



# City of Ansonia

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Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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*Elysebeth A. Lynch*  
TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

## ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

November 4, 2014

Regular Meeting  
Senior Center

Present: Al Smith, Chairman  
Michael Cratty  
Frank DeLibero  
Jeff Devine  
Anne Lynch  
Paul Velardi

Absent: Steve Sobolisky

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director  
Alison Rublemann, ANC Director

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Smith at 5:30 p.m. at the Ansonia Senior Center.

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**

There is no one present from the Football/Cheer program.

The financial report was received.

### **Soccer**

There is no one present from the Soccer program.

The financial report and the monthly report was received.

### **Baseball & Softball**

Robert DeFelice was present.

Mr. DeFelice said the season just finished and everything went well. There is no change in the registration fees from last year. They still have the multi-child discount and the early bird discount. The registration fee for the Minors, Majors is \$65 plus the fundraising fee \$25 and the Instructional is \$40 plus the fundraising fee \$25. This is the third year in a row that the registration fees have stayed the same. He said he would like to use the Armory for registration and he could use the hallway. In mid-January and February they will hold clinics and he will need dates for the Armory.

There was discussion on the use of the Armory.

Mr. Devine asked when the regular Executive Board meetings are held.

Mr. DeFelice said the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. There are about fifteen (15) members that attend.

Mr. DeLiberio asked how they get the notice out regarding registration.

Mr. DeFelice said they send out Flyers through the schools and Day Care for T-Ball. The Player Agent will send out to all of last year's kids.

Mr. Velardi asked if they register on-line.

Mr. DeFelice said yes.

Mr. Velardi asked the percentage who register on-line.

Mr. DeFelice said he didn't know. He said there is a fee to register on-line that is charged by the Company that does the registration. Some parents rather do that than come to the Armory.

Ms. Lynch said last year there was discussion on getting together with Derby Little League. She said that the Ansonia and Derby softball is together.

Mr. DeFelice said that last year Ansonia and Derby played together but they go year to year to see the numbers. He said he doesn't think the Little League will combine.

Ms. Lynch said there was discussion on combining softball and then baseball and now they are looking to combine soccer.

Discussion on combining the sports programs with Derby. The members discussed the pros and cons. Mr. Devine said if you have enough kids you cannot combine per the Little League Charter. They discussed the Charter requirements. Mr. Devine said the Derby Little League field is beautiful.

### Basketball

See Mr. Coppola's report.

### **Public Session**

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

Vin Forleo  
Soccer

Mr. Forleo gave everyone a copy of his proposal for Ansonia Travel Soccer. He said they have a U16 Girls and U19 Boys team. They are self-funded and they are requesting to use the Ansonia Soccer Club name and the use of the Ansonia soccer field for their home games. They will use the AHS field for practice. They pay their own bills and order their own uniforms.

Chairman Smith asked if this is separate from the Recreation Soccer program.

Mr. Forleo said yes and they have 14, 15, and 16 year old girls on the team.

Mr. Coppola said they are asking for 10 games at Ansonia and they are asking to use Ansonia Soccer Club name so they can get insurance for the program.

Mr. Forleo said they hold the bond for three years. They are a travel team and play Madison, Seymour, etc. He said that some of the kids are big in the other towns. About 80% of the Ansonia team are Emmett O'Brien and AHS graduates.

Chairman Smith asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the commission. He asked three (3) times. There was no one.

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

### **Vin Forleo re: U16 & U19 Soccer for Spring 2015**

Mr. Velardi made a motion to accept the U16 Girls & U19 Boys Soccer Team for Spring 2015 Proposal as submitted by Vin Forleo. Mr. Devine seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Copy of the Soccer Spring 2015 Proposal is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

### **Reports: Alison Rublemann, ANC Director**

Ms. Rublemann was present.

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

Ms. Rublemann said that she and Wendy Sabol attended the N.E. Conference in Maine on the environment. She said it was educational and it was a wonderful experience. She is working with the Board of Ed to help the Charter Club's after school program. The Board of Ed did not receive the grant this year. She said the Community Foundation is funding a small program on Tuesday and Wednesday for after school. There is a new message center at the entrance of the Nature Center and she thanked the Public Works Dept. for all their work.

Ms. Rublemann said the coming events are listed in the calendar. She invited all of the commissioners to attend any event at the Nature Center.

Mr. Devine asked about the parking lot.

Ms. Rublemann said she met with Sheila O'Malley, EDC and Doug Novak, PWD Supt. on some of the things that have to be done. The ventilation grant from 2012 money has to be spent. That is a grant from the State of Conn. The parking lot is on hold until June or July 2015 because of the soccer program. They have agreed to that.

Ms. Lynch asked what the holdup was.

Ms. Rublemann said that the architect did the drawings and every program has to have an engineer. His drawings have to go to an engineer for review and approval. The engineer will receive 10% of the grant. He will check them and he may have to revise them. On the roof of the building they are concerned with the structure and the roof. The funds have to be spent because the State of Conn gave us another grant and she said she has been pushing to get this

project done. The grant line is set up and it is a reimbursable grant. The City of Ansonia pays and then the State of Conn reimburses us.

Ms. Rublemann said she would like to get the following projects done: the ventilation system, the parking lot, the playground revitalization (25 year anniversary) and the pond needs to be dredged. She said she has been meeting with other towns and they will give her their information on dredging the pond. She is setting up a meeting in November. The Regional Water Authority awarded a grant to the Nature Center a year ago for signs.

Mr. DeLibero said they did the parking lot at Nolan Field in one week.

There was discussion on the grant requirements and that the City of Ansonia wants an engineer involved with every project. Mr. Coppola said he will speak with Mr. Novak tomorrow on it. Ms. Lynch said to set up a meeting with Ms. O'Malley to go over the ANC grants. Mr. Coppola said he will find out tomorrow. Ms. Rublemann said that she spoke to Ms. O'Malley and Mr. Novak and they are OK to do the work in the Spring.

Mr. Devine said the pavement they could do.

Ms. Rublemann said they need to have a design for the parking lot. The original design is the water run off gets diverted to a Rain Garden and it has to be re-designed now because of ledge.

There was discussion that the original parking lot could not be paved because the water run off has to perk through the soil and then if flows to the stream and watercourse running along side of the parking lot. There is a huge wetland in that area with protected and endangered wetland species that feeds the swamp on Milan Street. They must go to IWC to amend their permit.

Mr. DeLibero made a motion to accept Ms. Rublemann's monthly report. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director**

Mr. Coppola was present.

Mr. Coppola said all new bleachers are set up in the parks. They may have to move a few around but they are all done and he will make sure they are adequate at all of the fields. They are looking into the backstop at the Nolan Field Little League field. They are having a meeting on the field and if the dimensions change they will have to move the baseball field up to the Ansonia Nature Center or to Colony Park to make an adequate field.

Mr. Coppola said that Mr. Dave Connolly will run the Fishing Rodeo again this year at Colony Pond. The State of Conn will stock the pond.

## Basketball

Mr. Coppola said that he has 70 registered for the Instructional program (5,6, 7 year olds), 40 registered for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 20 registered for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 12 registered for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade for the Boys basketball program. The Girls program has 16 registered for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 3 registered for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade and none for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He said he will work with Derby and the Boys & Girls Club on the numbers. He said the Boys & Girls Club is working with him on the teams.

Ms. Lynch asked if the Ansonia Middle School has a team.

Mr. Coppola said they have a travel team of 12 for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Ms. Lynch suggested another registration for this group.

Mr. Coppola said he did Ansonia's early at the same time Derby did their registration. He said that baseball registration is OK and there will be a football meeting next week. They are discussing what to do with the football program – do they stay with AYF or go to a different league. He said they haven't had anything established since they left Pop Warner. They have to look at it and see what they are doing. He will report next month.

Mr. DeLibero said that there are kids that don't meet the weight requirement and it is not fair to them. In the New York league every kid gets to play. They play and they are taught the skills.

Ms. Lynch said she agrees on the weight but there are a lot of other things, not just the weight issue. There has to be a change there.

Mr. DeLibero asked if they talked to other parents on these issues.

Mr. Coppola said they are trying to find a fit for Ansonia.

There was discussion on the communication between the Football Board and the parents. There are game time changes, etc. and the parents are notified last minute. These things don't happen in other programs. Ms. Lynch said with Colonial League we received our schedule one week before.

There was discussion on the last outstanding invoice that AYF had. Mr. Coppola said that this invoice has been paid by them. They did a good job financially and they are in good shape.

There was discussion on the registration fees for the different towns. Seymour is low and they don't put the fundraiser in the registration fee. Shelton is \$275 for football and \$250 for Cheer. Ansonia is \$200.

Ms. Lynch asked about the Tennis Courts at Colony Pond. She asked if there has been any discussion at the meetings Mr. Coppola attends. They took the fence down, rolled up the fence and it has been there for a few months. The area we have been talking about is still not fixed.

Mr. Coppola said it should be done in a couple of weeks. The games are finished and PWD will have time to do it.

Mr. DeLibero 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. Devine made a motion to accept as written the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 7, 2014 meeting. Mr. Velardi seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Approval of Bills**

Mr. Coppola said there are no bills this month.

### **Correspondence**

1. Fred Williams re: AYF Football & Cheer program dtd. 11/1/14

Mr. Cratty made a motion to accept Mr. Williams's correspondence. Mr. Velardi seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Coppola suggested that Mr. Williams attend the AYF Executive Board meeting and offer his services to them because you have to be voted in by them. . He said they should be holding a meeting soon.

2. Vin Forleo re; Ansonia Travel Soccer U19 & U16 e-mail dtd. 10/26/14

Mr. Cratty made a motion to accept all correspondence and place on file. Mr. Velardi seconded. All in favor, so carried.

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

2015 Meeting Schedule

Mr. DeLibero made a motion to accept the 2015 Meeting Schedule as presented. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

**Executive Session**

None

**Adjourn**

Ms. Lynch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Devine seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary