

ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

July 7, 2009

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Steve Kichar
Jamie Puro
Sean Rowley

Absent: Linda Darling
Tom Lynch
Lynda Williams

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director
Donna Lindgren, ANC Director
Michael Schryver, PWD Director – 7:40 p.m.

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.

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

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Football Equipment & Reconditioning Bid

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept the bid of Stadium Systems and refer it to the Board of Aldermen for confirmation. Mr. Puro seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Steve Kichar
 Jamie Puro
 Sean Rowley
 Al Smith

Absent: Linda Darling
 Tom Lynch
 Lynda Williams

The chair declared the motion passed: 4 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Director's Reports:

Baseball & Softball

There is no one present for Baseball.

Kathy Paskiewicz was present for softball.

Ms. Paskiewicz said the tournaments are scheduled for July 21 and July 28. They need softball and ice packs for the tournaments.

Mr. Coppola said he has softballs and ice packs and will get them to Ms. Paskiewicz.

Ms. Paskiewicz said that next spring she would like to start a new league for Special Needs kids. She is in the process of meeting with other Towns that have this type of program and she will keep the Commission informed as to the progress.

Mr. Rowley said that there is no one present for Baseball however he is concerned as to why the 12 year old All Star team has their names on the back of the Jerseys. He said the Commission passed a rule that there would be no name son the jerseys. Uniforms cost a lot more with the names. They are part of the program's inventory.

Mr. Coppola said he has told them that they have to come to the Commission with a quote for uniforms and then the Commission can approve the purchase. They are not allowed to purchase the uniforms without the Commission's approval. If they go to B&L or City Stitchers,
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whomever they then come to us – this is how much it is. The City never purchases pants for All Stars – they have pants. The City is paying for the jersey's what do we do with them if the names are on the Jerseys.

Mr. Kichar said the City will pay for the hat and socks. The parents will have to pay for th pants and shirts.

Mr. Kichar made a motion that the Recreation Commission will only pay for Caps and Socks for the 12 year old All Star Team. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Rowley made a motion that the Recreation Commission sets forth a policy that all sports programs will NOT have individual names on shirts for any sports sponsored by the Recreation Commission regardless of who pays for the uniform. Mr. Kichar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

The commission members agreed that they can't wear the shirts with the name on the back and that they should go out and purchase new shirts. There were no names on the shirts last year.

Mr. Coppola said that the Commission should get out of the registration fees and uniforms for next year.

Mr. Rowley said that the issue not the money the City gives them to run the program it is more important what's on front of the uniform and not what's on the back of the uniform.

Mr. Coppola said that the 12 year old All Star's were shut out at their last game. There is a game Thursday at PJ Foley field.

Mr. Rowley asked if thee are any other games scheduled for Nolan Field.

Mr. Coppola said there is nothing scheduled at Nolan Field.

There was a discussion on the number of teams in the tournament. Mr. Coppola said there are 5 teams.

Soccer

There is no one present.

Mr. Coppola said he met with Paul Velardi on Sunday and discussed the possible change in collecting the registration fees. Mr. Velardi has a committee he is putting together to take this over. He said he will meet with him again.

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Basketball

There is no one present.

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

Football

Dave Beaton was present.

Mr. Beaton said there will be another sign up on 7/18/09 for football. He said most of the players will turn up opening week to register to play.

Mr. Beaton gave Mr. Coppola a copy of the coaches names.

Chairman Smith asked if they have done background checks on all of the coaches.

Mr. Coppola said yes they did. They do it every year on the coaches.

Mr. Beaton said that the Head Coach will give the Commission a list of the coaches and Asst. Coaches.

Mr. Rowley said that we were supposed to be included in the selection of the coaches. He said that this list should be tabled.

Mr. Beaton said that every coach last year was contacted.

Mr. Rowley said that there is a man from last year who is not on your list and was not told about any meeting. You give no him no reason why he is not a coach this year.

There was a discussion on the above.

Mr. Beaton said that that is our list of Head Coaches. If you insist on changing it you will have to find another Executive Board for football. We stand by our list.

Mr. Kichar said none of these people are head coaches until be with Bob Jones and Larry Cafaro.

Mr. Rowley said Steve asked Tim months ago about the Head Coaches. Tim quit because he didn't like the idea we were involved. We should be included and Mr. Coppola should be included.

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Coppola if he was given notice of a meeting for Head Coaches.

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Mr. Coppola said no.

Mr. Kichar asked if any Commission Member receive a notice about this.

No one on the commission received a notice.

Mr. Coppola said there is a residency issue with one of the coaches. He said everyone has to be happy.

Mr. Cafaro said that he was supposed to be the 5th grade coach and he was moved up to 6th grade. He said he recruited Chris Phipps to take the 5th grade. He explained the reasoning behind the “flip flop” in coaching positions. He said he stepped up when they needed a coach and pitched in to help.

Mr. Kichar said he met with Tim in January to make it clear that no head coach will be removed from the program. He said they were to meet with the Head Coaches if they all wanted to come and work out the teams.

Discussion.

Mr. Beaton said I have spoken up for our Board. We submitted our list if you want to pick the coaches find another Board.

Mr. Puro said this is a joke. You all resign if don't get your way. Resign if you want to resign and we'll find other people to take over. Every month they threaten to resign.

Mr. Coppola said there are out of town coaches and we said no out of town coaches.

There was a discussion on coaches not residing in Ansonia. There is a problem because there are two addresses for one coach. The Commission feels that two coaches were slighted (Jones and Cafaro). Mr. Beaton said they weren't slighted – the Board put together a good staff.

Mr. Puro said there is a coach here tonight not in your program.

Mr. Kichar asked if he did a good job last year.

Mr. Beaton said their Board picked the coaches and they picked the equipment already.

Mr. Rowley asked Mr. Beaton if there is a problem with him and their Board making a decision with the four members of Recreation.

Mr. Beaton said he and Tim will be happy to sit with the Commission and discuss it.

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Mr. Rowley asked why they weren't included in this. Tim knew how it was set up. Why certain people who were in the program last year are eliminated. It is not in the best interest of the program. They should stay with the team.

There was discussion on coaches following their team.

Mr. Beaton said that he and Tim would love to sit down with the Commission and they will present the Commission with a program and policy. Steve Cavanaugh and he have been working on it.

Mr. Kichar said there are rules and regulations for the Football program to follow.

Mr. Beaton said that they don't feel it is in the best interest for the program.

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Coppola if at sign ups the AYF Parent's Club was allowed to keep the registration fees. He asked if this is the Commission's first program to do this.

Mr. Coppola said yes. They have the registration fees. Nothing was turned in to the city.

Mr. Kichar said we should have a financial report this evening on the fees that were collected for the last two sign up sessions.

Mr. Rowley discussed the events that have occurred between the Football Executive Board and the Recreation Commission. He said that the Recreation Commission stated that they want to work with the Football Board. The Recreation Commission wants to sit down and be included in the decisions concerning the football program.

Mr. Rowley stated that the Commission received a letter from Clean Gear that was sent to Mayor Della Volpe. He said that someone on the AYF Football Board is "downing" Steve Kichar. Clean Gear never got back to Mr. Coppola when he called them. He said that going out to bid came from the Auditors, Corporation Counsel and the Comptroller. Mr. Kichar has no agenda with regard to the football program. He has given of his time and money for the benefit of the children.

Mr. Beaton said the last year Stadium did the helmets and they were bad. Last Year Clean Gear did a phenomenal job on everything. The equipment and helmets were clean, they had new straps and everything was in order.

Mr. Coppola said that Clean Gear did a great job last year on the equipment and helmets.

Mr. Kichar said that if the equipment comes back not good the AYF Board should have spoken to him about it. Give them a chance to make good. We spend \$20,000 plus on this stuff. It was the way it was handled that was not right.

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Mr. Beaton said that he knew the equipment was bad but he didn't know that Stadium could make good on it.

Mr. Kichar said that Tony Vano spent \$20,000 you have to make sure you are not overcharged but the equipment was not clean.