

# **ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION**

September 3, 2013

Regular Meeting

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

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

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**

### Football

Mr. Kichar gave his report on the Football Program. He said that his financial report was in the monthly packet. The teams lost their games this weekend. There will be a meeting tonight at 6:30 p.m. at the field with the flag football parents. He said there was some miscommunication and he will explain it to the parents this evening. The football program is running smoothly.

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

### Soccer

Mr. Sheehy is out of town this month but he sent his soccer report and financial report to the commission. It was included in the monthly packet.

Mr. Coppola said he spoke with Mr. Rowley concerning the field preparation for the soccer games.

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

### Baseball & Softball

There was no one present and there was no financial report received this month.

Mr. Cratty said he saw Mr. DeFelice and he said that he could not make the meeting this month.

Mr. Cratty said that Mr. DeFelice is doing a great job with the softball program.

### Basketball

Mr. Coppola said he has a report on a basketball program that he will present when he gives his report to the Commission.

### **Public Session**

Chairman Smith asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the commission.

Anne Lynch  
Birchwood Drive  
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mrs. Lynch said that her son is participating the Flag Football program and she is wondering if there is a solution to the situation. She said she wants to be sure that everyone on the Recreation Commission is aware of the situation in the football program.

Mr. Kichar said that he will be at the field at 6:30 p.m. tonight for a solution to the situation. He said he told the parents that he would be there to discuss this and work out a solution.

Mrs. Lynch said that the parents thought everyone on the Recreation Commission should know what is going on with the football program.

Mr. Kichar explained the flag football program and the miscommunication that resulted in the seven and eight year olds not having enough players to have games. The five and six year olds have enough and have teams to play against. There are not enough seven and eight year olds to play games. He said that AYF did not advise them of this until this weekend. He said he discussed this with AYF and the possibility of allowing some players to play up. There were two parents that asked if a child could move up and they would sign a waiver but it was past the date. AYF doesn't allow a 7 year old to play down. He said he contacted the other towns regarding the 7 and 8 year olds and playing games. The only town is Oxford and they don't want to play other towns. He said Woodland may have 7 year old boys on a roster.

Mr. Kichar said that 7 year olds can't play 5 and 6 year olds but he will handle that at the field tonight. He discussed the number of kids that have signed up to play and that there may be a way to spread out the kids on the teams and rotate players so that everyone will have a game to play on a Sunday. He discussed the 79ners and the Mighty Mightys and how their games work.

Mr. Coppola said the only solution that Mr. Kichar came up with is the 5 and 6 year olds come Sunday and help the 7 and 8 year olds and that will give them something to do on a Sunday and everyone can play. He said Mr. Kichar asked AYF and they said NO they will not bend the rules.

Mr. Puro asked how many 7 and 8 years old are registered.

Mr. Coppola said 12 kids.

Mr. Kichar said there are 26 total in the flag football program.

Mr. Cratty suggested they run an instructional league for these kids.

Mr. Kichar discussed last year's program and that they had three teams and they took turns playing each other. He said going into this year the Program thought they played against each other. We found out the 5 and 6 year olds teams were OK and we assumed the 7 and 8 year olds team was OK also but there was not enough kids to play. He said we could split it up and rotate every Sunday every week. He said he will ask the parents if they will come up and let the kids play and have a game. He said there was no communication between the parents or anyone on this.

Mr. Puro said that the parents wanted their game schedule. We had no idea there were no games for this group.

Mr. Kichar said they assumed all the kids would play each other.

Mr. Coppola said the 5 and 6 year olds are in their own league and are playing games. He said that Mr. Kichar was not told.

Mr. Kichar said that he was not told and the parents should have been told.

Mr. Kichar 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 is not present this evening, she is on vacation.

Ms. Lindgren's monthly report was in the monthly packet.

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

Chairman Smith read the letter dated 8/27/13 that was included in the packet regarding the parking lot.

**Reports: Jeffrey Coppola, Recreation Director**

Mr. Coppola is present this evening.

Mr. Coppola gave everyone a copy of the Basketball Travel Team program proposed by Patrick Lynch. He said he has been working with Pat Lynch to get a Rec/Travel Team together. He said that Pat Lynch can also help out with the 5, 6, and 7 year olds. It will better the program with the travel team. He asked if the Commission agrees that he should go forward and talk with Pat Lynch on this travel team.

Mr. Kichar said he is against the stipend of \$1500 to \$2500. The travel team is done on their own. They are volunteers and not paid by the Recreation Commission. He said they could do what they want with the Travel Team but he is against paying anyone to do the Travel Team. He said if they want to run the Travel Team themselves and take a stipend from the registration money that is their program he is not against that. Recreation never had a travel program in any sport. The travel teams were never sponsored by the Recreation Commission. He said we gave them the use of the fields or gyms and that is all.

Mr. Cratty said last year they did it with Dave Cheverella.

Mr. Coppola said that was with Derby. He said he will talk with Pat Lynch on the travel program

Mr. Puro discussed the number of kids that are playing basketball and the possibility of playing games with other towns such as Branford, etc. it would be good for the kids.

Mr. Kichar said he has no problem with the Travel Teams. He said Recreation has approved the use of our fields for their games, etc. but they are on their own. They run a Travel program and charge a registration fee for their expenses and we give them the use of the gym/field. The same that we do for the other Travel Teams.

Mr. Coppola said that Recreation could give them a small donation like we did for the Softball Travel team.

Mr. Kichar said we have other directors putting in a lot of hours and they don't get paid. If he wants to take his stipend out of what he charges the kids that is OK but as far as Ansonia paying a stipend we should not get involved it is not a Recreation sponsored program. We give them the use of the field/gym only.

Discussion on Travel Teams followed.

Mr. Puro said the commission could give them a small donation like they did for the girls travel team last year.

Mr. Coppola said the donation was \$500. He said he could give \$500 for the Travel Team for Basketball as a donation this year.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept Mr. Coppola's report and to give \$500 to the Basketball Travel Team. 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 and place on file the minutes of the August 6, 2013 Regular meeting. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Approval of Bills**

Mr. Coppola said there are no bills.

## **Correspondence**

None

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

Chairman Smith said that Mrs. Lindgren is retiring from her position as Ansonia Nature Center Director. He said that she does a great job up there.

## **Executive Session**

None

## **Adjourn**

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary