



# City of Ansonia

253 Main Street  
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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*Elizabeth Lynch*  
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ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

## ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

September 2, 2014

Regular Meeting

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

Absent: 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.

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 was no one present this evening.

There was no Financial Report received.

### **Soccer**

There was no one present this evening.

There was no Financial Report received.

### **Baseball & Softball**

There was no one present this evening.

There was no Financial Report received.

Mr. Coppola gave a brief report on the Baseball and Softball program. He said the Fall season has the Minor league for 9 & 10 year olds, the Majors for 11 & 12 year olds and Jr's for 13 & 14 year olds. They moved the girl's softball major's team down to the minors because there was no coach for the older girls team.

There was discussion on the girl's softball program and that there was no one to coach this team. Ms. Lynch said there were some complaints that there was no team for the girl's Major program. Mr. Coppola said the Baseball teams are at Nolan Field and Softball team is at Nelligan Field.

### **Basketball**

Mr. Coppola said that he will be going this week to put in an application with Supt. of Schools Carol Merlone to use the Ansonia Middle School, Mead School and Prendergast School gyms for a Recreation Basketball program. He said he has to get an idea of how many kids are interested in playing basketball. He said he will talk with Ron Sells regarding the Boy's & Girl's Club basketball program to see where they are going with their program. They do travel teams.

Ms. Lynch said the Boy's & Girl's Club was not a good program. She said last year her son played in Derby Recreation Basketball program.

Mr. Cratty asked if the 5 year old & 6 year old program is still at the Armory.

Mr. Coppola said yes, the 5 & 6 year olds will be at the Armory. Don Palmer will help with the basketball but he works to 5:30/6:00 p.m. He said Steve Tamborino will help out also. He said he will talk with Dennis from Derby and see if they can play each other. He said they are not combined with Derby.

### **Public Session**

Steve Kish  
21 Chester St.  
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Kish gave an update on the dedication for the Mary Cavagnuolo sign at the Ansonia Nature Center soccer field. The dedication is this Sunday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. with the ceremony commencing at 10:20 a.m. He said that Alderman Pat Henri and State Repr. Linda Gentile will speak. The event is being sponsored by public donations.

Mr. Coppola advised Mr. Kish to have the Valley Independent Sentinel run an article on the ceremony giving the date and time to let the residents know about it.

Mr. Kish said he spoke with Mayor Cassetti and Corp. Counsel Marini on the event and he has contacted her family. He sent e-mails to Channel 3 and Channel 8 and will contact Ethan Fry.

Ms. Rublemann suggested Donald Eng from the Valley Gazette.

Ms. Lynch congratulated Mr. Kish on a good job.

Mr. Kish thanked the commission for their support. He said the lines are down and the grass is cut and there is a flag pole at the end of the field at Colony Park. The soccer field doesn't have a flag.

Mr. Kish said there is some old PVC goals that are cracked and they are not using them so they can be discarded.

Mr. Coppola said to notify the Supt. of Public Works, Mr. Novak.

Vince Della Volpe  
198 ½ Prospect St.  
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Della Volpe said he is the Girl's Varsity Coach at AHS and he wants to talk about youth basketball and help the basketball program by running clinics, etc. He explained that Ansonia's Recreation program should begin with instructional basic fundamentals so they learn the game and how to play the game. He would like to get more girls involved in the Recreation program

so when they reach high school level there is a good group of girls who know the game and have the basics.

Mr. Della Volpe said it is hard to build a program without a feeder program. He said he will do what he can to get the word out. He will work with Recreation to begin to build a program. He said there is no boys coach for basketball and hopefully someone will come forward.

Mr. Coppola said he will meet with Mr. Della Volpe and get the players who graduated to help with the clinics. He said they will run free clinics and the participants will get a tee shirt.

Mr. Della Volpe said he will do the clinic and get some parents to help out.

Ms. Lynch asked what Derby charged last year.

Mr. Sobolisky said \$40.

Ms. Lynch said Mr. Coppola should start with the Boy's & Girl's club to see what their program will be doing this year and then talk to Dennis, Derby Basketball to set up some games. She said she will help Mr. Coppola. She suggested they sit down and have a meeting to get this organized.

Mr. Coppola said some kids pay \$30 to \$40 to play basketball.

Mr. Della Volpe said the biggest challenge is getting the players to come and participate and return the following year. He said he will help. He will be able to get girls there to help.

Mr. Coppola said he will talk to Dennis in Derby and also Mr. Ahearn in Seymour.

Ms. Lynch said they played Bidy Basketball when she was growing up. It was a big program.

Mr. Coppola agreed stating they had eight (8) teams at that time and now you can't get two (2) teams.

Chairman Smith asked if they put flyers in the schools on registration for basketball.

Mr. DeLibero said you have to reach out to the girls in the Middle School.

Mr. Della Volpe said he doesn't have a Freshman team.

Mr. DeLibero said they have to learn the fundamentals first.

Ms. Lynch said Recreation has to move on this. The season will be starting shortly.

Mr. Coppola said he will talk to the Boy's & Girl's Club and Dennis tomorrow and get some clinics started and they will use the Armory.

Mr. Della Volpe said once the season starts it would be easier to use the AHS gym.

Mr. Devine said Recreation has to get permission to use the gym at AHS.

Mr. Coppola said he will fill out the paperwork for use of the gym at AHS.

Mr. Devine said the girls program was pretty good until we out-sourced it to the Boy's & Girl's Club.

Chairman Smith said there are people complaining there is nothing for the girls.

Ms. Lynch said Mr. Coppola will reach out to Dennis in Derby and Mr. Ahearn in Seymour and the Boy's & Girl's Club to get the basketball program going.

Mr. Devine said he will reach out to Seymour. He said he has refereed in Seymour and he has seen the programs in different towns.. He will get the information to Mr. Coppola for both Seymour and the Boy's & Girl's Club.

Bart Flaherty  
28 Pinecrest Ave.  
Ansonia, CT

Mr. Flaherty said I am confident the Boy's & Girl's Club will cooperate with Ansonia Recreation basketball. The programs they do are the Boy's & Girl's Club programs and they have to follow a specific course. He said with women's basketball on TV, there will be a great amount of interest in a girl's Recreation basketball program.

Mr. Devine said the Boy's & Girl's Club program is going downhill.

Mr. Flaherty said everything that is done at the Boys & Girls Club has to have an educational component that is measurable. Basic technique is taught. He said if Mr. Coppola has any problems to let him know.

Mr. Coppola said he knows Michael Cotella who runs the program.

Mr. DeLibero made a motion to close the public session. Ms. Lynch 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 that she met with Ms. O'Malley, ECD Director and Mr. Novak, Supt of PWD regarding the ventilation and parking lot projects. They have not been started as yet. She said that the Commission has her report and she is working with the Board of Education for an after school program. This after school program will be held at the Boy's & Girl's Club site and at the ANC site. It is a 26 week after school program. It depends on if the Board of Education receives the grant. The Charger Club staff will be paid from the grant money. They will hire staff from Envision Educators. The staff is attending Envision workshops.

Ms. Rublemann invited Recreation members to the River Walk Event to be held on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the Ansonia River Walk. She said the last person will be the "y" and will get a prize. She said the annual report is almost complete. The rough draft of the Calendar of Events is in the packet.

Ms. Rublemann said with Mr. Schryver leaving the City had to get a new project manager for these projects. Mr. Novak and Ms. O'Malley have been working on the projects to get them done. She said she may have to wait until next summer because the Nature Center is being used by the Fall sport programs. Soccer is in progress right now. She said she has to get a time table on how long it will take to do the work on the parking lot and the ventilation and she will adjust the schedules with Mr. Sheehy.

Mr. Sobolisky 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 said he explained the basketball program earlier in the meeting. He said he will put in the applications with the Board of Ed to use the gyms in the schools and he will meet with the Boy's & Girl's Club.

Mr. Coppola said the summer program went very well. There were 250 kids registered and an average of 140 kids per day attended. They collected \$1220 for the Catherine Hubbard Foundation (animal shelter) that will be donated to them in honor of Catherine Hubbard. He showed the members a picture of the kids standing around the playground that will be sent to her parents.

Mr. Coppola said the bleachers have been delivered. He will meet with Mr. Rowley tomorrow on the installation. There will be two big bleachers at the Little League park and some at Nolan. He will sit down with the Parks Foreman on where they will be located.

Mr. Coppola said he has been approached recently and in the past and it has now come to his attention that various people have been questioning the finances of the parents associations/Executive Board of some of our youth programs. The Ansonia Youth Football & Cheer, Ansonia Little League and Ansonia Soccer all submit financial statements to the Recreation Commission each month. The AYF provides current bank statement each month.

He said additionally the Ansonia Youth Football & Cheer has been running the Concession Stand on behalf of the AHS Gridiron Club. AYF&C money is used for startup and to purchase the food and supplies needed for AHS games. This money is reimbursed to AYF&C after each game directly from the proceeds. The remainder of the money collected during the AHS games is then handed over to the Gridiron Club. At that point the money is no longer part of the AYS&C record keeping or Financial Statements. He said he is in the process of changing this arrangement so we can keep better track of the money made at the Concession Stand during the AHS games and the Recreation programs, as well as various AHS programs benefit from the money raised.

Mr. Coppola said he is going to arrange a meeting with Mr. Nimons and the Treasurers of the recreation organizations to understand if what is being provided is sufficient. If there are any questions or concerns regarding finances this will give the Comptroller/Auditor the opportunity to inquire.

He said Recreation doesn't have much to do with the Parent's Associations except to receive their Financial Report every month. He discussed the City line items for AYF and AHS Gridiron Club.

Ms. Lynch suggested that the Cheer group have a separate line item from the Football group.

Mr. Coppola said in the past the Concession Stand was independent and gave donations to all of the organizations. Four years ago Nick Behun gave it to the Recreation Commission. He said Recreation Commission doesn't collect cash. The concession stands were the Parent's Association and they gave Financial Statements to the Comptroller. He said they asked about the AHS Concession Stand but this is not Recreation. He said we don't know what was collected from the AHS Stand.

A discussion continued regarding the use of the Concession Stand at Nolan Field and who is running it at the games. There was concern expressed that the group running the Stand was giving a donation to the Gridiron Club after each game and there was no financial report.

Mr. DeLibero said that the season has started and games have been played. We have one organization to run the Stand for this year so it should continue and we can address it next season.

There was discussion on having one organization run the Concession Stand. Mr. Coppola said that the organization that is running the stand this year provides Financial Reports each month to the Commission. The organization that is running the stand will not be giving donations at the end of the games. At the end of the season the funds will be distributed.

Mr. DeLibero noted that the Gridiron Club has volunteers that work the Concession Stand and so does the AYF football group. Are these other organizations going to send in volunteers to help with the Concession Stand in order to receive a donation?

Discussion on volunteers in the AYF League. The parents are not asked to volunteer in the concession stand when AYF has the stand. The AYF Executive Board runs the concession stand. Little League has a parent's group that works their Concession Stand. There was discussion on the AHS Gridiron Club activities.

Commission members discussed the submission of the Financial Reports to the Commission and the Comptroller each month and which organizations have submitted their reports every month. A request will be sent to all Parent's Clubs/Associations and the Gridiron Club that all Financial Statements and Bank Statements must be submitted each month to the Comptroller and the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Coppola said there will be some big football games played this year at Nolan Field and at the end of the year AYF can give the Financial Report and give the Gridiron Club their donation.

### **Committee Reports**

There are no committee reports this month.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Cratty made a motion to accept as written the minutes of the Special Meeting held on August 19, 2014 meeting. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Approval of Bills**

Mr. Coppola presented the following bills:

1. Ever Ready Press for summer flyers: \$244.00
2. Little League Back Stop Pads: \$860.00

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to pay the bills listed above if found to be correct. Mr. Devine seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Correspondence**

1. Mayor Cassetti and Alderman Jeanette re; Name the Practice Field at Nolan Field for Jack Hunt.

Ms. Lynch made a motion to send a favorable response to naming the field after Jack Hunt. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

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

None

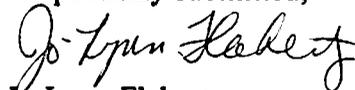
**Executive Session**

None

**Adjourn**

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Mr. DeLibero seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary