

**February 10, 2009**

**Regular Meeting**

Present: Al Smith, Chairman  
Steve Kichar  
Jamie Puro  
Lynda Williams

Absent: Linda Darling  
Tom Lynch  
Sean Rowley

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Dir.  
Keith Maynard, Alderman  
Scott Nihill, Alderman

The regular meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Al Smith.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll. There was a quorum present.

**Executive Session (if needed)**

Mr. Kichar made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to reconvene the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

## **Public Session**

Mr. Kichar opened the public session and stated that there will be a two (2) minute limit for anyone who wishes to address the commission.

Alderman K. Maynard said that in the future the Recreation Commission should put the Executive Session at the end of the meeting so that they do not inconvenience the parents who are in attendance.

Mr. Kichar said the Commission had to discuss something of importance.

Mr. Maynard suggested the Commission meet earlier so that they could get their business done earlier for the parents who have to bring their children to the meeting.

There was a discussion on the above and the Commission members pointed out that the Executive Session is usually held at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Kichar asked three times if there was anyone else who wished to address the commission. There was no one.

Mrs. Williams made a motion to close the public session. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

## **Director's Reports:**

### **Baseball & Softball**

Mr. Ron Sells and Marty Mikos were present.

Mr. Kichar advised Mr. Sells that he is not approved as the Little League Director. Marty Mikos is approved.

Chairman Smith said the names are brought to the Recreation Commission by Jeff Coppola. Marty Mikos was approved last month by the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Sells said that Marty Mikos was present last month. He said he had a letter that he sent in with everyone's name on it for approval by the Commission.

Mr. Kichar said the only ones approved were Marty Mikos and Kathy Paskiewicz.

Mr. Sells said he sent a letter in December 2008 requesting the Commission approve Ron Sells, S. Tamburrino, K. Paskiewicz and M. Mikos.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Sells tried to get the \$20,000 that is designed for the Concession Stand.

Mr. Sells said that was in December.

Mr. Kichar said that there are rules and regulations that have to be followed. The October meeting you sat with the Recreation Commission. The sign up fees you did not meet with the Commission. The only person approved is Marty Mikos and Kathy Paskiewicz. We need it in our packet. You never went over the sign up fees.

Mr. Sells said that we went over the sign up fees. There is no change = it will remain at \$50. It is the same for the last three years. People can't afford it. He said who do I have to meet with.

Mr. Sells said to Mr. Coppola – Jeff you knew the fees.

Mr. Kichar said that Jeff did not sit with the Commission on this.

Mr. Coppola said that it was not discussed during the meeting. We said we would set the fee with the Recreation Commission liaisons.

Mr. Kichar said that people are being told there is a late fee if you sign up late. There is NO late fee ever. For sign ups Mr. Coppola or a commission member has to be there. This was discussed in the Alderman's Chambers in October.

There was discussion on turning the fees over to the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Kichar said this is tabled. We want you back but it has to be done right.

Mr. Sells said I put in more hours on this than I do on my job. The Derby people are yelling at me. We had a relationship within our community with Derby.

Chairman Smith asked if Marty Mikos was Director of Little League.

Mr. Kichar said yes, he was appointed last month.

Chairman Smith said Mr. Sells was involved with the Parent's Association and as part of the Parent's Association he can't be part of Little League as the Director.

Chairman Smith continued the Director of Little League and the Director of Softball take care of the registration with Mr. Coppola. Mr. Coppola is responsible for the sign ups and the fees. Mr. Coppola collects and takes the fees up to Mr. Miller, Comptroller. The Director of Little League sets up the programs. He asked Mr. Sells – what part do you want to be in this?

Mr. Coppola said that Ron Sells was the President of the Little League.

Chairman Smith said you have a Director of Baseball and a Director of Softball and the President is the Parent's Club.

Mr. Kichar said Little League is the only one that gets a president.

Mr. Kichar said that Mr. Sells is wanted as the President of Little League. He's done a great job and he has spent a lot of time from October to now. Mr. Sells can't be President of Little League and President of the Parent's Club. In December the whole Board said that Mr. Sells could be president but he chose not to because he wanted to get the \$20,000 check from the Mayor. The \$20,000 is in a separate line item for the Concession Stand.

Mr. Coppola said that a letter stating they were to be President of the Parent's Association has to be sent to the Commission.

Mr. Kichar said that Softball and Baseball haven't stepped forward with anyone. There is money in the budget for start up.

Tracy Adamowski said that she usually doesn't bring her children however she did not have anyone to leave them with this evening.

Mr. Kichar said that the Commission needs to have the letters ahead of time so that they could be sent out in the packages.

Mr. Sells said do you want Little League and Softball to stop running until you approve this. He said that Mr. Mikos said they need a separate letter. He said he met with Mayor Della Volpe a week ago on all of this.

Mr. Sells said he has been busy running background checks on those who wish to be coaches before they approach the Recreation Commission to approve anyone.

Mr. Sells said are you tabling the letter because the ladies have to leave and go home.

Mr. Kichar asked if they had anyone for the Parent's Association.

Mr. Sells said no one has come forward yet.

Mr. Kichar asked if the ladies present were here for softball.

Mr. Sells said yes, they will turn over the money after they are approved.

Mr. Sells said that the Recreation Commission minutes should be sent out to all of the Directors.

Mr. Kichar said that they are on file in the Town Clerk's office if anyone wants to read them or get a copy.

Mr. Kichar recognized Mrs. Adamowski and Ms. Sbardellati.

Mrs. Adamowski said that they are trying to get the Little League program on line ahead of time. There are background checks that have to be done. They have to get sponsors for the signs and shirts and they want to get it all done as soon as they can.

Mr. Sells said that they are seeking out sponsors for Family Day. They can't wait until the season opens it has to be done now. They have to go out with a letter that states they are approved to solicit sponsors for the program and right now they are not approved.

Mrs. Adamowski said that once they are approved Bernadine Gilbert will go over everything with them.

Mr. Coppola said that all fundraisers come to Recreation first. The group explains what the fundraiser is; they sponsor it and show the money going to the Parent's Association. He said Recreation is not running the Parent's Association but we need a report from them on all fundraisers and the Parent's Association needs to get permission from the Recreation Commission to sponsor a fundraiser.

Mrs. Adamowski said that the Recreation Commission should approve the Parent's Association officers so they can begin the season.

A letter was received from Michele Sbardellati, Amy Kleiner and Tracy Adamowski seeking appointment to the Parent's Association of softball.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to appoint Michele Sbardellati, Amy Kleiner and Tracy Adamowski to the Parent's Association of softball. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar said that the Little League Family Day will have to be held at the Ansonia Nature Center because Nolan Field is being repaired.

Mr. Sells said they can hold Family Day on the Little League Field.

There was a discussion on the fields at the Ansonia Nature Center and Nelligan Field.

A letter was received from Ron Sells seeking appointment as President of Ansonia Little League for the 2009 season.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to appoint Ron Sells as President of Little League for the 2009 season. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar said he will meet with Mr. Mikos, Ron Sells, Jeff Coppola, Keith Maynard, Scott Nihill, Lynda Williams and Jamie Puro to get all staff on the same page as a group.

There is a Little League meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 6:45 p.m. in the Erlingheusser Room and Mr. Kichar said they should go over everything with the committee because baseball and softball are year round sports.

Mr. Sells asked about date for the clinics.

Mr. Kichar said there are a lot of dates taken for the Armory. Mr. Coppola will have to go over the schedule – Men's Basketball is scheduled in there.

Mr. Sells said that he is getting squeezed out.

Mr. Kichar said that Recreation doesn't want to squeeze him or anyone out. The Commission lost 3 nights at the Middle School and 2 nights at Mead School and Prendergast School so the Recreation program is short on gym time.

Mr. Kichar said Craig Behun wanted the Men's Basketball League in the Armory and the Recreation Commission said no but he was allowed to go in there by a higher individual.

Mr. Sells said this was done after he set the dates for the clinics.

There was a discussion the registration dates and the dates for Little League try outs.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Coppola has to have a meeting with Mayor DellaVolpe and ask him about the use of the Armory and the Sunday dates.

Mr. Sells said that Saturday is OK. Sunday there is a question – Cheer groups are in there.

Mr. Kichar said Cheer is not in there.

Mr. Sells said they are in there to 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Kichar asked about 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Coppola said the high school baseball is in there on Sunday. We don't know who approved this.

Mr. Coppola said right now he has nothing scheduled for the Armory except C. Behun.

Mr. Kichar made a motion that from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday in the Armory it could be used for Baseball clinics pending Mr. Coppola's schedule allows it. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Coppola said on Sunday night there is pickup basketball.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to approve the Saturday dates as listed by Mr. Sells pending Mr. Coppola's schedule and if there are time slots available. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar said that registration fees must be turned in within 48 hours after they are collected.

Mr. Coppola said that he takes the checks collected at registration that night.

Mrs. Williams asked why registration is down to 120 kids.

Mr. Coppola said there is another registration scheduled.

There was a discussion on the collection of fees for registration and the process for depositing them into the City line items.

Mr. Sells said there is a question on the Derby issue.

Mr. Kichar said that Derby is calling Ansonia players and inviting them to play in their league with no registration fee. Their Recreation Commission doesn't have full authority because of the funding. He said the feedback on Derby is that there was trouble with them in the All Star program. He suggested that Mr. Sells call Shelton, Orange and Seymour to try to get games with them.

Mr. Kichar said that we are hurting Derby in baseball but they are hurting us in football.

Mr. Coppola said that all of this is hurting our recreation program.

Mr. Sells said that without Derby our baseball program will be boring.

Mr. Coppola said that he will bring this up for discussion at the February 26, 2009 meeting.

Mr. Kichar said Ansonia should reach out to Seymour and Orange first to set up games with them.

Mr. Sells said their schedule will not allow them to play inter-league games.

Mr. Coppola said he will call Seymour and Orange for games.

Mr. Sells said if it doesn't work out he will revisit it but he would prefer not to play Seymour.

Mr. Kichar said he ran softball with Larry Williams and Jay Chozack. He said Jay Chozack put a “bad taste”. He said we have enough kids to play baseball and to protect the Football program and it is not fair they are letting our kids play for free.

Mr. Sells said he will explain to the kids that baseball is taking a back seat to the football program.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Coppola will reach out to the other towns before the February 26, 2009 meeting and we can discuss it then.

Chairman Smith said the Recreation Commission has to know about all out of town games.

Mr. Kichar said that the names and addresses of the coaches along with the schedules must be submitted to the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Sells said that the Little League Charter fees have not been paid.

Mr. Coppola said that he did not submit the Charter to the Finance Department yet. He said he will check and look for it.

Mr. Kichar said sponsorship and funds come into the City.

Mr. Sells said there is no City money paying for uniforms.

Mr. Kichar said if \$300 is collected for uniforms – you will spend \$300 not \$200 and \$100 is banked. This is very important.

Mr. Kichar said the Charter fees are paid out of the city budget line item.

Mr. Coppola said that is correct.

Mr. Kichar said there is \$17,000 for Little League baseball. He said \$17,000 doesn't cover equipment and supplies for baseball??

Mr. Coppola said that is in the line item; add on \$15,000 plus registration fees. He said BOAT asked how much do you need for registration fees.

Mr. Sells said that field improvements come out of that line item also. Bases, back stop, fences, etc.

Mr. Mikos said that they are beginning the season \$6500 short for the softball concession stand.

Mr. Kichar said there is \$4500 in the account. The ladies were told they had to kick that back in.

Mrs. Williams asked what is needed?

Mr. Coppola said he doesn't know. Last year Jeff Toler, Dick's Sporting Goods donated a lot of baseball equipment to the City.

Mr. Mikos said the umpires cost \$8000 last year.

Mr. Kichar said that Kathy Paskiewicz, Softball Representative should be here to give us a report.

### **Soccer**

There was no one present for soccer.

Mr. Coppola said he met with Paul Velardi and asked him to try to attend the Recreation Commission meetings.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Velardi has to do what he has to do however you talk to him ask him to give you a report and send someone else to attend the meeting.

Mr. Coppola said that Mr. Velardi goes over everything with him.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Velardi never gave the Commission a letter asking to return as the Director to run the program.

There was discussion on when the soccer season ends for the spring season and begins for the fall season.

Mr. Coppola said he will ask Mr. Velardi to send in a letter to re-instate him as Director when the season ends in October.

### **Basketball (Boys & Girls)**

There is no one present.

### **Football**

Tim O'Reilly was present.

Mr. O'Reilly said the banquet was held on January 31, 2009. Carol Merlone, Supt. of Schools gave out the Scholastic Awards. Coach Tom Brockett and John Coughlin both spoke to the group. 475 people attended.

He said the CVL held their monthly meeting. The mid CT Football Association will go All American next season. There are 18 more teams in the conference. Shelton wants to change and join the AYF and two other teams also want to join.

Mr. Kichar said that Milford is in two leagues.

Mr. O'Reilly said that Shelton has one team in the AYF. Ansonia is on the scheduling Committee for the AYF and Cheer committee.

Mr. O'Reilly said there is a \$1500 check that has not been cashed.

Mr. Coppola said that Mr. Greski advised him that the check will be deposited.

Mr. O'Reilly said there are letters from people who will run the program. They have stepped down because the Commission switched it and is going back to the other way it was run. There is turmoil and you are dealing with a different thing. The whole Executive Board stepped down.

Mr. Kichar thanked Mr. O'Reilly for his help.

Mr. Coppola said he will check with Amy Butler and Steve Cavanaugh on the status of the Executive Board.

## **Baseball**

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Coppola if all of the coaches have reached out to him about returning to the program as a coach.

Mr. Sells said yes.

Mr. Kichar discussed the coaches and the teams. He also discussed if a child moves up – a parent can move up with the child if there is an opening.

Mr. Sells said Major League coaches have to have 2 years experience.

Mr. Mikos said the Assistants come in and then move up after they have experience. He said by 2/26/09 he can definitely tell the Recreation Commission who the coaches are.

Mr. Kichar asked if the Commission will have a list of the coaches by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Sell said you will have a list of the managers. The coaches will not be assigned until they start practice.

**Reports: Donna Lindgren, ANC Dir.**

Ms. Lindgren is on vacation however she left her report with the secretary.

Mrs. Flaherty said that Ms. Lindgren requested the commission approve her calendar of events so that she can have it printed.

Mr. Puro made a motion to approve the Calendar of Events as presented by Ms. Lindgren. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

**Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director**

Mr. Jeff Coppola was present.

Mr. Kichar asked about waiving the bid for Stadium Systems. He said he could not get in touch with Clean Gear. He would like to set up a meeting with himself, Keith Maynard, Scott Nihill and Jeff Coppola on Stadium Systems.

Mr. Coppola said that there is nothing new that we know about this month. He said he held the softball clinics and the money collected for the softball clinics came in and went out.

Mr. Nihill said that it would be nice if all of the recreation activities were listed on a website.

Mr. Coppola said that he is not set up yet with his computer.

Mr. Sells said that Little League uses E-teams Active Sports program for their website presentation.

Mr. Puro asked if the Men's League has insurance to play in the Armory.

Mr. Kichar said that the Men's League is pickup games.

Mr. Nihill said Recreation controls all Recreation buildings and fields. Requests should be put in writing. He said it is easy to make deals -- put it in writing. He asked who is at the Armory when the Men's Basketball league plays. He asked who lets them in.

Mr. Coppola reported on the Baseball trip Recreation Commission is sponsoring.

He said that the trip will be a Red Sox Trip on August 1 and August 2. Cost is: \$339 double, \$429 single and \$309 triple and \$200 quad. Includes bus, tickets and rooms.

Mr. Coppola reviewed his report with the Commission members.

He said he discussed the baseball trip above. The Basketball deposits were \$600 and they were deposited. The soccer deposits were \$3720 and deposited. The Basketball referee payments will be paid shortly.

Mr. Kichar said with regard to the Basketball referees if someone is running a league, they should not be refereeing a game.

Mr. Coppola said that he has discussed help at the Armory with Mayor Della Volpe. He said the Mayor will look into this. The coaches can't control it at the Armory. They need to have someone there to control the parents and kids. The Armory attendant can control it and open the door, close the lights. We need 6 to 8 people to help us.

Mr. Coppola submitted the February Armory schedule. He said there are other activities in the Armory but he has to go day to day with that. This schedule reflects the activities that he is aware of in the Armory.

Mr. Kichar said he is told there are people in the Armory in the afternoon.

Mr. Coppola said he will discuss this with the Mayor.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Kichar asked that the minutes be approved next month. He has a question.

### **Approval of Bills**

Chairman Smith made a motion to pay all bills if found to be correct. He said the referees should be paid. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

1. City Stitchers Invoice – All Star Uniforms \$1800 (do not have the invoice for the exact amount)

Mr. Kichar said that the Parent's Association should pay this invoice for uniforms for the All Stars team.

Mr. Sells said the Parent's Association will reimburse the line item for the uniforms.

Mr. Coppola said that they need approval from the Board. If we have All Stars in the future the kids will have to pay for their uniforms.

Mr. Sells said that they raise funds for the uniforms.

There was discussion on who is paying for uniforms. The City or the Parent's Association when there are fundraisers for uniforms and the money goes to the Parent's Association and then the City pays for uniforms.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to pay City Stitchers for the All Star uniforms out of the baseball line item. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar discussed the \$20,000 that was given to Mayor Della Volpe by Denise Cota, Parent's Association for the concession stand. These funds are designated for the concession stand and Mayor Della Volpe has put them in a separate line item for that purpose.

Mr. Sells said Mayor Della Volpe said he will see what he can do to release some of those funds to the Parent's Association.

Mr. Kichar said that has nothing to do with Recreation.

There was discussion on the Concession Stand and that there has to be a partnership to run the stand.

There was discussion on the work that needs to be done for the Concession Stand. Scott Nihill asked if the PWD can do the remainder of the work. The work that is left to do must be done by a contractor because it is not in the scope of work that Public Works can do (sewer lines, water lines, etc.).

## **Correspondence**

1. Brenda Cayer-McCarthy, Ansonia Girl Scouts request to use Nolan Field for Lifestar Helicopter on 4/11/09 for a Girl Scout event.

Mr. Nihill said that the field has just been re-sodded.

Mr. Coppola said that he will contact Ms. McCarthy and find out what field she is looking to use. He will also see what fields are available for this type of event and advise her that she needs a Certificate of Insurance.

2. Y.M.C.A. request to use Nolan Field for the 5K Road Race on Wednesday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m. start time. They will begin at Nolan field. Dtd. 1/21/09

Chairman Smith made a motion to grant the YMCA permission to use Nolan Field as long as they work out the date and time with Mr. Coppola. The football field is not available for use. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

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

AYF meeting – March 3, 2009

Mr. Kichar asked if the Commission can move its meeting for the months of March and April because there is a conflict with the AYF meeting.

The commission will check the dates that the Erlingheusser Room is open.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Puro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary