

ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

June 2, 2009

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Tom Lynch
Jamie Puro
Lynda Williams

Absent: Steve Kichar
Sean Rowley
Linda Darling

Others Present: Keith Maynard, Alderman
Michael Schryver, PWD – arrived at 8:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman 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.

Keith Maynard, Alderman

Mr. Maynard said at the Ansonia High School Parents Cheerleading Meeting the Parents requested the use of Nolan Field parking lot for their annual tag sale to be held on Saturday, June 13, 2009 with a rain date of June 14, 2009. The tag sale is a fundraiser for the girls to attend camp.

Mr. Maynard said he will follow up with a letter requesting the use of the field.

The Commission acknowledged that the cheerleaders have held this tag sale in the past.

Mr. Coppola said June 13, 2009 is available for the tag sale. The rain date is OK also.

Mr. Lynch made a motion to grant permission to the AHS Cheerleaders to use Nolan Field parking lot for their annual tag sale. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Tracy Adamowski
Softball Parent's Association

Ms. Adamowski said that due to recent issues at the Concession Stand, the Parent's Association had to change the locks. She said that someone with a key went into the concession stand and turned up the refrigerator and all of the soda froze and burst. She said that last night someone pried open the shutter on the stand – they did not break the glass. These incidents have been reported to the Police Dept. The Parent's Association doesn't know who is responsible for this damage. They have 4 keys and the following people have a key: Tracy Adamowski, Michelle Sbardelatti, Amy Kleiner and Mike Schryver. There are no other keys.

Amy Kleiner said she would like to clarify one thing in the April meeting minutes where Steve Kichar said that the Parent's Association does not answer to Ron Sells – they work for the kids.

Mr. Sells said that the Parent's Association is part of Little League and he is the President. They fall under his jurisdiction.

Chairman Smith said that the Parent's Association is a separate entity for softball and for all sports.

Mr. Sells said that Softball is part of Little League and they are working for Little League raising funds.

Tracy Adamowski said that the April minutes say the Parent's Association is to report to the Recreation Board and give a Financial Report every month to the Recreation Commission.

Chairman Smith said the problem is the Parent's Association does not answer to the Recreation Commission. Because of past situations where the money was lost by the

Parent's Association, the Commission requests a report every month as to income and expense so the Commission knows what is going on.

Tracy Adamowski said that they have given the Secretary their Report for the month.

Michelle Sbardelatti said the Softball Parent's Association will give Mr. Sells a copy of the report if that is what they are supposed to do. They want to do what is correct.

Mr. Sells said that the April minutes say one thing and the October 2008 minutes are contrary to that meeting.

Tracy Adamowski said that they do not want to make problems and they are trying to do the right thing.

Mr. Coppola said he will get the guidelines for the Parents to follow. He said the secretary will give the commission members a copy of the guidelines.

Chairman Smith said Recreation doesn't have any jurisdiction over the Parent's Association. The Director or President does not have jurisdiction over the Parent's Association. They have nothing to do with the Parent's Association.

There was a discussion on the Parent's Association's responsibility with regard to what they sponsor for the program and the children.

Mr. Coppola said he will go over the guidelines and send the members and Directors a copy. He said hopefully after June 30th things will be separated with the new plan.

Mrs. Williams asked how the other towns are separate – the league and the Parent's Association.

Chairman Smith said Baseball had their own Director and Softball had their own Director. They were working together as a Parent's Association for the benefit of both. The Soccer program for example was very big with the Parent's Association and this year there is no Parent's Association. He said the money left over at the end of the season is turned over the City of Ansonia.

There was discussion on the Parent's Association's function and how they account for the funds collected. The money that is left over at the end of the season stays in the account for the next season.

Tracy Adamowski said as a Parent's Association do we have the right to call a meeting of the coaches if something is going on or something is wrong.

Mr. Coppola said the procedure is to go to the Softball Director first and then he in turn will come to me and we will try to resolve the issue. If it is not resolved it then goes to the Recreation Commission.

Tracy Adamowski said what if the Softball Director denies you a meeting.

Mr. Coppola said then come to me.

Chairman Smith said that the Commission will get back to Ms. Adamowski on the issue she raised concerning who the Softball Parent's Association reports to.

Darwin Elias

Mr. Elias said there was an incident at the Little League Field on 5/16/09 where his team was playing this one team and there was no problem with the teams however the problem was with individuals (adults) calling out and calling names and demeaning the Children playing.

He said his wife went to the President and talked to Mr. Coppola. They were supposed to meet but Mr. Coppola was not available. This one person was attacking the kids playing the game. He said that this person should not be allowed at the games.

Mr. Elias said that his wife wrote a letter addressing the incident. He gave the commission the letter. He said this individual should know better. The issue is with him and he should not be allowed to come to the games. This individual was also very rude to a Senior Citizen by getting in his way and not allowing him to pass – making the senior citizen who was having trouble walking – walk around him to get past him. The kids or the Senior Citizen did not provoke him.

He said he is not telling the Board what to do but he is just pointing out a few things that are happening. He read the Code of Conduct for Little League and gave the Secretary a copy for the members.

Mr. Elias submitted a letter from Gina Elias on the issue. He said that this individual works for the Boys & Girls Club in Shelton as a Director and he should know better.

Chairman Smith said that unruly people are always present. If the Director is not there, the coaches should get together and ask him to stop or stop the game or call the Police and have him removed. The Parent's come up whaling and running off at the mouth and you have to stop them one way or the other.

Mr. Elias said that if I heard it I would have pulled the team off the field until that person left and the next time I'll call the Police.

Chairman Smith said that the Recreation Commission doesn't sanction anything like this.

Mr. Elias said that individual shouldn't be there at the games.

Chairman Smith said he is a spectator at the game.

Mr. Elias said he is a spectator harassing the kids.

Mrs. Williams said this was supposed to have been resolved and now it is coming here to the Commission.

Mr. Coppola said that he received a call from Earl Stanley and then a call from Ron Sells. We met with Kevin and Sal Cegelka and talked to Earl and got his side of the story. At that point I thought it was a dead issue. He said that he can't act on something that is not in writing – you can't act on "he said – she said".

Mr. Coppola said that Mr. Sells and he can't act unless the complaint is in writing. He has been to almost every game to make sure nothing has happened since this incident.

Mr. Elias said he is speaking not only for the kids but also for the older gentlemen that was harassed.

Discussion followed on the above.

Mr. Coppola said that he and Ron Sells were aware of the situation and he was at the field all day on Saturday while the team played. Ron is President and Director of Little League and someone has to be at the games.

Chairman Smith said the Commission will look into the situation.

Mr. Elias said that if his family gets attacked again he will go after him.

Mr. O'Reilly said the Football By Laws says the first offense you document in writing, the second offense is documented and you can't attend the games. Everyone signs the rule sheet that they received it and will abide by it. The A.Y.F. by laws states you can't go to the game if you cause an issue. The Recreation Commission OK'd these By Laws. He gave the Secretary a copy for the members.

There was a discussion on calling the Police when a parent gets out of hand.

Mr. Coppola said that it is on file, Mr. Sells knows and I know and it is documented.

Mr. Puro made a motion to close the public session at 8:45 p.m. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Football Equipment/Recondition Bid

There was discussion on the bid and the vendors who submitted a bid for the reconditioning of equipment and for equipment and uniforms.

The secretary prepared a spreadsheet with the bid for the members to compare the prices.

There was a discussion on the bid quotes and the spreadsheet and the members feel that they need some time to review the information before making a decision.

Chairman Smith suggested a special meeting.

Director's Reports:

Baseball & Softball

Mr. Ron Sells was present.

Mr. Sells presented his report to the commission. He said that the Little League Charter needs to be processed immediately.

Mr. Sells noted that the Commission approved a tag sale for the parking lot at Nolan Field for June 13 and there are games at the field on that date and the parking will be a problem.

Mr. Maynard said that they can put their things on the grass area and use a limited number of parking spaces. He said they will try to make it work.

Mr. Sells agreed that they will work it out with the Cheerleaders on the parking lot spaces.

Mrs. Williams made a motion to accept Mr. Sells report and place it on file. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Soccer

There is no one present.

Mr. Coppola said that Mr. Velardi is at the CJSA meeting this evening. There is no Parent's Association and Mr. Velardi coaches.

Chairman Smith said this is a lesson - down through the years the Soccer Parent's Association was very big and this year there is nothing.

Mr. Coppola said with the new format they will have to step up and help finance the program with a Parent's Association.

Basketball (Boys & Girls)

Mr. Coppola said he has nothing to report for the Basketball program.

Football

Mr. Tim O'Reilly was present.

Mr. O'Reilly said he presented his letters for all of the Executive Board members who wish to come back. He said they have no problem with voting them back in.

The secretary read the letters from the following Executive Board members requesting to be appointed to the A.Y.F. Board:

1. Tim O'Reilly – President
2. David Beaton – Vice President
3. Michelle Baricko – Secretary
4. Darlene Zawisza – Treasurer
5. Steve Cavanaugh – Football Director
6. Ray Cirsoli – Member
7. Amy Butler – Cheerleading Coordinator

Mr. Lynch made a motion to accept and approve the Executive Board of the Ansonia Youth Football program for the Year 2009 as presented. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. O'Reilly said that the Ansonia football By Laws for 2009 have been revised. He said he gave a copy to the Board already. He said that he has asked for 4 month for a book of guidelines for each program. This book would have all of the rules that should be followed and if a rule is broken you can discipline.

Mr. Coppola said that we give out the guidelines and rules all the time.

Mr. O'Reilly said they should be revised. He said he would help the secretary with that if the commission wants him to.

Mr. O'Reilly said that the field house at Nolan Field – downstairs the two AYF rooms have a wall between them that needs to be removed.

Mr. Schryver said that he will go up there and take a look at it. There should not be a problem with removing the wall.

Mr. O'Reilly said that time is critical because when the equipment goes out they want to organize the area so when the new equipment comes in everything will be in order.

Mr. O'Reilly said that the bid was supposed to go out two days after the last meeting and it didn't and now it wasn't opened until today.

He said that Clean Gear stocked gear for them and from what he heard tonight they seem to be the lowest bidder.

Mr. O'Reilly said that their quality of work is good. He said that the Board should vote this evening because they have to get the equipment done. He said if the Board doesn't vote this evening can they hold a special meeting so that the bid can be decided.

There was discussion on the bids received and that the Commission would have to meet to go over the bids and compare the prices.

Mr. Puro made a motion to hold a Special Meeting on Monday, June 8, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the Football Bid. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

The secretary advised them that once the Recreation Commission reviews the bid and selects the lowest bidder the bid must be sent to the Board of Aldermen for approval.

Reports: Donna Lindgren, ANC Dir.

Ms. Lindgren was present.

Ms. Lindgren reviewed her report with the Commission members highlighting the events that will take place during the month.

Ms. Lindgren said that she is requesting support for herself and Alison Rublemann to attend an ANKA Conference. The cost for the Conference is \$420 each attendee plus \$35 fee for each attendee. There is no lodging included it will be an additional cost.

Mrs. William asked if Ms. Lindgren has the funds to cover the cost of the Conference.

Ms. Lindgren said that she will use the Program line item for the costs however she doesn't know if that line item will cover everything. She said she is looking for support from the Recreation Commission to attend this Conference.

Ms. Lindgren also discussed the Red Wing Pond House and that she is looking for suggestions for the use of the building until she can get a school readiness program for nature started. She said any ideas or suggestions are welcome.

Ms. Lindgren noted that she included the building and grounds job list in the packet. She said that there haven't been any ATV's at the Nature Center.

Mr. Coppola said that the Police have been up at the Nature Center to keep an eye on the ATV vehicles.

Ms. Lindgren asked if everyone received their Calendar of Events in the mail from the Nature Center.

Ms. Williams said that she didn't receive her copy yet.

Ms. Lindgren said that she is asking the Commission to consider her request for support for the ANKA Conference. She would like to get approval this evening.

Chairman Smith said there is a question on the funds and if Ms. Lindgren has enough money to cover the cost.

Ms. Lindgren said that there is enough money for herself and Ms. Rublemann to pay for the conference fees which are:

\$420 Conference
35 Fees
\$455 – Donna Lindgren
\$465 - Alison Rublemann (\$10 for book)

Total Cost: \$920 from the Program Line Item

There was discussion on the lodging costs and that Ms. Lindgren will have to find the funds in her line items to cover this expense.

Mrs. Williams made a motion to support Donna Lindgren and Alison Rublemann for a total of \$920 from the Program Line item so that they can attend the ANKA Conference. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ms. Lindgren asked the members to think about projects for the Red Wing Pond House.

Mrs. William made a motion to accept Ms. Lindgren report as presented. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Mr. Coppola was present.

Mr. Coppola reviewed his report with the Commission members.

1. Dave Connolly re: Fishing Classes – DEP

He said that they are looking for permission to look into a fishing course sponsored by the DEP. They would like to use the Ansonia Armory and Osborndale Pond.

He said there is no date requested on the information he received.

Mr. Lynch made a motion to approve the concept of the fishing class and table it until there are dates. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

2. Connecticut Speed School request to use Nolan Field for Youth Football Camp. Insurance certificate is on file in Town Clerk's office.

Mr. Puro asked what the fees are for the participants attending the Football Camp.

Mr. Coppola said he didn't know what the fees are. He said that Mr. Coughlin will have to submit the fees to the Recreation Commission. He said that they give the Commission a financial report at the conclusion of the camp.

Chairman Smith asked if this camp was open to the other towns or if it was Ansonia kids attending the camp. He asked if the camp was free to the children.

Mrs. Williams asked if the fees will go to the two men who are running this camp.

Mr. Coppola said that is correct.

Mr. Lynch made a motion to allow the Connecticut Speed School to run the Football Camp at Nolan Field with the condition that they provide to the Commission the fees that are being charged to those who attend. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Coppola said he will advise the Commission what the fees are that are being charged for the Football Camp.

Mr. Coppola said that he is still in the process of receiving W-9 forms from Marty Mikos for the umpires. The City needs the W-9 form for the umpires in order to process them as a vendor. All umpire payments are processed through the accounts payable system for the City.

Mr. Coppola discussed the workshop meeting that the Commission held where it was discussed that the Parent's Association can keep the registration money and provide monthly reports to the Recreation Commission on expenses. He said that the programs need the money to run the program.

Mr. Coppola said that way the Recreation Commission won't be in charge of the umpires. They will be paid by the Parent's group. He said that they held the W-9's from 6 weeks and now they want to be paid immediately. He said the Commission won't have to buy the uniforms for the program if they keep the registration fees.

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Lynch made a motion to accept as written with the necessary corrections and place on file the minutes of the May 5, 2009 meeting. Mrs. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

1. Little League Charter: \$500
2. Mark Velardi: Invoice 1035 \$175 goal repair
3. Paul Velardi: Reimbursement Staples: \$43.45
Staples: 51.92
Staples: 759.10
Staples: 50.86
Staples: 318.50
Staples: 50.40
Home Depot: 28.65
Alexander's Hardware: 50.77
CJSA Fees: 491.00
4. Blanchettes: Inv. 015124: 403.50
5. American Eagle embroidery: Inv.5398: \$1536.90
6. Blanchettes: Inv. T2340-00: \$270
7. Blanchettes: Inv. 014671: \$273
8. Blanchettes: Inv. 014568: 147
9. Blanchettes: Inv. 015073: 381.00
10. Blanchettes: Inv. 011842: 30.00
11. District 3 Babe Ruth Fees \$430
12. Jimmy Fund: \$50
13. CT Babe Ruth: \$20

Mr. Lynch made a motion to pay all bills if found to be correct. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Correspondence

Mr. Puro made a motion to accept all correspondence and place on file. Mr. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

1. Charter Hose letter re: Thank You for support for Charter's 100th anniversary
2. Krystal Boylan re: request to hold a Kiddi Camp.

Mr. Coppola advised the commission that he will call Ms. Boylan and tell there the Armory cannot be used at this time.

3. Flyer for Cruise Baseball Greats Cruise April 3 to April 10, 2010.
4. Kevin Cegelka re: Letter regarding an incident 4/27/09
5. Kevin Cegelka request to be All Star coach
6. Connecticut Speed School request to use Nolan Field for Youth Football Camp on June 23rd to June 26th from 5:30p.m. to 7:30p.m. - Fee to be announced.

Mr. Coppola said that he doesn't know the fee that will be charged however he will get that information to the secretary.

8. Gina Elias re: Letter regarding an incident 5/16/09
9. Dave Connelly re: request to use the Armory for a family fishing course sponsored by the DEP. Dtd. 6/1/09

Any other business to come before the Commission

None

Executive Session (if needed)

None

Adjourn

Mr. Lynch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary