



City of Ansonia

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ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

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ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

April 7, 2015
Regular Meeting

MINUTES

The Regular meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:10.

Roll call:

Al Smith, Chairman	Absent
Anne Lynch	Present
Michael Cratty	Present
Paul Velardi	Present
Frank DeLibero, Jr.	Late
Jeff Devine	Present
Steve Sobolisky	Present

6 present, 1 absent

also present:

Jeff Coppola,
Recreation Director

A quorum was present

Vice Chairperson Lynch, declared the meeting open at 6:05. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Ms. Lynch then requested the monthly report for Football.

Mr. Fred Williams, President of AYFC presented his report. He stated that at the last meeting, the following people were appointed to the Football and Cheerleading Board: Vice President of Football Brian Piccirillo, Co- Coordinators Dan Lynch and Keith Maynard, Vice-President of Cheerleading: Megan O'Reilly, Co-Coordinators Amy Butler and Colleen Kiley. He then requested that the Commission approve them for the season.

He then stated that there was a letter that addressed a raffle that was conducted by a prior Board. That Board never completed the state requirements. He is requesting that this issue be given to Corporation Council. The members had a short discussion about this.

Mr. Williams then stated that as of the date the report was submitted, there are 29 cheerleaders

registered and 15 registered to play football. As of today, there are about 43 cheerleaders registered and there has not been any change with the amount of football players. At the next meeting, he will be discussing in person signups. Clinics are beginning at the Armory currently. Amy Butler and Brian Piccirillo are overseeing this.

Mr. Williams then stated that they do not have the key to the concession stand. It was suggested that they just get the locks changed. He then stated that he needs assistance regarding the user name and password for the website address (www.AnoniaCoppers.com). The problem is that it expires and the website shuts down and there's no way to get into the site without that information.

Alicia Mott, treasurer of the program stated that last year there were outstanding registrations and uniforms that weren't returned. She believes that during the January 6th meeting that some certified letters would be sent out. She would like to know if that had been done. Mr. Coppola stated that he will speak with Corporation Council Marini about this. Ms. Mott stated that there was one person that has paid since that meeting. She will give the information to Mr. Coppola later.

Mr. Williams indicated that he attached the current financial report to his monthly report for the member's convenience. Ms. Mott stated that they are in a new fiscal year and balances were carried over from the prior year. She was asked if she knew of any sizable outstanding bills. She stated that the only thing that is outstanding were the unpaid registrations.

Ms. Lynch then requested that Mr. Sheehy present the report for soccer. Mr. Sheehy presented his report to the members. He stated that the soccer season would begin this coming weekend. He requested that the fields be lined prior to this Saturday. He then indicated that Public Works does not have a copy of the schedule of the games yet. He stated that he would give them the schedule soon. The equipment and uniforms have been given out. All of the coaches have had background checks. There were no problems with any of them. The travel team has been approved. He apologized but the financial report is from the previous month. He will email the current one to the members.

He then indicated that there are under a lot of constraint with regard to field space for the number of children in the program. Year after year, the program is growing. They are not gaining any additional field space. They are wearing out the fields terribly. He doesn't know what the solution is, but he did suggest a short term solution. He approached Derby about possibly combining Ansonia and Derby's travel teams. Derby currently does not have a travel program. They do however have a dedicated soccer complex. So, they may be interested. He is looking to see what the Commission thinks of that solution before he reaches out to anyone from Derby. He then said that Mr. Velardi created a document addressing these needs.

Mr. Velardi stated that we are busting at the seams with the amount of children that are currently in the program. We are over utilizing the fields that we have. We have an average of 250 players that are using two fields. They are operating at more than 500 % of capacity. It is very crowded on the fields and there are a lot of player collisions on the field. There is a potential concern with respect to injuries. In addition, as the fields are used so much, grass doesn't get the chance to grow and

there are a lot of bald spots. Again this increases the occurrence of injuries. There are also a lot of pot holes. There isn't a lot of opportunity to shift fields from season to season. They are looking to work with Mr. Coppola to come up with proposals to bring back to the Commission at the next meeting. Mr. Devine asked if the High School field or Emmett O'Brien's fields are an option. He was told that they are both potential options. There is also the lower field at the Nature Center that is underutilized. However, it's not suitable for soccer and would require some investment to make it viable. There are also a multitude of baseball fields that may be able to be converted to a soccer field.

Ms. Lynch then requested that Mr. DeFelice present the baseball and softball report. Mr. Defelice stated that the teams are currently outside practicing. They started practicing outside this week. They are using Nolan Field complex, the softball field, little league and the JV fields. Colony Park field is not usable at this time. Softball is not able to use the field as it is too wet to play. Baseball will start playing games this Saturday. Softball is scheduled to start next weekend. The numbers for Baseball are slightly lower than last year, but children are still registering. Softball we have more players than last year. They are partnering with Derby. Derby sent over 35 girls and last year they sent over 40. They are ready to go and are just waiting for the fields to dry up.

Mr. Defelice then stated that there is a problem with the Nolan Field wooden back stop. He indicated that it is rotting out. Mr. Coppola stated that he will speak to someone regarding that and the dugout. It was scheduled to be fixed but he is unaware of how long it would take. There is no funding for capital improvements in the budget. Ms. Lynch asked if that was a safety issue. She was told that it was. Mr. DeFelice stated that last year it was capped off. But that isn't a permanent fix. Ms. Lynch requested that Mr. Blaze address this as soon as possible as it is a priority.

Ms. Lynch then asked Mr. Coppola if there was any report from Basketball. She was told that they are just holding the final end of year parties. He stated that he felt that it was a very successful year.

Ms. Lynch then asked if anyone wished to approve the minutes of the prior meeting. Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to approve last month's minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Velardi. All were in favor of the motion.

Ms. Lynch then entertained motions to approve the AYF board members. Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to approve the AYF board members and the football/cheerleading reports. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cratty.

Roll call:

Al Smith, Chairman	Absent
Anne Lynch	Yes
Michael Cratty	Yes
Paul Velardi	No
Frank DeLibero, Jr.	Yes
Jeff Devine	Yes
Steve Sobolisky	Yes

The motion was approved.

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to approve the football financial report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cratty. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to approve the soccer report and the financial report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cratty. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to approve the baseball and softball report and the financial report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cratty. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to approve the basketball report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cratty. All were in favor of the motion.

Ms. Lynch then opened the Public Session.

Christian Valencia, 5 Dempsey Road, stated that he represents the Adult Soccer League which is affiliates with the Connecticut Soccer Association. They represent the town for the past five years. They moved up to the first division this year and they take part in the state tournament. He has been requesting the usage of Charger field, the High School field, but he has not received a definitive answer to his request. He stated that he has been working with Mr. Coppola and Laurie Henri on requesting the usage. He hopes that he can get a definite answer with regards to his request. Mr. Coppola stated that the situation with that field is that field is used by the Board of Recreation and maintained by Public Works. He further stated that as he heard this evening, they are already in trouble with the current usage as it is. Mr. Valencia stated that he is requesting to use the fields for a total of 10 Sundays in the spring and 10 Sundays in the fall. Mr. Coppola stated that he is requesting to be using the field at the same time that the High School is using it for their season in the fall. In addition, they would have to request that Public Works has that field lined and cut every Sunday. This Commission can't agree to that. They would have to speak with Public Works to see if it is possible to accommodate them. Mr. Valencia stated that all of the team members are from Ansonia. He then stated that they can accommodate the City's schedule and adjust their time with that of the High School. Mr. Coppola stated that he would follow up on this matter.

(The balance of the minutes are based solely on the secretaries notes as the tape ended)

Nina Phipps, 60 Rockwood Avenue and David Rhodes, 146 Jackson Street stated that they are looking for donations for baseball. He stated that they need funds to pay for umpires and balls. The Commission was told that Mike Schriber paid the additional costs himself and is owed \$600. All of the players are Ansonia children. They play 30 games in 5 weeks. There are 18 home games. Mr. DeLibero stated that in the past the Babe Ruth league asked for donations and had banners that were hung around the 3rd base fence advertising the donor. They were able to raise quite a bit of funding using this method. Unfortunately the budget is already set for the year and there is no line item for donations.

Ms. Lynch asked if there was anyone else that wished to speak during the public session. No one else wished to speak.

Ms. Lynch then asked for the report from the Nature Center. Ms. Alison Rublemann stated that they are looking to make improvements to the Home Grown Playground. She stated that the playground is not in compliance and needs to be renovated. They are meeting with various vendors to see what they can do. It will be in the same location that it is currently in, but it will not be as large. They are seeking grants to fund this project and will the Friends of the Nature Center will be doing some fund raising via special events.

She then stated that there is an Eagle Project that is being done with the self-guided trail.

Ms. Rublemann then stated that there is a Ranger 1 position that is open and will be filled in the near future. Nature Days will be held on April 13-17. Earth Day celebration will be held on April 25th from 10 until 4.

Mr. Cratty made a motion to accept Ms. Rublemann's report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Devine. All were in favor of the motion.

Ms. Lynch then asked Mr. Coppola for his report.

Mr. Coppola stated that they are looking to do a trip to see a professional baseball game in the summer. They are looking for a game sometime near the 3rd of July.

He then stated that in regard to the Armory floor. There have been talks with the City engineer.

Mr. Coppola then suggested that they move Soccer to Nolan Field.

Mr. Coppola stated that Summer Camp was passed. However, the State didn't fund the Summer School programs. Ms. Rublemann stated that the Nature Center is having their summer program the first three weeks in August.

Mr. Coppola then suggested that the agenda be changed so that the Football report would be moved to the end of the sports reports. Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to move the Football report to the end of the sports reports. The motion was seconded by Mr. Velardi. All were in favor of the motion.

Ms. Lynch asked if there was anything else that needed to be discussed at this time. There was nothing else. She then entertained motions to adjourn.

Mr. Velardi made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cratty. All were in favor of the motion.

The meeting ended at 8:05.