

April 14, 2009

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Steve Kichar
Tom Lynch
Jamie Puro
Sean Rowley
Lynda Williams

Absent: Linda Darling

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director
Donna Lindgren, ANC Director
Michael Schryver, Supt. PWD
Keith Maynard, 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.

Public Session

Keith Maynard, Alderman

Mr. Maynard said that it was brought to his attention that there is a discrepancy in the purchase of uniforms between the different vendors. He said that B&L was required to bid on a particular style uniform and then City Stitchers bid on a lesser style uniform for the same program. The B&L quote was higher and the City Stitchers quote was lower thus the bid was awarded to City Stitchers when the bid was not for the same item. He

said when you go out to bid it is for the same item from each vendor. This is a very serious issue and Recreation needs to look into it. What is fair is fair and that is not fair and it is not right – they both should have quoted the same style garment.

Chairman Smith asked if Mr. Maynard is talking about the one item being of better quality.

Mr. Maynard said that it is one company bidding one item and the other company bidding a different item.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. DiCenso discussed this issue two months ago. He said that no uniforms or bids should be given without the Recreation Commission approval. He asked if this group was using the City of Ansonia Recreation name.

Mr. Maynard said he didn't know. He was told this incident just happened.

A discussion followed on when the incident happened and how it happened. The discussion among the members and Mr. Maynard was that this type of activity will not be allowed to continue. There was discussion that the quote was for a complete uniform from B&L and shirt and pants from City Stitchers.

Mr. Maynard said it should be for the same item for the bids. This purchase was recently done and the Recreation Commission should look into it.

Mr. Coppola said that the Recreation Commission is NOT purchasing uniforms for Little League or Softball this year. The Parent's Association is purchasing these items.

Mr. Maynard said that the uniforms for the Little League and Softball programs should be standard uniforms – NO "Yankee" uniforms. Everyone should have the same shirt and pants. He discussed the year a Little League team had uniforms that looked like they were playing in the Major League for the Yankees.

Mr. Kichar said B&L was not asked to quote anything for Basketball.

Mr. Coppola said that Basketball uniforms went to B&L. The first year Mr. DiCenso couldn't do the uniforms – the program waited 3 weeks. He said he went to City Stitchers because B&L couldn't do it.

Mr. Kichar said this year B&L wasn't given an opportunity to quote anything – basketball, softball, Little League, soccer – he wasn't asked for anything. Youth Football did go to B&L for the coaches shirts.

Mr. O'Reilly said that B&L has their lego and that is why they went there however City Stitchers gives you a better price. With City Stitchers it takes 5 days with B&L it takes 3 weeks.

Mr. Maynard said you can't ask for a Nike Shirt here and a Hanes Shirt there. You have to spec it out and price it out.

Mr. Steve Tamburrino said he hasn't been given his numbers for the teams however he is purchasing his shirts from B&L. He said he will go local first. Last Summer B&L couldn't produce the shirts. It took City Stitchers 3 hours to do the shirts for Little League Youth 8 year old Future All Stars shirts.

Mr. Tamburrino said they are the Instructional League and they keep the shirt and cap. The registration fee pays for this.

Mr. Kichar asked what the Instructional registration fee is.

Mr. Tamburrino said \$25. The hat and tee shirt cost \$17.

Mickey Weinstein
Clean Gear USA

Mr. Weinstein stated he was present this evening to defend the letter the commission received from Schutt.

Mr. Kichar said that he will have a meeting with himself, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Coppola, Mr. Nihill, Mr. Maynard, Mr. O'Reilly and Mr. Jeanette concerning the football equipment.

Mr. Weinstein explained to the commission that his company has the State of Conn. contract. They are NERA members and they could not get this if they were not a member and certified. It is impossible to get certified if not allowed to recondition equipment. No one has any right to say Clean Gear is not authorized. They made phone calls and sent letters and it is unethical what is going on. He said if you lose an account you move on.

Mr. Weinstein said they are sore losers and he just wants a fair shake at the account. He said he will meet with Mr. Rowley, Mr. O'Reilly, Mr. Kichar, Mr. Maynard, Mr. Nihill and Mr. Jeanette on this issue. All he is asking for is a fair shake on this. He said his company doesn't have Schutt parts. He continued stating that Mr. O'Reilly and his team were a pleasure to do business with.

Mr. Kichar said he never received a phone call on this.

Mr. Coppola said that he spoke with Mr. Kichar and he said he never received a call. He explained to Mr. Weinstein that Ansonia has a different situation where there is a 7 member board that over sees the programs.

Mr. Weinstein said this is a unique situation. The program is run by a group. If the group is happy with you (ie: Clean Gear/Stadium Systems) then you don't have to bid – if

everyone is happy with you then you stay. This program is City run and you have to go out to bid.

Mr. Coppola said Recreation Commission oversees the finances.

Mr. Weinstein said he is pleased dealing with this group. He said he doesn't want to lose this account. He said if you do lose an account you have to go forward you can't write letters and say untrue things about the company that got the account.

Mr. Kichar advised Mr. Weinstein to meet with the Recreation Commission and the football committee.

Mr. O'Reilly said at the meeting held in the Aldermanic Chambers it was said if you were happy with the vendor you don't have to go out to bid.

Mr. Coppola said you could waive the bid.

Mr. O'Reilly said the same way the fence bid was waived.

Mr. Kichar said you still have to get Board of Aldermen approval. Last year Stadium System was left after 39 years of service for no reason.

Mr. O'Reilly said that he couldn't meet the bid.

Mr. Kichar said there were no bids.

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kichar said that he wants to go over the minutes from the last few months because there are corrections to be made. He said there are too many people talking during the meeting and it is difficult for the secretary to get all the information as to who said what and there is a lot of statements in the minutes that were not said by people and they are incorrect. It is not the fault of the secretary when during a meeting everyone is speaking at one time and talking across the table to each other and to people sitting in the audience.

He said he will sit down with the secretary and go over all of the corrections and present them next month. If anyone else has any corrections or feels they were not quoted accurately let the secretary know.

Mr. Kichar made a motion that last months minutes be tabled with the necessary corrections to be made. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Coppola presented a copy of all of the purchase orders for the bills that were approved for payment last month (copy on file in the Town Clerk's office)

Mr. Coppola said that there are payments for referees, scorekeeper and timekeeper that are now being paid through Accounts Payable in Finance Dept. They were paid through a separate account in the past however everyone will be paid through the City of Ansonia A/P system.

Mr. Coppola said that the referees, scorekeeper and timekeeper were paid in the past but the Commission never saw it because it was through the checkbook. Everyone will be paid through the accounts payable system of the City of Ansonia.

Mr. Coppola presented the following bills for payment:

1. Blanchettes: Basketball Boys & Girls Awards:	\$800
2. Blanchettes: Basketball Boys & Girls uniforms:	\$880
3. Massimino – Inv. 079678 Pizza Basketball	\$ 80
4. Massimino – Inv 077641 Pizza Basketball	\$185
5. Massimino – Inv 077531 Pizza Basketball	\$270
6. City Stitchers – Inv. 6042 Soccer	\$1188
7. City Stitchers – Inv. 6043 Soccer	\$1416
8. City Stitchers – Inv. 5829 AYF Football	\$1134
9. Blanchettes – Inv. TO871-00 AYF Football	\$1080.00
10. Blanchettes – Inv. TO871-00 AYF Football	\$477.00

Mr. Coppola said he will send a letter for next season to Mr. Velardi that if Recreation doesn't see two bids the bills will not be paid. He has to get bids from vendors in town.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Velardi must go to in town vendors first. He said he has asked for information from soccer and has never seen anyone at the meeting.

Chairman Smith said he will take Mr. Coppola's word that he verified everything for all of the bills presented.

Mr. Rowley said that Mr. Velardi just went and purchased his uniforms. He said the Commission doesn't know if he asked B&L for quotes but you can't withhold payment to City Stitchers if the merchandise has been ordered and received.

Chairman Smith said that Mr. Coppola has to give the commission verification that all of the uniforms and equipment has been received before payment is made.

Mr. Coppola said he has a past due invoice for City Stitchers Inv. # 5829 for AYF football. This is for end of year jackets and the cost comes out of the registration fees.

The trophy comes out of the registration money also. He explained that Recreation now takes the registration money which we never did in the past. The Parent's Association used to keep the registration money and purchase things for the program.

Chairman Smith said that the Parent's Club used to pay for the Banquet and trophies at the end of the year. He said we never had to pay in the past the Parent's Association took care of it.

Mr. Coppola said he will address this in his report.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to pay all bills as presented by Mr. Coppola. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Rowley said that with regard to the bidding, if Mr. O'Reilly decides to go to B&L and get prices.

Mr. Kichar said that all bids over \$5000 have to be approved by the Board of Aldermen.

There was a discussion on the bid process and what the requirements are for an item/items to go out to bid. The bids must be published in the newspaper.

Mr. Kichar said that if an invoice comes to the Commission from a vendor outside of Ansonia and Recreation did not have an Ansonia business quote the bid – the Commission will not pay the invoice.

Chairman Smith said if the Parent's Association purchases something the Recreation Commission can't say where they buy it.

Mr. Kichar said that is right.

Chairman Smith said the Recreation Commission goes by the guidelines.

Mr. Kichar discussed the fact that someone purchased uniforms or tee shirts, etc. and didn't give an Ansonia vendor a chance to bid on the purchase.

Mr. Coppola said if the proper procedure was not followed we will NOT pay the invoice.

Mr. Puro said that we started the meeting with this conversation. We have to sit down as a Commission to discuss these issue.

Mrs. Williams said that Soccer did it this year and what are we doing this year about this situation. When will Recreation enforce the procedure for purchasing uniforms. She asked what happens if someone else goes to City Stitichers and purchases uniforms without Recreation approval or bidding the purchase – the Recreation Commission won't pay the invoice??

Mr. Coppola said that the Parent's Association is purchasing the uniforms with sponsor money. Does the Parent's Association have to show the Commission the quotes for the uniforms.

Mrs. Williams said does Recreation want to see the bid if the Parent's Association is purchasing the uniforms.

Mr. Puro said each team must be wearing the same uniform. He said there must not be any one team that is looking like they are the New York Yankees. Everyone is the same.

Mr. Coppola said that the Recreation Commission has addressed the problem of the team looking like the "Yankee's".

Mr. Kichar said any sponsorship money given for uniforms has to equal the cost of the uniforms. The Group is not bank rolling the extra money or the City will cut off their portion of funding. If the uniforms cost \$150 the Parent's group can't charge the sponsor \$300.

Mr. O'Reilly said donations can be used for anything. The sponsor pays for the uniforms and the cost has to equal the exact amount for the uniforms.

Chairman Smith said that through the years Soccer was big with the Parent's Association. Football was small with the Parent's Association. You can't tell year to year on how the parent's will support the Parent's Association or what they will do to help.

The discussion continued on the separation of sponsorships and donations. The sponsor pays for the uniforms. A donation to the Parent's Association is just that a "donation" that they can use for the benefit of the children.

Mr. Coppola said that all donations and sponsorships must be shown on the Financial Report submitted to the Recreation Commission each month.

Mr. Ed Norman said that they can't mix sponsor funds. Sponsorship is one thing and donations are another.

Mr. Puro said they should have separate letters and separate fees. For example:

1. Donations
2. Sponsorship

There was discussion on the \$20,000 that the Softball Parent's Association gave to the City. Also discussed was that the Parent's Association charges a vendor for sponsorship of uniforms and then they charge the City of Ansonia for the uniforms. The uniforms cost \$30 and the sponsor paid \$60. The City never receives the difference and pays for the uniforms.

Chairman Smith said no one wants to serve on the Parent's Association.

Mr. Kichar said that he was asked by BOAT to make sure the Parent's Association is not soliciting donations and sponsorships under the Recreation name and keeping the money.

Mr. Coppola said that this can be discussed in a workshop meeting of the Commission.

Correspondence

1. Recreation Commission to Steve Blume re: waive bid for football equipment.
Dated. 4/1/09

Mr. Kichar made a motion to table this communication. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Maynard advised the commission that the Board of Aldermen tabled the request also.

2. YMCA/Margaret Norris request to use the Armory for their day camp from 7:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday August 3 to August 14.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to approve the request from the YMCA to use the Armory for their day camp if it is available. Mr. Lynch seconded.

There was NO vote taken on this motion.

Mr. Kichar asked if money was involved.

Mr. Coppola said yes, it is their day camp.

Mr. Kichar said Recreation needs to know what they are doing with the money charged the participants.

Mr. Rowley said the YMCA is a non-profit organization. It doesn't pertain to the YMCA, they are non-profit. We should not question it.

Mr. Norman said that there is Grant money involved with the non-profits and it would jeopardize the City's grants if there is a charge.

Mr. Kichar said it is OK to approve it because they are non-profit.

Mr. Norman said does the charge exceed the actual use of the program.

Mr. Kichar said have the YMCA break it down and report back to the Commission at the May meeting.

Mr. Rowley said the YMCA is not making any money from this day camp. It is non-profit.

Chairman Smith said non-profit fees are being charged by the YMCA.

Mr. Rowley said they have been using the Armory without a charge in the past. We don't charge Assumption School. Now we are going to charge the Y.

Chairman Smith said he agrees with Mr. Rowley. He said the commission is changing it's policy and there could be ramifications.

Mr. Lynch said the YMCA used to use Linett Park every year for their day camp and activities.

Mr. Norman said the City is applying for grants now and this could put us in jeopardy if there is an investigation. He said go back to the YMCA and ask what the use of the money is for so that it will cover the City of Ansonia if questions arise.

Mr. Norman asked who is making the money with the Speed School clinic that is being run this week. This Speed School was supposed to be in the Armory but because of the Charters Fireman's Ball it was moved to the Middle School. There are fees being charge for this event – who is making the money from this.

Mr. Coppola said the Speed School is at the Middle School. He said they come in and say they will run this Speed School which was supposed to be at the Armory but it is at the Middle School. Recreation hires someone to come and run the Speed School under Recreation.

Discussion continued.

Mr. Kichar said to go back to the YMCA and get more information and the Commission will vote at the May meering.

3. Conservation Commission re: City Street trees. Dated 3/321/09
4. Flyer re: Connecticut Sun Camp Day
5. Sr Softball Captains from AHS request the use of the Armory for 3/18, 3/19 and 3/20.
6. Amory Schedule

7.

Director's Reports

Baseball & Softball

Soccer

Basketball (Boys & Girls)

Football

Reports:

Donna Lindgren, ANC Dir.

Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Any other business to come before the Commission

Executive Session (if needed)

Respectfully submitted,

**Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary**