reports: Jeffrey Coppola, Recreation Director

Mr. Coppola is present this evening.

Mr. Coppola said that the commission discussed the basketball program earlier in the meeting. He said it will begin in December and end in March. He said he hopes the Armory is done by that time.

Mr. Coppola said he is working with Rich Bshara on setting up a bank account and checkbook so that they can begin planning adult and children's trips. He said he needs to have an account to

do this. He explained the process of getting a P.O. and check and depositing the funds for the trips to the members. He said it is a better process to have a checkbook for trips. It will be an in and out checkbook.

Mr. Coppola said he is seeking approval to have someone come in for five to six weeks to get the Instructional Basketball program going and getting them into games. He is asking for approval to have Pat Lynch who is the High School coach come in and organize the program. He said his fee will be \$100 a day.

There was discussion on the Instruction League program and format.

Mr. Cratty made a motion to hire Pat Lynch to run the Instructional Basketball program at \$100 a day. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Coppola said he would like to get the summer program back. He said they could hold it at Prendergast School. The Ansonia Nature Center has a Summer Program but it is not the same as the Recreation summer program. It would be like the summer program that was held in the past at Nolan Field. Prendergast School as the new playground.

Mr. Coppola discussed winter activities and the possibility of an ice skating rink at Nolan Field this winter. If the ice skating rink at Nolan Field doesn't work out, he said he will look into ice skating at Colony Pond. He will meet with Public Works on this.

Mr. Coppola said he is looking to see what activities the kids can participate in at a lower cost to the parents.

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

Committee Reports

There are no committee reports this month.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Lynch made a motion to accept as written the minutes of the October meeting. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Cratty made a motion to pay the following bills:

Rec11213

1. Art Solis : Inv. F2013-1, dated 10/28/13 bill for referee: \$1350
2. Adrian Solis: Inv. F2013-2, dated 10/28/13 bill for referee; \$1350
3. Chris Sheehy: Stipend for Soccer Director: \$800

Mrs. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Correspondence

1. Vincent Forleo re: U-19 Soccer team – E-mail dated 11/4/13
2. Recreation commission to Board of Aldermen: Support of Bond Referendum dated 10/4/13
3. Recreation Commission to Board of Aldermen: 48 Silver Hill Road dated 10/4/13

Any other business to come before the commission

2014 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Cratty made a motion to adopt the 2014 Meeting Schedule as presented. Mrs. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Park Ordinance

Ms. Lindgren asked if there was an update on the Park Ordinance that the Board of Aldermen were working on.

Alderman Fainer said there has been no updates.

Football Program

The commission members discussed the football program and the importance of having a good coordinator. Vice-Chairman Kichar said the Cheer program has an excellent coordinator that runs the program and they have been very successful. He said the football program needs someone like that. He said football needs structure so the kids feel they are a group and they feel important.

Mr. Coppola said as a Recreation Commission we can structure the program the way it should be. He said the Flag Football program should be separate from the Football program. He said the Recreation Commission can run the Flag Football program so that it doesn't fall under the AYF league.

Vice-Chairman Kichar discussed the football program and the importance of having the coordinators and the coaches all working together and communicating with the parents. He said that Mr. Chryznowski should not be involved in the day to day activities, the football coordinator should do that.

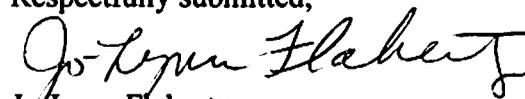
Executive Session

None

Adjourn

Mr. Cratty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty

Secretary