



City of Ansonia

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Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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Elizabeth Lynch
TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

December 2, 2014

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Frank DeLibero
Jeff Devine
Anne Lynch
Steve Sobolisky

Absent: Michael Cratty
Paul Velardi

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 6:00 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

Lou Criscuolo and Jen Milia were present.

Mr. Criscuolo said the four Cheer groups are going to Nationals in Florida. They are competing in the State Competitions on Saturday, December 6th and Sunday, December 7th.

He said the football equipment is 75% returned. They are working on getting the rest of the equipment returned. The Cheer Banquet will be held on January 23, 2015 and they are waiting for the date for the boys Football Banquet.

Ms. Milia said there is no November financial report. There will be a combined report for November/December next month. The Concession Stand financials will be reported next month. There is still \$2000 in outstanding registration fees for this season.

Mr. DeLibero said the kids played in the AYF and in the tournaments and they haven't paid.

Mr. Coppola said they were on payment plans.

Mr. Criscuolo said they had payment arrangements that were signed stating they would be paid in full. We have notified them that they were past due on their payments.

Mr. DeLibero asked if they can send them registered letters.

Mr. Criscuolo said yes, they will send them registered letters.

Mr. Coppola said if he had the names of these kids before basketball registration he would not have allowed them to register for the basketball program.

Ms. Lynch asked if any of the parents came forward with financial problems.

Ms. Milia said in the beginning they did and the Executive Board lowered the fee. They Board has been pretty good with the fees and helping out the parents. The Cheer program has \$245 outstanding and the parents said they will be paid this week.

Mr. DeLibero said the children were still allowed to participate in the program.

Ms. Milia said yes.

Mr. Sobolisky said the trouble with football is if you sit them out you are short players and then the entire team doesn't get to play and we forfeit the game. He said it is a tough call. You tell a kid he has to sit out and the whole team sits out.

There was discussion on returning the uniforms. Ms. Lynch advised Ms. Milia to look at who still has to return their uniform and make a list and give the list to Corporation Counsel so he can send a registered letter to them asking them to return their uniforms and equipment.

Ms. Milia said the Concession Stand has one more game on Saturday. She said there is \$8379.80 plus change in the account. You add in next week's game and divide it to give AHS Cheer and Baseball about \$300 each and the Balance is 50% to AYF and 50% to the Gridiron Club. There will be \$596 balance left for a "rainy day" fund.

Mr. Coppola discussed the AYF football program structure internally and externally. He said he doesn't know who plans to return to the AYF Executive Board and who plans to return as a coach. He said he was available to help the AYF Executive Board and the program but there was a lack of communication where the AYF program left him out of decisions that hurt the program. As Recreation Director, he should be a permanent member of the Executive Board. He said his primary goal is to do what is best for the children and the program.

The discussion continued citing many incidents where the lack of communication and the disrespect to Mr. Coppola hurt the program. Mr. Criscuolo said that they have to sit down and figure out what path they want the football program to follow.

Ms. Lynch said Ansonia Recreation needs to do that. She said we need to re-evaluate what we are doing with the program in Ansonia and the whole league - what do we want our football program to be.

Mr. Criscuolo said as President of AYF he is willing to sit down with the Recreation Commission and see what can be done. He would like to lower the registration fees so there could be more participation by the kids.

Mr. Coppola said all the parents wanted was communication between the Executive Board and them. He said he offered to help.

Ms. Milia said if everyone did their job it would help the program. She discussed the problems that were in existence 6 years ago when she took over. She said they are the same and we have to work together.

Mr. Sobolisky discussed the scheduling stating it is what it is and that there was nothing they could do. Nothing was adjusted in Ansonia's favor.

There was discussion on the changes to the schedules. That there is no representation for Ansonia at Colonial meetings and the Colonial President maybe overcompensating on issues but the other teams were not held to the same standards as Ansonia.

Mr. DeLibero said we had liaisons going to these meetings. These issues should have come before the Recreation Commission. He said the scheduling changes may be caused by field availability.

Ms. Lynch said as a parent she e-mailed the President concerning these issues.

There was discussion on the different leagues available for football programs. There is the Shoreline League and Seymour and Oxford are looking to create a new league (Valley League) and get a few teams together and there is Pop Warner. Mr. Coppola said that if there is a meeting and the Executive Board for AYF is going, they can call him and invite him and he would be happy to go and see what the program offers and if it would be a good fit for Ansonia.

There was discussion on the last game of the season and what happened. Mr. DeLibero said you can't go back, you have to go forward. There are the same problems in this league and in New York. Mr. DeLibero said we should look into the Valley League. He asked if changing leagues would affect the Cheerleaders program.

Ms. Lynch said Mr. P. Sponheimer said their league will not have a Cheerleading program. There will be a second meeting this Thursday at the Seymour Land Trust.

Mr. Coppola said the Cheer program can cheer in the Pop Warner League if the football is in an independent league. The Pop Warner will take our cheer groups.

Ms. Lynch said as long as the Cheer groups are given an option.

Mr. DeLibero agreed with Ms. Lynch, that the Cheer group should be given an option.

Mr. Coppola asked when the next meeting of the AYF Executive Board will be held.

Ms. Milia said the meetings are held on the third Friday of the month. They have to wait for January 2015 for the next meeting. They stopped meeting in September.

Mr. Coppola asked when the terms end for the officers.

Ms. Milia said February or March.

Mr. Coppola said that they have to have a meeting to elect the new officers of the Board.

Mr. DeLibero said the day of election they asked for volunteers for the Board.

Ms. Lynch said that the parents were not notified of this.

Discussion on notification to the parents for all activities and events held by the AYF Executive Board.

Mr. Coppola said there was discussion by the AYF Executive Board on separating the Cheer and Football groups. He said that any decisions that are made should be put to a vote of the Board. The Executive Board should put out a notice in February that there will be election of officers. They should get a sub-committee of three people to do that.

Mr. Coppola said that he and Mr. DeLibero will represent the Recreation Commission at the football meeting to be held on December 11, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the Seymour Land Trust.

Mr. DeLibero said that the Commission received a letter from Fred Williams stating that he is asking to be a member of the football Executive Board. He is one person interested in being an officer on the Board.

Soccer

Chris Sheehy was present.

The financial report and the monthly report was received.

Mr. Sheehy said they are in "winter mode" right now. They have finished their season and they have collected all of the equipment. On November 9, 2014 they held Player Appreciation Day for the teams. The kids had food and soda and were given metals and snacks. The Travel Team finished well and they were given Pizza and soda and tee shirts.

Mr. Sheehy said registration will be early January 2015. The Registration fees will remain the same.

Mr. DeLibero asked how Mr. Sheehy notifies everyone that registration is being held.

Mr. Sheehy said through the schools, the Boys & Girls Club, Soccer web site and the City web site.

Mr. Coppola said that there is basketball at the Armory and the Soccer program can hold registration at that time also.

Mr. Sheehy discussed the indoor soccer program. He said that they are playing as Ansonia Soccer but they are not under the umbrella of Ansonia Soccer. It is the same program as the Boys & Girls Club in Shelton, it is a good indoor program.

Mr. Devine asked if they get money from the City of Ansonia for this program.

Mr. Sheehy said he has been doing this for years, even when he was not President of the Soccer Broad. He said they know how much money they need to run the program and they know the fund raising they need to do to get enough funds to run the program. He said that they will make enough money and get enough money from the City to make it. This is a no frills program.

Mr. Coppola said they do receive money from the City.

Mr. Sheehy said the largest bill they have is the CSJC bill for the League. He said this bill goes to Mr. Coppola who pays it through the City line item. He said they have to have enough money in their account to pay the referees. There is \$11,100 program funds. The registration fee is

\$65.00 for Recreation league and \$85.00 for the Travel league for both seasons. Seymour charges \$125 each season and they have to purchase their own uniforms. They have two uniforms – home and away.

Mr. Sheehy said they have a good competitive program at a good registration fee for the players. They get 250 kids a year so they are able to keep the fee low. He said they would love to get cool stuff but they keep in mind the cost.

Baseball & Softball

There was no one present.

Basketball

Mr. Coppola said the Instructional league is playing on Saturday. They are in their third week and it is a 12 week program. Vince Della Volpe is running the program.

He said the 8 & 9 year old team has 38 boys and 5 teams. Anne Lynch is the coordinator and Steve Sobolisky is the asst. coordinator.

The 10 & 11 year olds (5th & 6th grade) have three teams. Derby has two teams so they play each other.

The 7th & 8th graders have one team and they play in the Saturday and Sunday league.

Mr. Coppola said the 3rd & 4th grade girls have 25 players and they are playing Derby's teams.

Mr. Coppola said the 3rd & 4th grade boys will have evaluations on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. Mr. Coppola will run the evaluations and they will then get together with the coaches to draft the teams.

Mr. Devine said they are light on some teams.

Mr. Coppola said maybe the 7th & 8th grade boys or the 3rd and 4th grade girls (Instructional program) but we'll see how it goes.

Mr. Devine asked if Seymour will be in our league.

Ms. Lynch said that Mr. Coppola should confirm with Seymour if they are in our league.

Mr. Coppola said that practice goes to January 2015 and then they will have the evaluations. He said that there is a Men's Soccer League in the Armory two (2) nights a week. He said everyone has to wait to use the Armory until we are situated with Basketball.

Ms. Lynch left the meeting at this time (7:00 p.m.).

Mr. DeLibero made a motion to accept all of the reports. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Public Session

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.

Reports: Alison Rublemann, ANC Director

Ms. Rublemann was present.

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

Ms. Rublemann said the Calendar of Events for 2015 is done. She said they did not receive the grant for the Charger program.

Ms. Rublemann said there is a grant from the Community Foundation called the Museum grant. They have received a check for \$1750 for programs at the Nature Center and the total for the IMLS grant is \$3500.

Ms. Rublemann said that there will be a meeting this Thursday with the company and three different engineers regarding the parking lot. She said that Mr. Novak, Supt. PWD, Ms. O'Malley, ECDir, Chris Tymniak and John Marini will be at the meeting.

Ms. Rublemann said they will be dredging the pond this Friday. She said Mark Dale, Winding Trails in Farmington will be there to oversee it.

Ms. Rublemann said the Astronomy Assn. requested to use the Nature Center for private viewings on the following dates: April 15, May 9, June 19 and October 3. She said they will provide a Certificate of Insurance. Gregg Parker, a Club officer said it will be just the Club members. She said they do a lot of programs for ANC at no charge.

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

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Mr. Coppola was present.

Mr. Coppola said that he went over most of his report earlier in the meeting. He said there are two Men's Soccer Club programs – one in the Armory and one in Prendergast School.

Mr. Coppola said the Soccer Club meets three days a week and will run a Soccer Camp. Paul Velardi will look at the program structure.

Mr. Sheehy said his concern is that they will be running the clinics and evaluating our players. They pick off the good ones and recruit them for their team. It happened in Seymour where half of the good players left to play on this team.

Mr. Devine said we will take input from Mr. Velardi on the Clinic and the team. We can deny them if that is what is happening.

Mr. Coppola said that Ansonia will have a contract with them that will state we can terminate them. He said right now they don't represent anyone so we will look at them.

Mr. Devine asked who controls the use of the Armory and when they can use it.

Mr. Coppola said anything in the Armory has to go through the Recreation Commission. We have the keys and once the floor is done and the Armory is in full use he said he will request that they hire someone to be there at all times. He said you can't leave it alone. Anyone using the Armory will have to pay for the time they are there.

Mr. Devine said Mr. DeFelice said last month that he would like to use the Armory for Baseball and Softball clinics.

Mr. Coppola said basketball comes first and he will work around it and see what he can schedule.

Mr. Coppola said anything in the Armory will be run as Recreation – Ansonia programs will be covered under Recreation.

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

Committee Reports

There are no committee reports this month.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. DeLibero made a motion to accept as written the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 4, 2014 meeting. Mr. Devine seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Coppola presented the following bills:

1. Paul Velardi: stipend for helping run the Soccer program \$250
2. Steve Kish: stipend for helping run the Soccer program \$250

Mr. DeLibero made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Correspondence

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

Any other business to come before the commission

None

Executive Session

None

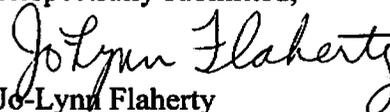
January Meeting

The January meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Mr. DeLibero made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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