



City of Ansonia

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ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

April 1, 2014

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Michael Cratty
Frank DeLibero
Jeff Devine
Anne Lynch – left 7:10 p.m.
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.

Election of Vice-Chairman

Chairman Smith called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Cratty nominated Anne Lynch for Vice-Chairman of the Recreation Commission. Mr. Sobolisky seconded.

Chairman Smith asked three (3) times if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, Chairman Smith closed nominations and called for a voice vote. All were in favor, the motion carried. Anne Lynch was elected Vice-Chairman.

Ms. Lynch accepted the nomination and thanked everyone.

Director Reports

Football

Alex Danka, Jen Millea, and Lou Criscuolo were present.

Mr. Danka, Vice-President of AYF Executive Board said the banquet went well and they are currently holding football clinics. He introduced Lou Criscuolo.

Mr. Criscuolo is running the three clinics on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Ansonia Middle School. There are 35 kids enrolled from 3rd grade to 7th grade. There will be two sessions if enough players enroll. The clinic will carry over to May 28th. The football season begins August 4, 2014 and the clinics will keep the players in shape. There has been a good reaction from the parents.

Mr. Danka said there has been registration and 50 players registered for football and 40 girls registered for Cheer. The Parents Club/Executive Board had a couple of meetings which were opened to the public.

Mr. Velardi asked if there are any significant changes in the By-laws.

Mr. Danka said they added a Vice-President of Cheer and a Vice-President of Football. They will make sure the registration and forms are done correctly and they will work together with the other officers. They added different divisions for Cheer and classes for Football to make it easier for the kids.

Mr. Devine asked if the By-laws list the officers.

Ms. Lynch said in the last packet the officers were listed.

Mr. Danka said the only new officers are the V.P. of Cheer and the V.P. of Football and we defined their roles in the By-laws. Line 8 in the report lists the new officers.

The new officers for the AYF Executive Board are:

V.P. of Football:	Lou Criscuolo
V.P. of Cheer:	Amy Butler
Football Coordinator:	Shawn Vension
Cheer Coordinator:	Pat Crisante

Mr. DeLibero made a motion to approve the above listed officers. Mr. Velardi seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Danka said any checks that are over \$500 both he and Jenn Millea must sign.

Mr. Coppola said any funds that are expended, the Executive Board is notified by e-mail and phone calls. The preferred method of notification is e-mail.

Ms. Millea said she sends an e-mail to all Executive Board members when any money is spent.

Mr. DeLibero asked whose money is being spent – City of Ansonia or Parent’s Club.

Mr. Coppola said the City of Ansonia’s money is spent through purchase orders through the City’s system. The Parent’s Club money is spent through their Board of Directors and Executive Board.

Mr. Velardi asked if they discuss their expenses i.e. upcoming expenses, all expenses and do they prepare a budget.

Ms. Millea said we discuss the expenses and the budget.

A discussion on the spending procedure for the Executive Board and the budget preparation continued.

Ms. Lynch asked if they were adding another team – Item 7 in the AYF report reads:

“We are investigating and gauging interest in offering an additional tackle football team for the upcoming season. This team would consist of 2nd and 3rd grade children. The registration fee would be \$125.”

Ms. Lynch said that a law was passed that we could not do tackle football with 2nd grade children.

Mr. Criscuolo said years ago they had the 79er’s and that was flag football. He said 7, 8 and 9 year olds have to play tackle football but it is not mandatory.

Mr. Coppola said the Recreation Commission passed a rule that 2nd graders cannot play tackle football but if there is interest, they can look at it. The Recreation Commission will have to

accept the By-laws as presented allowing the 79er's. There are 22 kids interested in the 79er program.

Ms. Lynch asked about the 3rd and 4th grade team.

Mr. Criscuolo said there are 5 kids interested.

Mr. DeLibero said AYF has no weight restrictions.

Ms. Lynch said if there is an interest you would have to come to the Recreation Commission with it.

Mr. Danka said registration will be held in June or July and we'll see if we have interest.

Mr. DeLibero said you need a person to coach this team who is really qualified in those skills or someone can get really hurt.

Mr. Criscuolo said we are looking for a qualified person who can teach the proper techniques. We are strong about that.

Ms. Lynch asked if the 4th graders will have their own tackle team.

Ms. Millea said the rule that was passed by the Recreation Commission, where is it. She asked if there are written rules and where they are.

Mr. Coppola said if the Commission accepts the By-laws and the AYF Board comes back, they can have the 79er's team.

Mr. Sobolisky said the AYF Board submitted their By-laws.

Mr. Criscuolo said the children must be in the 2nd grade.

Mr. Danka said Recreation can accept the By-laws as given and they are holding off on the 79er's team.

Mr. Velardi said tackle football is in the By-laws.

The commissioners stated they will continue the discussion on football later in the meeting.

Soccer

Mr. Chris Sheehy was present.

Mr. Sheehy said the Soccer report was in the Commission's packet. Everything is straight forward. They will be kicking off the season this week. The games this weekend are away games for the Travel team. Next week the Recreation Program season begins.

Mr. Coppola said Mr. Velardi and Mr. Sheehy will coach the U-12 boys' team. They have 23 boys registered.

Mr. Sheehy said they will split up the boys so they get more playing time. There will be an A squad and a B squad. We are trying to schedule more games. Coaches are hard to come by as is field time.

Mr. Velardi said the Travel Teams are becoming more popular and we have to figure how to accommodate them.

Mr. Sheehy said they can have 8 kids on the field at one time and try to make sure all of the kids get enough playing time.

Mr. Devine said you submit the coaches, does Recreation have to approve them.

Mr. Coppola said we get them from the Soccer League so that we can have them on file. We can accept them or approve them.

Mr. Sheehy said he gives the Commission a list of coaches and roster for the file. He said he will give the report of all of the coaches and background checks if the Commission wants it.

Mr. Devine said if there is a disciplinary problem do they handle it or do they come back to the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Velardi said if there is a parent complaint, it has to be brought to the Recreation Commission and be discussed.

Mr. DeLibero said he should not bring it back to the commission, Mr. Coppola should bring it to the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Sheehy said there is a form filled out for injuries and it gets submitted for informational purposes.

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to accept Mr. Sheehy's soccer report. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Coppola said there were 35 to 40 kids at the Nature Center cleaning up the leaves and cutting the bushes and brush. He said they did a great job.

Ms. Rublemann said they did a great job and she has a guy cleaning the Pavilion.

Baseball & Softball

Mr. Robert DeFelice was present.

Mr. DeFelice said there are 280 kids registered for baseball and softball. There are 10 softball teams and 15 baseball teams. The season begins April 12, 2014.

Mr. DeFelice said they will try to go outside for practice but the ground is very wet. He said Mr. Coppola was helpful with the use of the Armory.

Mr. DeFelice said there is a District 3 umpire clinic from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on April 2, 2014 and April 9, 2014. 13 years old and older can take part in the clinic. They pay \$35 a game.

Mr. DeFelice said there will be an Executive Board Meeting on April 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. DeFelice said registration is about 40 to 50 kids higher than last year. Derby has 41 girls playing in Ansonia. There are 2 Minor teams and 2 Major teams. There are 2 or 3 Coach Pitch teams.

Mr. DeLibero made a motion to accept Mr. DeFelice's Baseball/Softball report. Mr. Devine seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Basketball

Mr. Coppola is present.

Mr. Coppola said the Basketball program has ended.

Football

There was discussion on the AYF By-Laws as presented to the Recreation Commission. The section that relates to tackle football is section 9.5 as follows:

“AYF&C is a member of the CYFCL and AYFC which follows the grade appropriate guidelines as outlined in the National AYFC rule/guideless. AYF&C shall not allow any child to participate in full contact football under the grade level of second grade (2nd). Flag football is offered for children 5 years old to 3rd grade. Non Competitive cheerleading is offered to children 5-8 years old. Competitive cheerleading is offered following the CYFCL and AYFC rules/guidelines.”

Mr. Danka said he would like a listing of all of the executive board meetings for all of the Parent's Organizations. He said he may want to attend these meetings to see how they do things.

He said maybe the Recreation Commission can put these Executive Board meetings on the website.

Mr. Coppola said the tackle football ruling would have been passed within the last three years. He said the Commission can accept the By-laws which supersedes the other rules. You can accept them and if there is interest in tackle football for the 22 children the Executive Board can come back to the commission.

Mr. Danka said if there is not enough kids to play and not enough interest in the tackle program we won't have it.

Mr. Coppola suggested they wait to see what kind of interest they have in the program.

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to accept the AYF By-laws and Report as submitted. Mr. DeLibero seconded.

Mr. Velardi said with regard to tackle football if we accept the By-laws and approve 9.5 as is we approve it. Someone was going to research the previous ruling.

Mr. DeLibero said we can accept the AYF By-laws and if they have enough kids to play tackle we can accept #7 of the report.

Mr. Danka said if you have rules on this, we can write up a revision and re-submit it.

Mr. Velardi said if Recreation is not going to approve it what happens to the program.

Ms. Lynch said that is what happened to the flag football team last year. No one coordinated it and there were no games for the kids.

Ms. Millea said it is either tackle or non-tackle, cheer competitive or non-competitive.

Ms. Lynch said that the AYF Board has to be very clear to the kids and the parents as to what is happening with the program so the kids are not disappointed.

Ms. Millea said we have to see if there is enough kids that have signed up to play. She said they have been approached by parents that want their kids in tackle football in 2nd and 3rd grade.

Mr. Danka discussed the different leagues and what they offer for the players in that age group. He stressed that they have to have enough kids signed up to play in order to have the program and participate in the league.

Mr. Coppola said the commission can accept the report and the By-laws and they can come back for the tackle football if the numbers are there to field a team.

Mr. Danka said the tackle program is in limbo.

Chairman Smith said if the Commission accepts the By-laws and report and the numbers are OK they can play tackle in 2nd and 3rd grade.

Mr. Coppola said no one has concerns with the 2nd grade playing tackle.

Ms. Lynch said there are concerns.

Mr. Sobolisky said it is up to the parents if they want their child to play tackle football.

Chairman Smith asked if everyone was in favor. There were two no votes: (Mr. Velardi and Mr. Devine voted no).

Mr. Sobolisky said we should not tell the parents what they should and should not do for their children it is up to them. He asked for a roll call vote on the motion.

Mr. Sobolisky said no one is saying they don't want their kid to play.

Mr. DeLibero said our responsibility should be to be sure each kid is properly equipped to play.

Mr. Danka said they are under the assumption that Recreation Commission cannot dictate to them how they run their program. The only thing they can say anything about is how we spend our money.

Mr. Coppola said the City can have a say in the program because it is a City of Ansonia program.

Chairman Smith said the Charter says all different programs. A person takes charge and presents the program. Recreation doesn't dictate what they do. Recreation lets each one come and tell the Commission what their program is and we approve it.

Mr. Coppola said the Recreation Commission is put together to govern the sports, to do what is best for each program. The programs are using taxpayer money, city fields and facilities and together we run the programs. The Executive Boards for the programs run the programs for the City but Recreation Commission does have a say in what is going on with the programs. He said the Commission doesn't have to accept the By-laws and they will have to change them. He said accepting or not accepting them he will speak with Corporation Counsel.

Mr. Danka said there is not enough kids to run the tackle program.

Mr. Sobolisky said it is not up to us to say if they can do it or not.

Mr. DeLibero said if 40 kids want to play it affects Recreation if they need more equipment.

Mr. Velardi said they use City of Ansonia money and we support the nature of those programs. Football brought forward a change and put in tackle football for 2nd grade. He said he would like to know why.

Ms. Lynch said she was told it was for the safety of the kids that tackle was not in the program for 2nd and 3rd grade.

Mr. DeLibero said it is not here at Recreation whether a program is safe or not. We can vote to do an exploratory if there are enough kids.

Mr. Danka said we are giving them an option to have Flag Football or Tackle Football. If we don't do that they will go to Derby, Seymour or Woodland.

Chairman Smith said they are here to present their program. We can accept it or not.

There was discussion on acceptance of the program and By-laws.

Chairman Smith called for a Roll Call vote on the motion to accept the By-laws and report.

Roll Call Vote:

Michael Cratty:	Yes
Frank DeLibero:	Yes
Anne Lynch:	Yes
Steve Sobolisky:	Yes
Al Smith:	Yes

Paul Velardi:	No
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Jeff Devine:	Abstain
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The motion carried: 5 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain.

Public Session

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

There was no one.

Chairman Smith closed the public session.

Reports: Alison Rublemann, Ansonia Nature Center Director

Ms. Rublemann is present this evening.

Ms. Rublemann said everyone should have her report. Earth Day will be celebrated at the Nature Center on Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. She invited everyone to come up to the Nature Center and enjoy the day.

Ms. Rublemann said she spoke to the horse training center and told them they are not allowed on the Ansonia Nature Center trails with the horses.

There was discussion on the Nature Center trails and the State of Connecticut property that abuts the Nature Center. Ms. Rublemann said she advised them that the State of CT property would be OK for them to use but they could not use the trails at the Nature Center. He told her he would take care of the problem and for Ms. Rublemann to let him know if it continues or happens again.

Mr. Velardi asked how often this has been a problem.

Ms. Rublemann said all the time on the trails. There are no horses or ATV's allowed. The City of Ansonia would be liable. She said she would like a sign posted.

Chairman Smith advised her to speak with Public Works for the sign.

There was discussion on the Garden Club merging with FANCI. Ms. Rublemann said the FANCI is going through a transition period and they are looking for new officers to take over their projects.

Mr. Devine 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 the commissioners have his report. He asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Coppola said they will remove the basketball hoop located in Nelligan's Park in the parking lot. It is not being used.

Mr. Devine asked if Public Works maintains the basketball hoops at Prendergast School.

Mr. Coppola said the City will have a Summer Program at Prendergast School this year.

There was discussion on the removal of the basketball hoop at Nelligan's Park. Mr. Velardi asked if any of the neighborhood children use this basketball hoop. Mr. Cratty and Mr. Devine said they have not seen anyone using it and they are there all the time.

Mr. Devine made a motion to remove the basketball hoop located at Nelligan's Park. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Coppola said that the outfield fence located at the Abe Stone Little League field will be removed because it is broken and needs repair. He said he is asking the commission to vote to remove this fence.

Mr. Devine asked if Mr. DeFelice has a position on the removal of this fence.

Harry Danley was present at this time. He asked to address the Commission.

Mr. Danley said that the fence has been there for years. He said he disagrees with this because the fence is in decent shape and it should not be taken down. It has been there for 50 years. He said that it could be repaired, the protectors are there.

Mr. Coppola said that the foreman for PWD discussed it with him and the fence is in need of repair and should be removed.

A discussion followed on the condition of the fence and the reasons why it is to be removed. Mr. Danley stated the reasons the fence should remain and not be removed. He said that the Mayor agreed to keep the fence up.

Mr. Danley said to go to any town and see if the outfield fence is down.

Mr. Devine asked who asked to take the fence down.

Mr. Sobolisky asked the reason it is to be removed.

Mr. Coppola said the fence is in need of repair and has to be fixed. There are dogs that are let in there to run and they do their "business" on the field and it has to be maintained.

Mr. Danley said before you take a vote to remove it go up there and look at it.

Mr. Coppola said it needs repair and PWD would like to remove it.

Mr. Danley said you are using tax payer money to remove it.

Mr. Devine said he recommends tabling this to next month so the members can go up there and take a look at the fence and field.

Mr. Sobolisky asked how much it will cost roughly to repair the fence.

Mr. Danley said it would be a huge difference in repairing it and leaving it as a baseball field rather than removing it.

Mr. Coppola said there is dog poop in there all over the field. He asked who will pick this up so the field can be used.

There was a discussion on the above.

Mr. Danley said you are taking away the character of the Little League field.

Mr. Coppola said table this request but it was recommended by the Supt. of Public Works to remove the fence.

Mr. Devine made a motion to table this request and wait until next month to vote on removing the Little League fence upon recommendation of the Supt. of PWD. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Danley thanked the commissioners.

Mr. Cratty made a motion to accept Mr. Coppola's report. Mr. DeLibero 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 March 4, 2014 meeting. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Coppola presented the following bills:

1. Blanchettes: \$771.00
2. Blanchettes: \$2028.00 Baseball equipment
3. Blanchettes: \$215.50
4. Webster Procurement: \$72.41 (supplies for end of year party)
5. Massiminos Pizzeria: \$200.00 Pizza Basketball Instructional party
6. Massiminos Pizzeria: \$200 Pizza Cheer party
7. Danny Magic LLC: \$300 Basketball event 3/8/14

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

Correspondence

1. FOI Sunshine Seminar

Any other business to come before the commission

Mr. Coppola said Assumption School baseball will use ANC for their home games. They have five or six games. The time is 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. He said he will work out the schedule with the Recreation games. He said that the Ansonia Middle School will also be using the field.

Mr. Cratty made a motion to allow Assumption School to use the ANC field for their home games. Mr. Velardi seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Executive Session

None

Adjourn

Mr. Cratty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Velardi seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary