



City of Ansonia

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ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

December 3, 2013

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Steve Kichar
Michael Cratty
Anne Lynch
Steve Sobolisky

Absent: Tom Lynch
Jamie Puro

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

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Smith at 6:03 p.m.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll.

There was a quorum present.

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Director Reports

Football

Mr. Kichar said there is no change in the financial statements this month. He said all of the four Cheer squads qualified to go to Florida to compete in the Nationals. Three of the squads came in 1st place and one squad came in 2nd place. They will leave for Florida on December 11th.

Mr. Kichar said all of the Executive Board members are returning this year.

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

Soccer

There is no one present this evening.

There was no financial report received this month.

Baseball & Softball

Mr. Robert DeFelice and Mr. Robert Dealor were present.

Mr. DeFelice said he sent the commission an e-mail regarding the newly elected 2014 Executive Board for Ansonia Little League.

Mr. DeFelice said there was no financial report this month.

Mr. Kichar said that a copy of the e-mail was in the packet.

Mr. DeFelice said that registration has begun for the league. The registration fee, which is \$90 (\$65 registration and \$25 fundraising) is the same for the Minors, Majors and Jr. Girls. He said coach pitch registration fee is \$50 for registration and \$25 fundraising. They are offering a \$10 reduction from \$50 to \$40 for early- bird registration.

Mr. Kichar explained that the Instruction league must charge what is costs to operate the league. If it costs \$25 to run the program, then there is no fundraising. This is the same for football. Basketball is also run the same way – they charge \$35 registration. He said he doesn't know what it costs to run the Little League program. There is no fundraising at the lower levels. The fee for Instructional League is the money collected must cover the cost of the program.

There was discussion that the fees collected for the Instructional league was used for the older kids and there was a problem with that.

Mr. DeFelice said the registration fee covers expenses and improvements to the field.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Coppola will meet with you on the registration fees. He said there are not enough children playing in the lower level programs therefore there are no children going up to play in the older leagues. He said Ansonia had to combine with Derby. He feels if the registration fee is reasonable more children will register to play at the lower level.

Mrs. Anne Lynch asked if Ansonia Little League and Softball will combine with Derby this year.

Mr. DeFelice said that Derby Little League will not consider combining with Ansonia. They have new fields, etc.

Mr. Kichar said that Mr. Coppola, Recreation Dir. will meet with Derby to discuss the Little League baseball and softball programs.

Mrs. Anne Lynch suggested that Mr. Coppola start talks with Dennis (Derby Recreation) now so that the Commission will know what is happening. She said she heard good things about their softball program.

Mr. DeFelice said with regard to the fees, he would like to get the Registration information out to the parents soon. He suggested \$50 for the Instructional program with option for fundraising fee and \$90 for the older kids.

Mr. Kichar said the fee has to be what it costs the League.

Marty Mikos was present.

Mr. Mikos said that everything they spent last year came out of the \$50 registration fee (uniforms, party, trophy, etc.).

Mr. Kichar said the Little League Board is covering the uniforms. He said he doesn't have an issue with it but they have to know what the registration fee is covering.

Mr. Coppola said he has Basketball down to the bare minimum. He said if the fees are lower it will help get more kids involved.

Mr. DeFelice said he needs dates in the Armory for the clinics.

Mr. Coppola said Basketball is in the Armory in the morning. He said he will give Mr. DeFelice a calendar so he can schedule his clinics.

Mr. DeFelice said he will use the hallway in the Armory for registration.

Mrs. Anne Lynch asked how the parents will be notified that there is registration for baseball.

Mr. DeFelice said they will send out e-mails and flyers.

Mr. Kichar asked if Assumption School receives the flyers.

Mrs. Anne Lynch said yes, they received the Basketball flyers.

Mr. DeFelice said the Little League has a new regulation that states if the child goes to school in town they are then eligible to play in the program in that town and there are no waivers required.

Mr. Kichar thanked Marty Mikos for all of his time and hard work that he gave to the Little League program and the City's youth. He said Mr. Mikos was all about the kids.

Ms. Lindgren asked who makes the flyers that the Little League sends out to the schools.

Mr. DeFelice said that they make them.

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

Basketball

Mr. Coppola said that the Basketball Instructional Program will begin this week. He said Pat Lynch will be running the program. There are 60 kids registered. There will be 20 kids a session, and there are 3 sessions. Registration fee is \$35 for 12 weeks. Pat Lynch will be paid \$400.

Mr. Coppola said the Basketball program will be held at the Armory from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. until March.

Mr. Sobolisky asked where the 8 year olds and up were playing. He said there has been no flyers.

Mr. Coppola said that Steve Tamberino said there is a league there at the Boys & Girls Club. He said he will call Dennis in Derby if the Commission wants him to. He said he spoke to Ron Sells on their Basketball program. He said that Pat Lynch will be the perfect person to run Basketball if the Boys & Girls Club wants the Travel program. The Boys & Girls Club usually begins their league in January, they begin later than our Recreation program.

Mr. Kichar said we have to wait to see if everyone is getting reappointed and then we will have to sit with the Mayor on the Basketball program.

Mr. Sobolisky said basketball is the least expensive program to run.

Mr. Kichar said we had the most teams in the league and that Recreation Commission has to take it back from them. He said the Commission has to sit down with the new Mayor and take the program back. We had 8 to 10 teams.

Mr. Coppola said with the new Armory floor, we can have basketball year around. We would need a Coordinator to run the programs.

Mr. Kichar asked if Pat Lynch would be interested in running the basketball program.

Mr. Coppola said that there are some people who want basketball all year around.

Mr. Kichar said that it would be our kids in our program.

Mr. Sobolisky said we have to get the numbers up. He said he hasn't heard anything on basketball yet.

Mr. Coppola said we were running the basketball program for \$25 to \$35 tops.

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

Public Session

There was no one present for the public session.

Reports: Donna Lindgren, Ansonia Nature Center Director

Donna Lindgren and Allison Rubleman are present this evening.

Ms. Lindgren said that the Commission has her report. She said she would like to introduce Allison, who is the new Director of the Ansonia Nature Center. She said she is so delighted that Allison is taking her place.

Ms. Lindgren said there is a new program on Microbes which is excellent. She recommends that everyone attend this program because it is educational and beneficial to your health.

Ms. Lindgren reviewed the flyers on the events that will be happening at the Nature Center.

Ms. Lindgren reviewed the Calendar of Events with the commission. She asked if they could approve it so that it can be sent to the printer.

Ms. Lindgren noted that there is a list of jobs for Public Works Dept. She said that they work on this list as they have time. She said that some of the items have been completed.

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

Ms. Lindgren asked that the Nature Center be notified if there is anything being done on the new Parks Ordinance.

Mr. Coppola said that they are still working on it.

Mr. Kichar said that they should sit down with Mr. Marini and the Mayor to get it going again.

Mrs. Anne Lynch asked where does one go to rent a park in Ansonia. She also asked about the new ordinance.

The secretary will send her a copy of the proposed new Park Ordinance.

Ms. Lindgren said that people who want to use the Nature Center go to her.

Reports: Jeffrey Coppola, Recreation Director

Mr. Coppola is present this evening.

Mr. Coppola said for the fields in the town they go to him and the Recreation Commission but there is nothing in place for the Armory.

Mr. Coppola said that there are people who want to rent the Armory for events and functions. He said that a policy and fee schedule must be developed. He said if the Armory raises \$15,000 in income a year, then that money should go back to the Recreation Commission to be used for Recreation purposes and not the General Fund. He said that a Recreation account should be created where events could be run and paid for out of this account. He said he would like to see and ice skating rink with lights for the winter and maybe a carnival in the spring for the kids and we could use those funds to pay for it. He also discussed running trips and events. He said he would like to sit down and get their ideas. The Recreation Commission has control of the Armory.

Ms. Rubleman said that the Nature Center has the Friends of the Nature Center. They are good because they raise funds for the Nature Center and they sponsor the events, etc. The other money generated by the Nature Center for classes, etc. where fees are collected goes to the City's General Fund. She said the Friends are a big help because the money they raise for the Nature Center goes back to the Nature Center and doesn't have to go through the General Fund.

Mr. Kichar said if the Armory is run properly and they take the money earned, we should be able to use that money for Recreation. We can run the programs and get more kids involved.

Mrs. Anne Lynch said Recreation Commission can offer more programs other than sports.

Mr. Coppola said he would like to have the Summer Program at Prendergast School. The cost would be between \$12,000 to \$14,000 to run this program. They could have a weekly trip that the participants can pay for themselves. We can also feed them for free.

Mr. Coppola said we will know next week who is on the Commission. We want everyone to attend the meeting with them. We would have to set up a meeting and let everyone know the date and time. He said Recreation has to tell them we want control of the money coming in through the Armory activities.

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Coppola what is going on with the Armory and the Color Guards that are currently using it.

Mr. Coppola said he lets them in to use the Armory and he goes back and locks the Armory up. He said if our programs are in there we need to have someone there.

Mrs. Anne Lynch asked who cleans the Armory after it is used.

Mr. Coppola said Tom cleans it in the morning.

Ms. Rubleman said when you rent the Armory you need to have a cleaning crew come in and clean it. There should be a clean up fee tacked onto the application fee to use the Armory.

Mrs. Anne Lynch said the Cheer Squad has keys to the Armory.

Mr. Coppola said yes, the Cheer Squad has keys.

Mr. Kichar said there are 25 keys out there and there should only be 4 or 5 people with a key to the Armory.

Mrs. Anne Lynch said the lights are on in the Armory at 11:00 p.m. all the time.

Mr. Kichar said there are too many keys out there.

Mr. Coppola said we can't make the keys.

Mr. Kichar said they are given out without our permission.

There was a discussion on the door locks and which doors have which locks.

Mrs. Anne Lynch said that Mr. Coppola should have new keys made.

Mr. Coppola said it will be a little easier now to keep control.

Mr. Kichar 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. Kichar made a motion to accept as written the minutes of the last meeting with the following correction:

The first sentence should read:

“The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order by Vice-Chairman Kichar at 6:00p.m.”

Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Coppola said there are no bills this month.

Correspondence

1. R. DeFelice re: Newly elected Little League Board Members.
2. M. Mikos re; Letter of resignation as the Little League Board Director

Mr. Cratty made a motion to accept the Little League Board Members and to accept Marty Mikos letter of resignation. Mr. Kichar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Copy of the new Little League Board Members is attached.

Mrs. Anne Lynch asked Mr. Coppola if he attends these Board meetings.

Mr. Coppola said yes, he attends.

Mr. Kichar said with regard to the registration fee for the Baseball/Softball Instructional program, they have to show Mr. Coppola that the registration fee covers all of the expenses incurred by the program.

Mrs. Anne Lynch asked if all program flyers have to be approved by Mr. Coppola.

Mr. Coppola said that the flyers that are distributed through the school system have to be approved by Dr. Merlone, Supt. of Schools.

Any other business to come before the commission

None

Executive Session

None

Adjourn

Mr. Kichar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary