

# **ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION**

**May 5, 2009**

## **Regular Meeting**

Present: Al Smith, Chairman  
Jamie Puro  
Sean Rowley  
Lynda Williams

Absent: Linda Darling  
Tom Lynch  
Steve Kichar

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Rec. Director  
Keith Maynard, Alderman

The regular meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:05 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**

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.

## **Director's Reports:**

### **Baseball & Softball**

Steve Tamburrino was present.

Mr. Tamburrino said that the season is running. The Instructional Program is going great. He has ordered the league shirts from B&L.

Mr. Tamburrino said that they still have to find someone to run the Parent's Association. Mr. Sells is still running it.

### **Softball:**

Michelle Sbardellati was present.

Ms. Sbardellati gave everyone a copy of the Softball Parent's Association Financial Report.

Ron Sells came into the meeting at this time.

Mr. Sells said that the Softball program is up and running. The games were cancelled for today because of weather. He said that the Baseball program is running smoothly. He said that Jan Stevens has been elected President of the Parent's Association for Little League. There are three or four ladies who will help her out. The Concession Stand is open. Mr. Sells said that he funded the Concession Stand so that it could open. The Stand needed supplies and there was no funding to purchase what was needed to open.

Mrs. Williams said what do we do for money for the concession stand. The parents need to have funds to operate the Stand.

Mr. Coppola said that the \$20,000 is in the Capital Improvements line for the Concession Stand.

Mr. Sells said that Mr. D'Amico, City Engineer found a sewer line by the Big Oak Tree because they are trying to get the Stand closer to the Practice field.

Mr. Rowley said there is a need to discuss the use of the Practice field.

Mr. Sells said the Parent's will raise the money for the clay to fix the field so they could use it.

Mr. Rowley said the discussion should be to use the Softball field and make it into a Little League Baseball field.

Mr. Sells gave everyone a copy of the Little League report and schedule.

Mr. Sells said Ansonia will host the Connecticut State Softball Championship in late July and the District level games in baseball.

### **Soccer**

There is no one present.

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

There is no one present.

### **Football**

There is no one present.

Mr. Coppola said that Mr. Kichar is attending the AYF meeting this evening and that is why he is not at this meeting.

Mr. Tim O'Reilly was in attendance at the meeting however he did not address the Commission.

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

Martin Wigglesworth is present this evening in place of Ms. Lindgren who is attending another meeting.

Ms. Lindgren gave the secretary her report and flyers. These were distributed to the members.

Mr. Wigglesworth said there is a problem with ATV vehicles riding on the fields. They are ruining the fields and there is a lot of damage being done by these vehicles.

Mr. Maynard said that it is illegal to ride ATV vehicles up there.

Mr. Wigglesworth said it is not enforced up at the ANC.

Mr. Tamburrino said there was a 40 year old guy riding one at Colony Park. He said that he didn't know he couldn't ride because it is not posted.

Mr. Coppola said that they go up there and ride right through Mead School and on the trails.

Mr. Rowley said that they destroyed Linett Field.

Mr. Wigglesworth asked if the Police can tell them to leave.

There was discussion on how to stop the ATV vehicles at the Ansonia Nature Center.

Mr. Coppola said he will speak with Chief Hale and ask him for their help in stopping the ATV vehicles at the Nature Center and other City parks.

Mr. Maynard said that it is against the law to ride ATV vehicles in the State of Connecticut.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept Ms. Lindgren's report as presented. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director**

Mr. Coppola was present.

Mr. Coppola said there is no Armory Schedule for the month of May because there is nothing scheduled – Assumption School is outdoors for gym class and there are no clinics scheduled.

Mr. Coppola said that EZ Travel will be running trips using the Recreation Commission name. There is a trip scheduled for May 21 to New York Yankee Stadium. The Recreation Commission will handle no money. Mrs. Spatafore will just use our name. All trips will go through EZ Travel because of the issues we had. Mrs. Spatafore will get a flyer together for some of the trips she has planned.

Mr. Coppola said if Mrs. Spatafore comes up with a trip or something and Recreation can't meet for 29 days can he say OK and report back to the Commission on the trip or should he just say don't run the trip.

Chairman Smith said Mr. Coppola can call all the members and get a phone vote.

Mr. Coppola said that every three (3) months Mrs. Spatafore will come out with a pamphlet and the Commission can vote on the trips.

Mr. Rowley asked if the City of Ansonia is responsible if anything happens on these trips.

Mr. Coppola said no, Mrs. Spatafore is running the trips not the City of Ansonia and she will have everyone sign a waiver that is going on the trip.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to approve the trip scheduled for May 21 to New York Yankee Stadium with EZ Travel. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Coppola said at the last meeting there was discussion on going out to bid for the reconditioning of the football equipment. He said that the bid will be going out in the newspaper. He asked the secretary to explain the bid process.

Mrs. Flaherty explained the bid process. She explained that Mr. Coppola has to write the bid specifications before the bid is published in the newspaper. The bid specifications states exactly what the vendors are bidding on.

Chairman Smith said he is concerned that should someone come in with a low bid and Ansonia has to sacrifice quality because it is cheaper.

Mr. Coppola said that they don't have to go with the low bidder – they can pick the best one for the City.

There was a discussion on the preparation of the bid and when it could be ready for publication. Also discussed was the choosing of the vendor in the bid process.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept Mr. Coppola's report as presented. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept as written the minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting with the necessary corrections being made. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Approval of Bills**

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept the bills as follows and pay them if found to be correct. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried

1. Blanchettes: Receipt for \$192.00 for 8 dozen baseballs for Babe Ruth
2. Blanchettes: Invoice #014034 for \$832.12 for Little League Scorebooks, cold pacs, baseballs
3. Blanchettes: Invoice # 014142 for \$180.00 for Little League Softee balls

### **Correspondence**

1. Kay Jeanette re: AHS Football Team Car Wash to be held 8/15/09 from 9-1 at Nolan Field upper parking lot. Dtd. 5/5/09

Mr. Rowley made a motion to approve the request for the AHS Football team car wash on 8/15/09 from 9-1 at Nolan Field. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

2. Nina Phipps, AHS PTSO request to use Ansonia Armory June 20 and June 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to inflate AHS Graduation Balloons. Dtd. 4/27/09

Mr. Rowley made a motion to approve the request for the use of the Armory on 6/20/09 and 6/21/09 for the AHS Graduation Balloons. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

3. Laura Poquette re: CT 2009 Walk for Lupus on June 27<sup>th</sup> request to have a dunk tank or inflatable for the day. Dtd. 5/4/09

Mr. Rowley made a motion to approve the request for the dunk tank or inflatable for the Lupus Walk. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

4. Connecticut Speed School Report on the Spring Vacation Camp held at the Ansonia Middle School from 4/13/09 to 4/17/09

Mr. Rowley asked why the money was put into the Adult Recreation Line Item.

Mr. Coppola said that he didn't have any other line item to put the money in so he has been using this line item for this type of thing.

5. Connecticut Speed School Flyer: Ansonia Speed Camp to be held May 10, May 17, May 31, June 7 at Nolan Field Fee Ansonia Res. \$40. Non Res \$50
6. Connecticut Speed School Flyer: Youth Football Camp to be held June 23, 24, 25, 26.

Mr. Rowley said that there are some concerns from the Mayor's Office on these two events. He asked Mr. Coppola if Recreation Commission is running these events or if this Speed School Company is running them.

Mr. Coppola said that the Connecticut Speed School is running these events and that they have their own insurance coverage.

Mr. Coppola said he is subcontracting something out and they are using our name.

Mr. Rowley said to Mr. Coppola they have their own insurance and they are using you to collect the money for the children.

Mr. Coppola said he could have Connecticut Speed School collect the fees. They are running the clinic.

Mr. Rowley asked if the Commission has to charge them for using our facilities. There was discussion as to whether this was a non-profit group. Mr. Coppola said that the directors and coaches who work the camp are paid by Connecticut Speed School with the fees. He said there is no money in the fees for the City of Ansonia or the Recreation Commission.

Chairman Smith asked what do the kids get out of this.

Mr. Coppola said agility and speed. It is the same as line dancing.

Chairman Smith said that it has to be a Recreation program. We're charging the kids and for us to sanction it – it cannot be a money maker.

Mr. Coppola said that anybody who does anything has to be paid and they have to submit a financial report to the commission. If they attend the Connecticut Speed School they pay the fee and the money goes to them (people running the school). They can give us a donation but we are not charging for the use of the field.

Mr. Rowley said that if they are starting on Sunday Mr. Coppola will have to go in and talk to the Mayor and get his OK.

Chairman Smith said that the first event had the Ansonia Recreation name on it.

Mr. Coppola said that is because of the concerns. The second one doesn't have the Recreation Commission name on it.

There was discussion on charging to use the fields. The members discussed the former ruling that stated if you charge to use the field that makes the City liable.

Mr. Rowley said we sponsor the Speed Class what is the problem if our kids attend – the program will benefit our programs and the high school programs.

Chairman Smith said that it is not one of our programs.

Mr. Coppola said it is the same as the YMCA subcontracting out for a Karate Class. 85 attend the karate class and the check is made out to the YMCA and then they give the Karate instructor a check for their services.

Mr. Rowley said how is the City of Ansonia is not liable in this instance?

Mr. Rowley made a motion to table the Speed Camp scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> until Mr. Coppola can meet with the Mayor and Corporation Counsel Blake to determine the City's liability. Approval is contingent on an agreement from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel that the Recreation Commission and the City is not liable and everything is OK. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Rowley asked Mr. Coppola if the Football camp that is being sponsored by the Connecticut Speed School in June is free to the youth. There is no fee on the flyer.

Mr. Coppola said no. The owners don't have a price yet to charge the participants. He said this Football camp is scheduled for the future and the commission doesn't have to act on it tonight.

Mrs. Williams asked where the money will be spent.

Mr. Coppola said it is the same thing as the Clinic. It will go to pay the instructors and to buy shirts.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept the Football Flyer (June 2009 dates) and to place it on file and take no action. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

7. Kevin Blake to Commissions & Boards re: Executive Sessions. Dtd 5/4/09

Mr. Rowley made a motion to dispense with the reading and place on file. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

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

None

**Executive Session (if needed)**

None

**Adjourn**

Mr. Rowley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary