



City of Ansonia

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TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

March 4, 2014

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Michael Cratty
Frank DeLibero
Jeff Devine
Anne Lynch
Steve Sobolisky
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 6:00p.m.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll.

There was a quorum present.

Director Reports

Football

Alex Danka, Shawn Vension, Jen Millea, and Lou Criscolo were present.

Mr. Danka said registration will be held within a few weeks. He said they are looking forward to a positive year and they will have the football and cheer reports for next month.

Mr. Coppola asked if there was anything unusual.

Mr. Danka said no, they are reviewing the equipment that they will need. He said Jen Millea is the treasurer and is working very hard.

Ms. Lynch said the Commission will do all we can to help.

Soccer

Mr. Chris Sheehy was not present.

Mr. Coppola said he spoke to Chris Sheehy and there is no report this month. He said there is no change in the financial statement, there has been no money collected this month. There will be a full report next month.

Baseball & Softball

Mr. Robert DeFelice was not present.

Mr. Coppola said Mr. DeFelice is at the Armory doing the clinics this evening. There will be a report for next month.

Basketball

Mr. Coppola is present.

Mr. Coppola said the basketball program will end on March 8th. It was run for 14 weeks for the 5, 6, and 7 year olds. There were 70 kids registered. They all had a good time.

Mr. Coppola invited the Commission members to the end of the season party to be held at Assumption Church Hall on March 8, 2014 at 12:30 p.m. There will be a magician, pizza and a gift (slip bag) for the children. It will be a good time.

Public Session

Mr. Alex Danka invited the commission members to the Football/Cheer banquet to be held on Sunday, March 9, 2014 at the Armory. The Football banquet will be from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. and the Cheer Banquet will be from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Both banquets will be at the Armory.

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

There was no one.

Mr. Devine 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 there was a mistake on her report. She put "February" and it should be "March". She said she has given the secretary a corrected copy for the file.

Ms. Rublemann reviewed the Calendar of Events for the Nature Center.

Mr. Devine received his copy in the mailing at home. He discussed more involvement with volunteers at the Nature Center.

Mr. Devine asked Ms. Rublemann how the response has been from Public Works with regard to her wish list.

Ms. Rublemann said she has given Mr. Novak a new copy of the list of things that have to be done at the Nature Center.

Discussion on doing the work at the Nature Center in house so that the Nature Center doesn't have to go out to bid. The work to be done should not affect the operation at the Nature Center.

Mr. Devine asked about the flood damage to the Red Wing Pond House and if it has been fixed.

Ms. Rublemann said the dry wall and flooring is covered by the City of Ansonia. The Friends of the Nature Center has their own insurance to help with the repair and clean up. The City of Ansonia insurance will not cover the furniture, it covers just the building. They installed new floors and the painting will be done this summer.

Ms. Lynch asked if the school is back in session.

Ms. Rublemann said yes, they are in there and in session.

Mr. Sobolisky 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 said he doesn't have a written report.

Mr. Coppola said the trip to the UCONN basketball game was successful. There were 55 people who attended. He said all trips and clinics were approved by the Commission. He is in the process of trying to set up a Recreation account where he can collect fees and then use the fees to pay for the tickets and bus transportation to the events. He said he is not sure how Mr. Nimons will set up this account. There will be three signers – Mayor, Recreation Commission member and Mr. Coppola.

Mr. Coppola said this account will help when he begins running Adult Clinics and trips. This UCONN trip was done with the help of Mr. Bshara, Asst. Comptroller. He said that the commission needs their own account.

Ms. Lynch asked if Mr. Coppola has met with Mr. Nimons on this account.

Mr. Coppola said yes he has and the account is on hold for now. He said he will do whatever they are comfortable with.

Mr. Coppola said the Armory floor will be done the beginning of May and will not be finished for three months. These are the least busy months. The YMCA uses the Armory during the summer months for their day care however he has notified the YMCA of these dates.

Mr. Coppola said that the Soccer Travel Team run by Vin Forleo is requesting to use the Armory on Wednesday and Friday evening. These days can change but right now it is Wednesday & Friday.

Mr. Coppola said he will get everyone a copy of the Armory schedule for next month.

Mr. Devine asked how the budget was progressing.

Mr. Coppola said he attended the workshop and BOAT asked to cut 4% from the budget. He said unfortunately football got the most cuts. They took 20% off of the mileage stipend.

Mr. Coppola said he asked for what football needed - \$30,000 but he didn't get it. He said there has to be some fundraising i.e. sponsors and fundraisers to get the registration fee down. The

City of Ansonia is not going to fund it. We need to get more kids participating. The budget passed with the 4% cut.

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

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 Regular Meeting held on February 4, 2014 meeting. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Coppola presented the following bills:

1. City Stitchers for shirts and end of the year gifts for instructional basketball.
\$925.00
2. Trip: \$1385 was deposited into the new line item for income to pay for the trip.
Trip: \$1385 was used to pay for the expenses of the trip to UCONN Basketball game.

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

Correspondence

None

The secretary shared the New Haven Register newspaper article on Chairman Al Smith serving as Mayor for a Day with Mayor Casseti.

Any other business to come before the commission

Paul Velardi said as the sports programs submit their reports is there a tallying of the reports to measure trends on equipment to see where the money is spent.

Chairman Smith said the commission just gets the reports for the month with the current expenses and revenue.

There was discussion on tracking the trends from year to year on equipment and uniforms by the sports programs. Mr. Coppola said he would look into the tracking of equipment and uniforms.

The two new members –Frank DeLibero and Paul Velardi were introduced and they each gave a brief history of their experience.

Executive Session

Ms. Lynch made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss issues with the AYF football and cheer program. Those present were invited to stay. Mr. DeLibero seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. DeLibero made a motion to go back into regular session. There were no motions or votes made during Executive Session. Mr. Velardi seconded. All in favor, so carried.

There was discussion on the registration fees for football and cheer. The fees discussed for Registration this year are:

- \$200 for the first child
- \$160 for the second child in the family
- \$140 for each additional child in the family

Jen Millea explained the fee structure for registration. She emphasized that should a family have more than one child participating in the program there is a graduated fee scale. They have eliminated the \$50 fundraising fee.

Chairman Smith said that Ms. Millea should give the Commission a written report of what the AYF wants to do for their program. He said they (AYF Executive Board) is running the football and cheer program and if there is something the Commission doesn't like they will tell them. He said it is up to them to run the program because the Recreation Commission does not want to dictate when they begin the registration and the program and how they run it. You tell the Commission how you will run the program and what you will do.

Mr. Vension said they want the Registration fees to be \$200 for the first child, \$160 for the second child in the family and \$140 for each additional child in the family.

Mr. Velardi asked if this could affect the collection of the uniforms. There is currently 43 kids who have not turned in their uniform.

Ms. Millea said it could. She said they have to purchase socks, belts, sneakers, pads and they are not returning uniforms to us.

There was discussion on return of uniforms and equipment and the payment of registration fees along with the volunteer and fundraising fees. They are trying to keep the registration fees reasonable for participants and for families who have more than one child in the program. They also have a payment plan for payment of the registration fees to help families who cannot pay the entire fee at the time of registration.

Chairman Smith advised them to implement their program and should there be a grievance against it that party can bring it to the Recreation Commission through Recreation Director Jeff Coppola and we will straighten it out. He said we do not want to tell you how to run your program.

Mr. Devine made a motion to approve the registration fees for the AYF Football and Cheer program as follows:

- \$200 for the first child
- \$160 for the second child in the family
- \$140 for each additional child in the family

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

Mr. Cratty made a motion to appoint Steve Sobolisky, replacing Steve Kichar as the Football Liaison representative from the Recreation Commission. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ms. Lynch made a motion to appoint Paul Velardi, who will assist Mike Cratty as the Soccer Liaison representative from the Recreation Commission. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to appoint Frank DeLibero, who will assist Jeff Devine as the Baseball/Softball Liaison representative from the Recreation Commission. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Recreation Commission Liaison Representatives:

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|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Baseball/Softball: | Jeff Devine
Frank DeLibero |
| Football Cheer: | Anne Lynch |
| Football: | Steve Sobolisky |
| Soccer: | Mike Cratty
Paul Velardi |
| Basketball: | Jeff Coppola |

Ms. Millea said she didn't understand the roll of the Liaison.

Ms. Lynch said that the Liaison works with the program to help it run smoothly. If there is a question, the Liaison can bring it to the Commission.

A discussion followed on the Liaison's duties and responsibilities for the program and for the Commission.

Chairman Smith thanked everyone for all of their hard work that is put forth for the youth of Ansonia in running these sport programs. He also thanked the commissioners for a good meeting this evening and for their time serving on the Commission.

Adjourn

Mr. Cratty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary