



City of Ansonia

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TOWN AND CITY CLERK
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ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

January 7, 2014

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Steve Kichar, Vice-Chairman
Michael Cratty
Jeff Devine
Anne Lynch
Steve Sobolisky

Absent: Tom Lynch

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 6:11 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. Jon Chryznowski was present.

Mr. Kichar thanked Mr. Chryznowski for changing the AYF meeting so that he could attend the Recreation Commission meetings.

Mr. Kichar said he spoke with Dennis O'Connell and he will set up a meeting with the Recreation Commission, the President of Colonial League and Tom Able, Derby Chairman. He said that Mr. O'Connell will let him know when and where the meeting will be held.

Mr. Kichar congratulated everyone in the football program for a successful year.

Mr. Chryznowski said he wanted to thank Mayor Casseti on behalf of the football program for all of his support. He said there will be an organizational meeting for the Executive Board the end of next week. Bob Jones will be the Football Director/Coordinator for the AYF program.

Mr. Chryznowski asked if the football program can use the Armory for football and cheer clinics in the Spring. These clinics will be free of charge. He is requesting to use the Armory for the Clinics and he is asking Mr. Coppola what are the available dates so he can schedule the clinics.

Mr. Chryznowski said they will be sanitizing the football and cheer equipment and mats free of charge. He said this will be done in the Armory therefore he needs the available dates.

Mr. Kichar said Saturday afternoon or Sunday but he would have to let him and Mr. Coppola know the day and time.

Mr. Coppola said he will be meeting with the Grant Writer tomorrow on the Armory floor. Hopefully it will be done March/April.

Mr. Kichar suggested that the football director gets the mats and equipment cleaned as soon as possible. He said to contact Mr. Coppola and he will make it work so that the cleaning is done.

Mr. Kichar said that on Thursdays Assumption School is in the Armory. He suggested Football go to Supt. Carol Merlone to use a school gym.

Mr. Chryznowski said anywhere they can get space will good for them.

Ms. Lynch asked if these clinics will not interfere with Baseball.

Mr. DeFelice said baseball will be using it on Tuesday nights and Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Kichar said they will make it work. The registration fee will be \$50 off for participating in the fundraiser and \$50 off for volunteering. He said football will have another meeting and they can discuss a flat \$200 for registration fee. He said the commission should sit with the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen regarding who did not pay last year. These people will not be able to attend the Football Banquet – the Child will be allowed to attend.

A discussion followed on Parents paying the registration fees, on payment plans and early registration.

Mr. Chryznowski said they have parents on payments plans. With the early registration they can participate in the payment plan program. If there is early registration this enables the parents to pay in full by the time the program begins.

Mr. Kichar asked how they will run the Flag Football program. Will it be separate from the A YF league?

Mr. Chryznowski said it will be run the way it used to be run. It will be separate.

Mr. Kichar said there will be \$50 going back to the parents if the child plays this season.

Chairman Smith asked how many children are involved.

Mr. Kichar said about six.

Ms. Lynch said the returning flag football players will receive \$50 off their registration fee if they come back.

Mr. Chryznowski said there will be a football get together when everyone can be there at one time. He said they are planning a picnic outdoors.

Mr. Kichar said the first Saturday and Sunday in August will be for the clinic. They will have all of the kids involved. The first Monday in August the Football program will start. He thanked everyone involved with the Football program this year for a doing a great job.

Mr. Kichar welcomed Jeff Devine and Anne Lynch to the Recreation Commission.

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

Soccer

Mr. Chris Sheehy is present this evening.

Mr. Sheehy said that the report was sent to everyone in their packet. There is nothing much going on. They will begin the Spring Season registration on January 21st and January 28th.

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Sheehy if he was the only one doing this.

Mr. Sheehy said yes and he has Paul Velardi. Mr. Velardi is a certified referee assigner and helps the program a lot. There are a couple of parents who always help. He said it is easier to run the program lean. He explained that he has software programs that run the soccer program. It is pretty efficient.

Chairman Smith said that the communication is good with the soccer program.

Mr. Sheehy said Mr. Velardi invested in the equipment and software and it all ties together.

Mr. Kichar thanked Mr. Sheehy for all his hard work during the year.

Chairman Smith asked how they get along with the parents.

Mr. Sheehy said pretty well. They are a good group of people and they keep them informed.

Mr. Coppola said the Travel age group has too many kids on the roster.

Mr. Sheehy said right now the Youth 12 roster is 21 and that is pushing the limit. He said they substitute each player two times a game. There is a lack of volunteers in the coaching and to field a second team we need coaches and fields. The Youth 14 boys and Youth 12 girls is the same. We schedule more games to give them more playing time.

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

Baseball & Softball

Mr. Robert DeFelice was present.

No financial report or monthly report received.

Mr. DeFelice said that they have started registration on Saturday January 4th. They offered a discount for early registration. They have over 60 children registered. They expect a decent amount of registrations on January 8th. The clinics will start February 20th. The next Executive Board meeting will be Feb. 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the Erlingheusser room.

Mr. Kichar said he spoke with Dennis O'Connell and Derby's baseball is in the same situation as Ansonia with low numbers. He said they would love to combine with Ansonia because that would be in the best interest for both towns. They both want the kids to get playing time.

Mr. DeFelice said if they were to combine it would have to be Ansonia/Derby team with a Board made up of both Ansonia and Derby people.

Mr. Kichar said Ansonia should play this season as it is and see what happens after the season ends. Ansonia and Derby should get together for a meeting.

Mr. DeFelice said there is one Derby girl that has signed up to play in Derby but if there is no program for her they will forward her registration to Ansonia. He said he will send a schedule of games and clinics to the Commission. The Clinics begin the weekend after the Super Bowl (2/8/14).

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

Basketball

Mr. Kichar said he talked to Mr. Coppola regarding the basketball program. He said Mr. Coppola will talk with Mayor Cassetti and Ansonia Recreation will take over the basketball program again. He said there have been complaints from the parents on the Boys & Girls Club program.

Mr. Kichar said he talked with Mr. O'Connell on getting together and doing something with Derby on the Basketball program.

Ms. Lynch said the Derby program is well organized. She asked if everyone received a flyer from the Boys & Girls Club on the Basketball program.

Mr. Sobolisky said their program begins next Monday.

Ms. Lynch said that she did not receive anything from them on the basketball program.

Mr. Coppola said it's the kids who attend the Boys & Girls Club every day that participate in basketball. They concentrate on the travel team.

Ms. Lynch said the travel team starts with the 5th grade.

Mr. Kichar said 2nd, 3rd, 4th is Instructional and we want to take the program back.

Mr. Coppola said he sat down with Mayor Cassetti and Mr. Tymniak and they do want to get the Basketball program back on board. They said they will fund it because it is not part of the budget. They will add the money to our Budget for Basketball for next year.

There was continued discussion on the basketball program at the Boys & Girls Club and the Recreation Basketball program. Mr. Coppola discussed the girl's basketball program especially if Ansonia and Derby combine, they can participate in the travel program.

Mr. Kichar asked when the Armory floor would be refinished. He said March/April was the target for the floor.

Mr. Coppola said Ms. Krugel was working on the completion of the grant for replacing the Armory floor. There was a subcommittee that was to start in March of this year for the floor. He said he will ask Ms. O'Malley where we are on this.

There was discussion on the cheer mats and that they are scheduled to be cleaned and sanitized. Once the mats are cleaned they will be removed from the Armory and stored at another location where there is indoor storage and climate control.

There was continued discussion on the basketball program at the Boys & Girls Club and Mr. Coppola said that Ansonia asked the Boys & Girls Club for help with our Basketball program. There was an issue of safety at the schools at that time. He said when Ansonia resumes the basketball program we should look into a Site Director to make sure everything at the School gyms are secure and the buildings are secure.

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

Public Session

Sean Rowley, PWD Representative to Recreation.

Mr. Rowley wished everyone a Happy New Year. He said that soon they will begin with the fields – weather permitting. The baseball and soccer programs want to be on the field the first or second week of April. The fields are wet. He said he spoke to Mr. Coppola about sitting down with the Directors of the programs on the fields. The Little League games are at Nolan Field and Nolan Field should be used at all times for baseball. Nolan Field has a better facility and better parking for the program.

Mr. Kichar said last year Little League practiced at Nolan and played at Colony.

Mr. Coppola said Little League Nolan Field should be used every night. He said they didn't want the Minors playing at Nolan Field. They practiced at Colony and Prindle Ave.

Mr. Rowley said Nolan Field is a better facility for them. They can use Prindle but it will be a scrimmage field once the grass is gone. The baseball fields, we'll replace the tops of the fences.

Mr. Rowley said they wanted all of the nets removed from the Nature Center but he told them they are permanent goals.

There was discussion on the fields at the Nature Center and the work that was done to repair them. The players have to stay off of Colony Field for one full year in order for it to stabilize.

Mr. Sheehy said that they will practice elsewhere and use Colony field on Sunday. They will run their drill at the Nature Center and they are trying to stay off of the game fields.

Mr. Rowley said that Linett Park is not bad however it is a neighborhood field where everyone plays.

Mr. Sheehy said Linett is used by the neighborhood kids and it is hard to ask them to leave.

Mr. Rowley said they have a hard time keeping Linett Park clean. It is a neighborhood park for the neighborhood kids. He discussed the use of other fields for practice. Every practice field will not be fully lined – he can make the box and mid field line.

Mr. Sheehy said that would work, he is open to that. He said they will work on scheduling practices.

Chairman Smith asked what teams are playing in the Fall season.

Mr. Rowley said the AHS Fall Travel Team plays at the Nature Center. He said they line the field if they are asked. He said he spoke to Mayor Cassetti and Alderman Vaccaro regarding the Park Ordinance.

Mr. Coppola said the Recreation Commission is in charge of the fields.

Mr. Rowley said if there is no ordinance in place when there are people on the fields using them without permission and walking dogs on the Little League and softball fields the Police Department cannot enforce the policy.

There was a discussion on the general use of the parks and the fields.

Mr. Kichar noted that the softball field at Nolan Field was scheduled to be repaired for use by the Football program. He said they have the funds put aside to pay for this to be done. He said once it is finished and grassed we need to stay off of the field until August.

Ms. Rublemann asked if the water fountains at the Nature Center can be turned on.

Mr. Rowley said they can try but the lines are 5/6 years old and they were not blown out and not working. The water pressure was not good but they can look into it.

Ms. Rublemann said it would be nice to have because it would keep people out of the building.

A discussion was had on the baseball net at the Armory. It was agreed to wait until the floor is repaired before anything further is done. They will look into a motorized net after the floor is fixed.

The commissioners discussed the Park Ordinance and the rules and regulations for the use of the parks and fields. Without an ordinance in place, the Police Department cannot enforce the policy.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to close the public session at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Reports: Alison Rublemann, Ansonia Nature Center Director

Ms. Rublemann is present this evening.

Ms. Rublemann reviewed her report with the Commissioners. She discussed each program.

Ms. Rublemann said that the Bond Referendum was passed and the parking lot at the Nature Center will be repaired. She is asking for the soccer and baseball schedules so that she can schedule the repair of the parking lot when there are no games at the Nature Center.

A discussion followed on the game schedules for the spring season. Mr. Sheehy said he will reschedule his games whenever Ms. Rublemann tells him the parking lot will be repaired.

Ms. Rublemann said the Earth Day celebration is scheduled for April 26, 2014 and she is asking that there be no games on that day.

Mr. Sheehy said he will make sure there are no soccer games at the Nature Center on Earth Day.

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

Reports: Jeffrey Coppola, Recreation Director

Mr. Coppola is present this evening.

Mr. Coppola asked Ms. Rublemann how the Yoga & Fitness Class is run.

Ms. Rublemann explained that Pam Melitz receives the calls directly and the participants pay her directly and she donates the funds to the Nature Center through the Friends. The Wilderness workout program, the participants pay the Nature Center directly and those funds go to the General Fund.

Mr. Coppola said ARMS is conducting a CPR class at the Nature Center on Jan. 29, 2014.

Mr. Coppola said the Instructional Basketball is in its 5th week and Pat Lynch did a fantastic job. There are 70 kids – ages 5, 6, 7 years old enrolled. The program goes to March. The cost for 12 weeks is \$35.

Mr. Coppola said he is working on a procedure for renting Armory – i.e. how to go about renting the Armory, where the money is going and how to keep the money in a Recreation fund so it can be used for Recreation programs.

Mr. Coppola said he spoke to Mayor Cassetti on a Summer Camp program and he is in favor of this so he is going forward with it. The program will be held at Prendergast School.

Mr. Coppola said Recreation Commission budget is scheduled for Jan. 15th. He invited the members to attend with him. He said from 2007-2008 budget to present Recreation is down 30%. He said the Mayor and his staff expressed great energy on what they want to do for the kids.

Mr. Coppola said the only way to keep the Registration fees down is if the City keeps funding the programs. If we don't get sponsors, do fundraising and have volunteers we have to lean on the City for funding. We have to express to them our numbers are hurting and we want to get the kids out of the house and off the computers. They are excited about that and want to do it. He invited the members again to the budget hearing on January 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Kichar said the Armory schedule should be organized by the end of the month. He asked Mr. Coppola to give the commission members what is scheduled in the Armory each month. He said he wants everyone to receive it in their packets each month so they know what is going on in there.

Mr. Coppola said he will give the secretary the January and February schedule for the packets.

Mr. Kichar asked if St. Joseph's was in there.

Mr. Coppola said they are there Monday and Wednesday. They pay \$25 an hour and will pay at the end of the season.

Chairman Smith asked about the keys.

Mr. Coppola said he will bring it up again = it is part of the Bond and there will be a new security system for the Armory.

A discussion was had on the new security system for the Armory.

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

Committee Reports

There are no committee reports this month.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to accept as written the minutes of the December 3, 2013 meeting. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

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

1. Pat Lynch: Instructional Basketball - \$400
2. Ever Ready Press: Flyers - \$76.00
3. Little League Charter - \$2143.25

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

Correspondence

1. Jeff Devine: A narrative on his experience.

Any other business to come before the commission

Mr. Kichar said that everyone receives all of the information each month in their packets so they can be familiar with what is happening in Recreation. He asked that everyone read this information before the meeting.

Mr. Kichar discussed with the commissioners who would be the Recreation liaisons for the Recreation Programs. They are as follows:

Little League:	Jeff Devine
Football Cheer:	Anne Lynch
Soccer:	Mike Cratty
Football:	Steve Kichar
Basketball:	Jeff Coppola - Mr. Kichar said we have to work with Mr. Coppola on setting up the Basketball program for next year.

Mr. Kichar said the commission has to work with the programs. He asked the Program Directors to get the information to the secretary so that it could be included in the packets for the commissioners each month. When the commissioners receive the reports ahead of time and review them they can discuss them at the meeting.

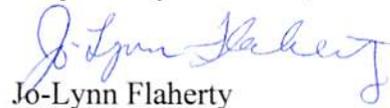
Executive Session

None

Adjourn

Mr. Kichar 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