

ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

October 6, 2009

Regular Meeting

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

Absent: Steve Kichar
Tom Lynch

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Rec. Dir.
Martin Wigglesworth, ANC Ranger

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

Chairman Smith asked three (3) times 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 (Little League & Softball)

There is no one present for Little League baseball.

Kathy Paskiewicz, Amy Kleiner were present for softball.

Ms. Kleiner presented the Financial Report for Softball to the commission.

Ms. Paskiewicz presented her letter requesting to remain as the Softball coordinator.

Ms. Paskiewicz gave a brief report on the State tournament held this summer. She discussed the condition of the fields and the amount of rain that we had. She asked if the Parent's Association could be reimbursed for the 5 bags of speedy dry that they used on the field for the tournament.

Mr. Coppola said that Ms. Paskiewicz should get a bill for the speedy dry and present it to the Recreation Commission to see if they will approve paying the invoice.

Soccer

There is no one present.

Basketball (Boys & Girls)

There is no one present.

Football

Tim O'Reilly was present.

Mr. O'Reilly presented the Football Report. He said they are still receiving money for registrations. He said they pay Candlewood Valley Cheer for the cheerleader competition. He will write a check which is an "in" and an "out".

Mr. O'Reilly said there are some incident reports in the packets. He reviewed them with the commission.

Mr. O'Reilly discussed entering into a contract with Sports Image to replace the scoreboards and in exchange Sports Image will get sponsors to pay for the scoreboard.

He explained the schedule by which this system operates stating within 5 years it will begin to make money.

Mr. O'Reilly mentioned that on Game Day there were no paper towels, toilet paper etc. left at the field. He said AHS plays on Friday and AYF plays Saturday and Sunday. There is no paper towels, toilet paper etc. left for the Sat. and Sun games. He asked where these supplies are stored so that he can get them for the AYF games.

Mr. Rowley said they are stored in the old office.

There was discussion on EMT's at the AYF games. Candlewood Valley doesn't require an EMT at the games. An 8th grader broke his arm bad and there was no EMT at the game. ARMS said they need 60 days notice to have an EMT at the AYF games. They are not guaranteed volunteers and they may have to pay for staff and the ambulance.

Mr. Rowley asked if the referee asked if there was an EMT present for the game.

Mr. O'Reilly said an EMT is not required by AYF rules. There are coaches who are certified but we require an EMT.

Mr. O'Reilly said there is a problem with parking on the upper level. A lot of parents are parking up there and we weren't allow to park there and neither was the AHS players. Our parents stay out and AHS parents are there during our games – they all park up there.

Mr. Rowley asked if there is any "fall out" because his group is there.

Mr. O'Reilly said no.

Mr. Rowley said Chris Phipps is there and he is addressing it best he could – we will address it next year. The high school can't have the field 7 days a week.

Mr. O'Reilly said the AHS players are not there practicing they are there watching game films.

There was a discussion on the football players walking from the parking lot to the Field house. AYF parents don't park there. The AHS players park there.

Mr. Rowley said these are practices and AHS is still there and AYF is coming in and the gate is left open and in the process you have about 30 cars coming up there to park.

Mr. Puro said he thought that AYF was doing Parking Passes for people who were allowed to park up there.

Mr. O'Reilly said he has the parking passes.

A discussion followed on the above.

Chairman Smith said the gate was locked last Sunday and he couldn't drive up there to park. He said he walked up.

There was discussion on the players and parents who park up there and speed in that area where there are children and people walking. There is a concern for the safety of those walking in that area.

Mr. Coppola will call Coach Tom Brockett on the parking situation at Nolan Field.

Reports: Donna Lindgren, ANC Dir.

Mr. Martin Wigglesworth, Ranger was present representing Ms. Lindgren.

Mr. Wigglesworth gave everyone a copy of Ms. Lindgren's report. He reviewed the report with the members.

Mr. Wigglesworth discussed the proposal where the Ansonia Nature Center will open up trails through the Nature Center and the Reservoir property.

He said under old business there were a lot of grants denied. The Friends of the Nature Center are sponsoring a Fundraiser (Stoltz) for the Pre-school project in the Red Wing Pond House. The Nature Center is using the Red Wing Pond House for other events it is not vacant.

Mr. Wigglesworth reminded the members to take notice of the banners on Main Street.

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

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Dir.

Mr. Jeff Coppola was present.

Mr. Coppola said he received the certificate of insurance for Sharon Toscano for the Boot Camp to be held at Nolan field.

Chairman Smith asked if this organization was for profit.

Mr. Coppola said yes. Ms. Toscano will give a report to the commission.

Chairman Smith said that the Commission doesn't want to get into giving the use of the field for profit groups. He said the Commission stopped other people from using the field.

Mr. Coppola said Ms. Toscano will offer a 50% discount to City employees. He said we say no to camps, clinics, the Speed School, etc. we won't have anything. All of these things are for profit. John Coughlin's speed school camps are for profit.

Chairman Smith said that they are part of the program.

Mr. Coppola said no they are all for profit and if Recreation says no that is OK. Anyone who asks about a camp or clinic or speed school it will be no.

Chairman Smith said you are opening up a door where we have problems.

Mr. Coppola said the Conn. Speed Camp run by John Coughlin was held three or four times.

Chairman Smith said he thought that Conn. Speed Camp was a non-profit group to help the kids.

Mr. Rowley said it was for profit but it was for the kids in our sport program but it was a profit run camp.

Mr. Coppola said this is for adults and she makes a profit.

Mr. Rowley said how many city residents is this taking care of. Five residents and she is using our facilities.

Mr. Coppola said she is offering 50% to City employees. He said he will get the flyers out/ He said she is from Ansonia. Everybody who gives a service makes money. The clinics for football, baseball, softball gymnastics are not free. He said he doesn't know how other cities run their camps and clinics.

Mr. Rowley said it is getting cold and it will be dark at 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. how does she plan to run the boot camp. He said the commission requested in writing from her an outline of her program.

Mr. Coppola said possibly in one of the schools. There is no room in the Armory. If we don't want anyone doing this - OK. Say we don't allow it.

Chairman Smith said the Commission will have to open up to all the people who want to do the same thing.

Mr. Coppola said he will tell John Coughlin that the speed school can't use the facilities.

Chairman Smith said the Commission said no to carnivals because it was profit.

Mr. Coppola said Tom Brockett and John Coughlin run the Speed School it is their own business and they are running the camps for profit;

Chairman Smith said I get the point but be very careful so it doesn't snowball under Recreation.

Mr. Coppola said we don't want Recreation Commission's name on it. Maybe the Commission has to decide on a fee for use of the facilities.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Rowley said it is no different than allowing that group to use Linett Field.

Chairman Smith said they are not charging anything.

Mr. Puro said yes they are charging to play. They can make a donation back to the City.

Mr. Coppola said he will call Seymour and see how they handle this type of situation.

Chairman Smith said they use our facilities for profit we can't refuse anyone if you let them use it free. They can sue the City if we don't allow them the use of the facilities and we allow others the use.

Mr. Coppola said you have a 7 member Board to decide what activity you will allow on the field or in the Armory.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to approve the use of Nolan Field by Sharon Toscano for the fitness Boot Camp. The Certificate of Insurance has been provided and she will provide a report and the amount charged to participants. The approval is pending the submission of a written program outline to the Commission by the next meeting. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Coppola said basketball registration will be held at the AYF football game on Sunday, October 18, 2009. \$25.00 for Instructional and \$50.00 for 8 years old and older.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to allow the Recreation Director to hold basketball registration. Fees: \$25 for Instructional and \$50 for 8 years old and older. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Coppola said he is requesting permission to book the following events with Easy Travel:

1. New Jersey Mets Basketball game – they are looking at Dates and Fees. He will report back on date and fee.

2. Madison Square Garden – March 2010. He will report back on date and fee.

Mr. Puro made a motion to allow Mr. Coppola to book the above events with Easy Travel pending dates and fees. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

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

Minutes

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the September 1, 2009 meeting and the minutes of the September 16, 2009 special meeting. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Bills

Mr. Coppola said he has no bills to present to the Commission. He said everything is paid up and there is only the encumbered purchase orders.

Mr. Coppola said the new procedure the Commission started where the football and soccer groups keep their registration fees is in place and they are paying their own bills.

Mr. Coppola said that Paul Velardi has referees to pay and he wants to take the money from the budget line item so that the Parent's Club will not have to send out the 1099's. He said he wants to wait for Rich Bshara so that this can be discussed.

Correspondence

1. Recreation Commission to Luba Soldra AHS Athletic Director re: cars parking on the upper level at Nolan Field. Dtd. 7/13/09
2. Luba Soldra, Athletic Director AHS re: Rule & Procedures for admission to AHS Football Games. AYF youth will be charged \$1.00 to attend games.

Mr. Rowley discussed the fee that will be charged to the children attending the AHS games. He stressed the fact that the high school uses the field and there is no charge. PWD does the maintenance for the field and the preparation for Senior Night for the field is in excess of \$2000. The Recreation Commission also spent funds from their line items to repair the field and the charge to the youth to attend a high school football game is upsetting.

Mr. Puro said the AYF Football Parents Association put in \$1500 for sod for the field.

Mr. Coppola said that he will have a sit down with the Board of Education and explain these points. He said that the City of Ansonia has been very good about letting the Board of Education use our facilities.

A discussion followed on the use of the fields and the maintenance of these fields. Mr. Rowley discussed the expenditure of \$18,000 by the Recreation Commission out of their budget to fix the fields and all the commission asked was that the high school stay off the field until the sod establishes itself and that did not happen. They played the Blue/White game in the rain on the field and they played the Freshman game in the rain. Who makes the call as to whether or not the game is played or not played on the field when the weather is inclement. That is a question the commission feels needs to be answered.

Mr. Puro said the commission should sit down and have a meeting with Supt. Carol Merlone and Mike Schryver and discuss these issues. He said that he was told the Coaches voted to charge the youth to go to the games.

Mr. O'Reilly said that Mr. Kichar said the Recreation Commission will donate the money for the AYF youth to attend the football games.

3. Kevin Cegelka re: Harvest Festival at Nolan Field on 10/24/09. Dtd. 10/6/09

Mr. Rowley made a motion to allow the AYF Football Association to hold the Harvest Festival at Nolan field on October 24, 2009. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

4. AYF Parents Association – Webster Bank Statement submitted as the Financial Report.
5. Kathleen Paskiewicz re: request to remain as the Softball Director. Dtd. 10/6/09

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept Ms. Paskiewicz as the Softball Director for one year. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

6. Softball Financial Report for September 2009
7. Schedule for Girls Fall Softball League 2009
8. AYFC September 2009 Treasurer Report
9. Ansonia Soccer Club –Program Report Tuesday 10/6/09
10. Sharon Toscano re: use of Nolan Field for a Boot Camp. Dtd. 9/23/09

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

Mr. Rowley made a motion to re-open the Director's Reports for Soccer because Mr. Paul Velardi has arrived at the meeting. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Director's Reports – Soccer

Mr. Paul Velardi was present.

Mr. Velardi said the soccer season is well underway and there are no problems. They are \$1460 behind in funds. He said he figured out how much city funds the soccer program per player per hour. \$1.58 per hour per player + \$7000. The soccer program has two seasons a Fall and Spring season. He is exploring an effective use of the money.

Mr. Velardi said the expense is \$5800 for Uniforms. He said he is asking that the City pay the referee fees so that the Parent's Association doesn't have to deal with 1099's. He said that there is \$9895 left as an operational balance. The program is \$1400 - \$1500 behind in funds from last year.

Mr. Velardi said they have scaled back the number of games played and they are paying the referees lower fees. They cut back on the games so they should be OK. The equipment is in good shape and they are not anticipating spending any money on equipment this year.

Mr. Rowley asked how the new field is working out. He said that it is 15 feet shorter and diagonal.

Mr. Velardi said that the Youth 12 team plays 8 – 8 format and they use Colony Park for their games. The lower field at ANC (softball field) slopes down because it was a softball field. They will be playing their first travel game on 10/9/09.

There was a discussion on the softball field at the Nature Center.

Mr. Velardi said the Fall season there is less daylight however in the Spring they can play back to back. Mr. Velardi suggested that if there is no other long term use for the field maybe they can think about re-grading it. They play their Saturday games at Emmett O'Brien. The Premier Club uses the Emmett O'Brien field and they have a good relationship with them and they work together on the use of the field. He said he has nothing to complain about - the parents and coaches are good.

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

Director's Reports – Baseball

Jan Stevens, President Baseball Parent's Association, Mark Boland, Vice-President, Nancy Mankulics, Secretary and John Trivers Treasurer were present.

Ms. Stevens said that they are raising money however they are spending the money. The Concession stand is open for snacks. The major problem is that not many parents are helping out at the Concession Stand. She said to review her report. Ms. Stevens said that Mr. Kichar has a key to the Concession Stand.

Ms. Stevens said that she wants to open an account at the bank for the Little League Parents Association. She said the bank (Naugatuck Savings Bank) is requesting minutes of the meeting.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept the Parent's Associations Financial Report. Ms. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept the Little League Parent's Association Board of Officers. Ms. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to re-open the Public Session. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Seth Gibson was present.

Mr. Gibson said he wanted to re-start an Adult Softball League in Ansonia for Men and woman.

Mr. Rowley said the softball field is not a good field. Seymour wanted to use the field and we discussed eliminating the softball field and make it into a Little League field. The field use will be a big issue.

Mr. Gibson said there are 10 to 12 teams possibly up to 18 to 20 teams that would participate in the League.

Mr. Coppola said that the field is in bad condition.

Mr. Gibson asked about the field at Nature Center.

Mr. Coppola said the lower field the hits will go into the playground where there are children. They also have soccer on that field.

Mr. Gibson said they would need the field from mid-April through the Fall.

Ms. Stevens said they could play Co-ed leagues and they play at different times.

Mr. Gibson said he would prefer to play the week day league.

Mr. Puro said Ansonia has a shortage of fields.

Mr. Gibson said he has sent a letter to Derby to see if there were any options there.

Mr. Rowley said the fields were not maintained because they were not used like they were in the past.

Mr. Gibson said there are 24 teams. He is willing to listen to anything so that he can start this new adult league.

There was a discussion on the Seymour fields and the spring season.

Mr. Rowley said that from April to August 1 is the only time because football begins August 1.

Mr. Gibson said he would use ANC and hopefully get a game or two in at night because there are lights at Nolan Field.

Mr. Rowley advised Mr. Gibson to send a letter to the Commission outlining his league. How many teams, the number of players, the fees charged, etc. He said once the commission has the specifics of the program/league they can take a look at it.

There was a discussion on the softball field and the other fields at Nolan Field.

Any other business to come before the Commission

None

Executive Session (if needed)

None

Adjourn

Mr. Puro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary