



City of Ansonia

253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

RECEIVED FOR FILE

14 FEB -7 AM 8:39
Elizabeth S. Lynch

TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

February 4, 2014

Regular Meeting

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

Absent: Steve Kichar

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 6:03p.m.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll.

There was a quorum present.

Rec020414

Director Reports

Football

Mr. Alex Danka was present.

Mr. Danka said he is the Vice-President of Ansonia Youth Football & Cheer. He said he is here this evening to ask for approval of the registration fee and eliminate the volunteer and fundraising fee. Registration fee for the 2014 season for 4th through 8th grade tackle football and competitive cheer will be a flat fee of \$200. Non-competitive cheer (mighty mites) will be a flat fee of \$125. There will be no volunteer or fundraising fee. There will be no fee for Flag football.

Mr. Danka said they are working on their budget and will present it next month but they have to set the registration fee for the budget. They are also changing some of the By-laws and they are trying to get more parents involved and participating in the program. He said he took over Public Relations for the program so that any complaints will go to one person and that person will go to Mr. Coppola.

Mr. Danka said their goal is more transparency with the Recreation Commission, have the kids happy and having fun in the program. They kids come first.

There was discussion on parent involvement and getting the parents involved with the scholarships. He said he is working with Jeff Coppola on this and Mr. Coppola will look into it through the schools. He said the program doesn't want to punish the child if the parent doesn't have the funds to pay the registration fee. He said they are working on sponsorships through the local businesses to sponsor some of the kids that don't have the registration fee.

Mr. Cratty asked what the registration fee was from last year.

Mr. Danka said \$275 and \$100 for flag football. He said they want to eliminate the fundraiser fee and work toward having everyone involved in doing one fundraiser. During the off-season they will work on the fundraising.

Ms. Lynch asked what fundraisers were held last year.

Mr. Danka said they held a night at the races, cookie dough, etc. they would like to hold one big fundraiser for the year. If the groups are going to Florida they have their own fundraiser to raise money for the trip.

Mr. Sobolisky said you are taking \$50 off the fee for fundraising will the parents be less willing to volunteer and participate in the program.

A discussion followed on the fundraising fee and parents participating and the scholarship program.

Mr. Coppola said there are two factors:

1. Scholarship
2. Fundraising and Sponsorships

Mr. Danka said there are people who owe the Football program money for registration and fees. He said he they have put these people on payment plans and they refuse to pay. He said Ansonia never wants to charge kids and the goal is to get the kids off the street and have something to do. He said he hates to penalize the child because of the parent – we want the children to be able to participate in the football program. He said maybe they will not receive a jacket, etc. It is something they are working on.

Ms. Lynch asked if there is someone who follows up on the non-payments.

Mr. Danka said Jenn Millea, our treasurer does the follow up.

There was discussion on the payment plans and collection of the past due accounts. There are about 10 to 12 parents who have not paid. Also discussed was the sponsorship and scholarship programs for these children. They have the Executive Board that is working on getting businesses involved with sponsoring children.

Mr. Coppola said there are about 15 to 20 parents that show no effort. These parents should have to call to get scholarships for their child.

Mr. Danka said there are some scholarship parents who are there to help and are very grateful for the scholarship and that we helped them. It is in the best interest of the kids to have them participate in the program. We don't want to say no to a child but the parent doesn't want to participate what do you do.

Mr. Coppola suggested that the Football program send out letters regarding the sponsorship to past players, graduates of AHS, etc. and hopefully we can get some of them to sponsor a child.

Mr. Devine asked how they determine the eligibility for a scholarship – school lunch program, etc.

Mr. Danka said that is up to the Recreation Commission to come up with guidelines and income guidelines and to set the standard for a scholarship. He said the Boys & Girls Club has a scholarship program. Mr. Coppola should get those guidelines for reference to see what they do.

Ms. Lynch said it is hard to advertise for this, we don't want to turn away a child.

There was discussion that the scholarship parents say “my kid plays for free”. The scholarship is for people who cannot afford the registration fee.

Ms. Lynch asked if Recreation is hitting the parents too hard with football, baseball, soccer, etc.

Mr. Danka said a lot of the kids that play football don't play other sports. A lot of the parents are on a payment plan so before the season begins in August they are paid in full. He said they have a program that figures the fee for the payment plan and if there are other siblings in the program we lower the fee.

Mr. Devine made a motion to approve the registration fee of \$200 for the 2014 season for the 4th through 8th grade tackle football and competitive cheer program and \$125 fee for the non-competitive cheer (mighty mites) program. Flag Football will be free. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ms. Lynch asked what the Flag Football program gets.

Mr. Danka said there is a Flag Football Association with eleven (11) other towns. The 3rd and 4th grade teams normally play tackle. Non-tackle for 3rd and 4th grade is not offered in Ansonia. So we pulled the 3rd and 4th grade teams away to go and play flag football. We are going back to the original Flag football program which will be an Instructional League. We opened it up to everybody and we will try to get play time for everyone.

Mr. Coppola said we have to have something for these kids. Oxford has a Flag League and we can join the Oxford League and be included with their teams. Oxford has four (4) teams and Ansonia has two (2) teams.

Mr. Danka asked if there is a charge for this league.

Mr. Coppola said he will run the Flag Football league and he will talk to Todd Comada on joining Oxford and setting up games with other towns.

Ms. Lynch said Ansonia has contact football for 4th grade and the 3rd grade has the option to go up and play the contact sport.

Mr. Coppola said yes.

Mr. Devine made a motion to approve the Executive Board for the AYF Football Program as presented by Mr. Danka:

John Chrzanowski – President
Alex Danka - Vice-President
Jennifer Millea – Treasurer
Courtney Conniff-Guggenheim – Secretary

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

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

Soccer

Mr. Chris Sheehy was present.

Mr. Sheehy said they had two registration dates – January 21st which was cancelled due to a snow storm and January 28th which was held at the Armory. They had 193 kids register at the Armory on January 28th. This figures is in line with a typical season registration so there will be no other registration date. He said he is accepting registrations via e-mail or phone call. To date the total registered is 205 players.

Mr. Sheehy said they are processing those registrations and the uniform order will go out in a week. He said they owe the CJSA due and a list of the teams and Travel teams and the schedule. He said his schedule should be ready by 3/2/2014.

Mr. Sheehy discussed the work on the field and where they will practice and play their games. They will play on the same fields they played last year and the practice sessions will be shuffled around. There is no equipment or field expenses for the spring season.

Mr. Sheehy said that the Financial report was sent to everyone in their packet. They are light on equipment expenses and they hold a team/player picture fundraiser and car wash at Hilltop Hose.

Mr. Sheehy said he will have the scheduling ready for March 2 and that there will be no games scheduled at the Ansonia Nature Center on Earth Day.

Mr. Coppola said he will meet with Mr. Rowley on the soccer and baseball fields for the spring season.

Mr. Sheehy discussed the Flag Football program and the effect on soccer. He said he would rather have the kids play in a sport and it evens out the teams for soccer and flag football.

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

Baseball & Softball

Mr. Robert DeFelice was present.

Mr. DeFelice said they held four registration dates so far. The numbers should be comparable to last year. On 2/6/14 there is another registration for all the late people. He said they will continue to take registrations at the clinics. The participation in the clinics are really strong. He said they had to break up the groups into smaller units because there were too many children. He said they will continue the clinics and he will get the dates and timing to Mr. Coppola.

Ms. Lynch asked if there are any more dates.

Mr. DeFelice said there is a meeting tomorrow but if the storm closes everything he will e-mail everyone to cancel. He said registration is good and there are two (2) major teams in baseball and there are about 30 kids from Derby who may come to Ansonia to play.

Mr. Coppola said Mr. DeFelice has Saturday from 1 to 7 and Mead School 6 to 9. He said if Mr. DeFelice needs another day to let him know.

Mr. DeFelice said that Mead School is nice.

Mr. Devine said why Derby has 30 kids.

Mr. DeFelice said that there are 29 girls from Derby that want to play and they don't have a program. Hopefully there will be more signing up. We don't have enough in Ansonia and Derby doesn't have enough so we should combine the program.

Ms. Lynch said to keep track of the numbers because we will need them when we talk about the program and combining the groups.

Mr. DeFelice said we would have a better program if we combined.

Ms. Lynch agreed.

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

Basketball

Mr. Coppola is present.

Mr. Coppola said the Instructional League is in the Armory every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There is about 70 kids participating and they are doing great. He said that March 8, 2014 will be the last day for the Instructional program. There will be a Pizza party and trophy's given out to the kids. It was a 13 to 14 week program at the Armory. He thanked Mr. Cratty for his help.

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

Public Session

There was no one from the public who wished to address the commission.

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

Reports: Alison Rublemann, Ansonia Nature Center Director

Ms. Rublemann is present this evening.

Ms. Rublemann said everyone has her report. She asked if there were any questions or comments. She would be happy to answer them.

Ms. Lynch asked how the interviews were going for the Asst. Nature Center Director position.

Ms. Rublemann said there were three (3) applicants and she and the Personnel Director made a decision however the person hasn't been notified yet.

Mr. Devine asked how the repairs from the storm damage were doing.

Ms. Rublemann said during the February school break they will do the repairs. The floors will be replaced and some of the furniture will be replaced. The floor dried out quickly with the heating system in the building.

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

Reports: Jeffrey Coppola, Recreation Director

Mr. Coppola is present this evening.

Mr. Coppola said there is a bus trip scheduled for 2/19/14 to UCONN Women's basketball game. There were 55 tickets. There are 25 tickets left. The cost is \$25.

Mr. Coppola asked for permission to purchase a Batting Cage for the Armory. A Batting Cage like the one he is looking at costs \$8000 new. The one he has found is \$3500 used but in excellent condition. It can be placed on the ceiling of the Armory and has a motor to bring it up and down. He is asking for permission to look into getting the funds to purchase this item.

Mr. Devine asked what it looks like and its condition.

Mr. Coppola said he has seen it and we are saving a lot of money and it is motorized. If Public Works or the Little League parents can put it up it will be a nice asset for the Armory. We can rent out time in the Armory for use of the Batting Cage.

Chris Sheehy suggested that Mr. Coppola contact the Valley Community Foundation for a donation or grant. They may donate money for this type of activity for the children. They have helped the soccer program.

Ms. Lynch asked Mr. Coppola if they could paint the inside of the Armory before they install the new floor. She asked if PWD could do this.

Mr. Coppola said he did speak to them about painting the Armory gym but they will not paint it. They will touch up the brown spots and the leakage spots.

There was a discussion on the cost of the floor and the painting of the Armory.

Mr. Coppola said next Thursday February 13, 2014, the Men's Basketball League begins at Mead School gym. They take in money and pay the referees. They will play every Thursday.

He said the Men's Softball league will begin in the Spring/Summer and use the field at Nolan Field. The field will be fixed as a softball field.

Chairman Smith asked if we charge them a fee to play.

Mr. Coppola said there is no expense to the City of Ansonia for these programs. The money they collect goes to pay the referees and run the program.

Mr. Devine asked if the seating will be replaced at the Armory.

There was discussion on a committee that was appointed to work on the repairs to the Armory with the grant that was awarded. The committee discussed seats that roll up.

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

Committee Reports

There are no committee reports this month.

Chairman Smith discussed liaison representatives from the Recreation Commission to the various sport programs. He said the liaison can report to the Commission what is happening with their program. It would be beneficial to the programs should they need help with anything that may come up in the program.

Ms. Lynch said the liaison representatives from the Commission are:

Little League:	Jeff Devine
Football Cheer:	Anne Lynch
Soccer:	Mike Cratty
Football:	Steve Kichar

Basketball: Jeff Coppola

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cratty made a motion to accept as written the minutes of the Organization Meeting and the Regular Meeting held on January 7, 2014 meeting. Mr. Devine seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

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

1. Seymour Ambulance for AFT Training & CPR for Little League Coaches: \$80.00

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

Correspondence

1. AHS Athletic Dept., Anthony Piccolo re: request to use the ANC for Middle School Boys baseball from mid-March through mid-May 2014. Dtd. 1/8/14

Mr. Coppola said as long as the Recreation Commission approves it he can schedule around them and he will work with PWD. He said Assumption School will also be using the field.

Mr. Devine asked if there was any problem with the PWD doing the fields.

Mr. Coppola said no, they are very good about the fields.

Mr. Cratty made a motion to give Jeff Coppola permission to handle this request. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Any other business to come before the commission

Mr. Devine asked if all of the bills to be paid come from Jeff Coppola.

Mr. Coppola said he receives all of the bills and they go through him for payment and he has them approved by the Comptroller and Mayor.

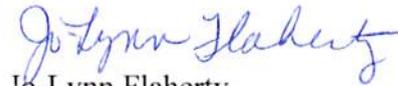
Executive Session

None

Adjourn

Mr. Devine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary