

ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

November 10, 2009

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Steve Kichar
Jamie Puro
Lynda Williams

Absent: Tom Lynch
Sean Rowley

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director
Donna Lindgren, ANC Director

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:00 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. He asked three (3) times. There was no one.

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

Director's Reports:

Baseball & Softball

Jan Stevens and Marty Mikos were present.

Ms. Stevens presented her monthly report. She said she needed a copy of the minutes of the October 6, 2009 meeting. She also asked what the responsibilities were for the Commission.

The secretary advised her that the City Charter outlines that. Ms. Stevens was given a copy of the minutes.

Mr. Mikos said he received a call from Ron Sell regarding the B&L bill for \$300.

Mr. Kichar said the B&L bill has been paid.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept Ms. Steven's report on Baseball and Softball. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Mikos presented a letter to the commission requesting to be appointed President of the Little League program.

Chairman Smith asked for a clarification of "president" of Little League.

Mr. Kichar explained the Little League Charter that states someone has to be President or we don't get our charter.

Mr. Coppola said that he will have to get all of the people together and get a list of the Officers and Directors of Little League.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept and approve Marty Mikos as the President of Little League for the upcoming season. Ms. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Kathy Paskiewicz, Softball Director was present.

Ms. Paskiewicz said her season ended on 10/31/09. They had a great season.

Soccer

There is no one present.

Basketball (Boys & Girls)

Mr. Coppola said he will discuss the Basketball program when he does his report.

Football

Steve Cavanaugh was present.

Mr. Cavanaugh said the season has finished up. There are three Cheer teams still competing. The Regional's are 11/21/09 in Hartford. He has scheduled football equipment pick up for next week. He is having an early off-season meeting with the coaches.

Mr. Coppola said there is an issue with the equipment. There is an indoor Winter football league and the kids want to use their equipment to play in this league.

Mr. Cavanaugh said the equipment is the property of the City of Ansonia and it has to be accounted for.

Mr. Coppola said there are 10 kids for each grade scheduled for the indoor league. He said the Connecticut Speed School is conducting the indoor football program in Trumbull.

Mr. Cavanaugh said they are holding a Ziti Dinner fundraiser for the Cheer Regional competition. There is a Certificate of Insurance to cover the event.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Cavanaugh doesn't need Recreation approval for the Ziti Dinner.

Mr. Cavanaugh submitted invoices for Stadium Systems for shirts and hats.

Mr. Coppola said there is a bill from Clean Gear.

Mr. Cavanaugh said he said they were presumptuous and ordered extra face masks so if AYF needed them they would have them right away. Now they are trying to bill us.

Mr. Kichar said the City didn't order them.

Mr. Cavanaugh said the bill should be referred to Tim O'Reilly and Dave Beaton. This all happened before he assumed the Director position.

A discussion followed on the two invoices received from Clean Gear. There is an invoice from Clean Gear for practice jerseys from last year.

Mr. Coppola said that this invoice is for something from last year and they say we received the stuff and we didn't pay for it.

Mr. Cavanaugh said we definitely received the practice jerseys and used the equipment. All last year bills were paid.

Mr. Kichar said we are not paying these invoices.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept the Football Report by Steve Cavanaugh. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Coppola if there is a report from the Parent's Association.

Mr. Coppola said nothing was dropped off to him or the Commission secretary.

Ms. Williams said Kevin & Sal Cegelka are the Presidents of the Parent's Association – ask them for the report.

Mr. Kichar said there is no financial report from Tim O'Reilly, Director of the program for football.

Reports: Donna Lindgren, ANC Dir.

Donna Lindgren is not present. She gave her report to the Secretary for the meeting this evening.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept Ms. Lindgren's report as submitted. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Jeff Coppola is present.

Mr. Coppola reported on the status of the Basketball program. The last sign up is Monday, November 16, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club.

Mr. Coppola said that the Mayor made plans that the Ansonia Boys & Girls Club will run the Basketball League at the Boys & Girls Club. Grades 3 through 8.

Mr. Coppola said that the Girls Basketball program will be run by himself and Lynda Williams. They will have a travel team with Seymour, Derby, Bethany, Oxford at the Armory (home games).

Mr. Coppola said that there will be an Instructional Basketball League for 5,6,7 and 8 year olds on Saturday's at the Armory. Don Palmer will run the clinics. The Recreation Commission will pay Mr. Palmer \$150 a day for 4 weeks to run the clinics – total \$600. The registration fee is \$25 for the Instructional League.

Mr. Coppola said we collect the registration money and it goes back to the line item.

Mr. Kichar said that the money collected for the little kids goes to pay Don Palmer. The money collected for basketball is turned into the City. We have to pay those registrations to the Boys & Girls Club if they paid the City already.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to allow Don Palmer to run a Clinic at \$150 a session for 4 consecutive sessions at the Armory for the Instructional program (5,6,7,8 year olds). Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar asked if the Recreation Commission is out of Basketball completely.

Mr. Coppola said yes except for the Girls program. The 6,7,8 grade girls can play with the boys at the Boys & Girls club because they are Co-ed. Lynda Williams and my girl's teams will go outside of Ansonia and plan other towns.

Mr. Coppola said he has to sit down with the Mayor and Mr. Miller to see about the registration fees that were paid to the City that have to go to the Boys & Girls club.

Mr. Coppola submitted the Armory Schedule. He said that Saturday and Sunday Assumption School may use the Armory.

Mr. Kichar said to let everyone know that Saturday and Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Assumption School is in there.

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

Minutes

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the October 6, 2009 meeting. Ms. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Bills

1. Clean Gear Invoice 260 for \$2618.00 dated 4/30/09
2. Clean Gear Invoice 367 for \$1,637.40 dated 9/26/09

The commission received the AYF football bills this evening.

Mr. Kichar said that all of the money has to be accounted for before we use the City money for the bills.

Mr. Coppola said we can look but not pay until we know the Financial Report.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to table the bills until the Recreation Commission receives the Financial Report from Mr. O'Reilly and from the Parent's Association. Ms. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

There was a discussion on what needs to be done for the Financial Report from Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Coppola said that he has to balance the number of kids vs. the registration money. Mr. Kichar said that this was supposed to be done by October and submitted to the Commission.

Mr. Joseph Miller, Jr., Comptroller arrived at the Meeting at this time.

Mr. Miller said there seems to be money unaccounted for in football and soccer. He said the Recreation Commission has never passed a resolution that things have changed. All registration money should be turned into the City. He said he is holding up the bills. There is no registration money turned and we don't know if any was collected. He said he is on top of the bills. Mr. Coppola has two bills from Clean Gear totaling \$4200. He said he doesn't know what is going on with that. He asked if the commission is having the Parent's Club handle it and the city is out of it. In the past all monies went through Recreation and the City paid the bills.

Mr. Miller said that the Commission can't keep going like this. They have to resolve these issues. Last Year over \$10,000 was collected for football. This year zero. What happened. It is unaccounted for. He said if you don't make a change in football you will have the same problem as last year with the equipment reconditioning. You will have to go out to bid.

He continued stating that Recreation has to decide which way they are going. If nothing is changed and nothing is approved then the registration money comes to the City.

Mr. Kichar said I sat with you in your office and you said let it go this year because the money has been collected. The program is running and everything is taken care of. The football Directors are 100% wrong. Mr. Velardi turned in \$5000 for soccer and expensed \$6000.

Mr. Miller said soccer and football are the same.

Mr. Coppola said Mr. Velardi has City money to spend. He asked the City to pay for the referees because of the taxes. Give them a one time check from the City. We can have a form for the Director's and a Financial Report Form for them to fill out.

Mr. Kichar said that soccer assumed Mr. Velardi gave the report on the money and how it was spent and the City would pick up the added expenses.

Mr. Coppola said that the City can't pay the bills tonight because no Financial Report is given.

Chairman Smith said the original concept is:

1. Money is collected from the kids.
2. Money will be paid before the season starts
3. Money is to go to J.Miller and put in the line item.
4. Bills come in and Miller pays the bills from the line item.

Chairman Smith said why is the Recreation Commission money not being given to Mr. Miller. It goes into the line item. Bills are paid out of the line item – it's that simple.

Mr. Coppola said running the program is the hardest thing to do.

Discussion on the money in the lime item and paying the bills continued. Mr. Kichar said in theory it is OK what Mr. Smith said but now it's \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year to run football. This far exceeds the costs from years ago. Football is very expensive to run.

Chairman Smith asked what money is it they need.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Miller hasn't been given the reports he needs.

Mr. Coppola said something we have to discuss. One way or One way. We need to get input. Years ago it was easier but the daily operations and daily expenses prohibits doing things like we did in the past. There are daily expenses such as buses, conditioning, referees.

Mr. Velardi gave Mr. Miller a copy of his report.

Mr. Miller reviewed the financial report and stated that the referee requisitions that have been approved by Mayor Della Volpe and Mr. Kichar can be paid.

Mr. Kichar made a motion that Mr. Velardi's report is accepted by Mr. Miller and the Financial Report submitted is OK and the Commission approves payment of the referees vouchers submitted last month. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Chairman Smith said that the soccer bills will be paid if Mr. Miller agrees.

Mr. Kichar said if the Financial Report agrees and the statements balance we can pay bills.

Mr. Miller said that Mr. Velardi still owes the City money however he will approve the payment of the soccer referees.

Mr. Velardi said he is aware of the funds owed the City and will pay Mr. Miller.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to deviate from the agenda to take up Soccer. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Soccer

Mr. Paul Velardi was present.

Mr. Velardi presented his Financial Report. The referees will be paid for September, October and November.

Mr. Miller said the soccer referees will be paid for September only. There is money still due the City.

Mr. Velardi said they were asked not use Emmett O'Brien soccer field for the travel team. They have moved to have all home games at the Ansonia Nature Center for the Spring and Colony Park for the little kids. The Premier Club is a high school team and they are using Emmett O'Brien and the field at Emmett has wear and tear on it and needs to be fixed and "rested".

Mr. Kichar said the Premiere Club is not affiliated with the Recreation Commission programs. They should be off the field. Ansonia has an agreement with Emmett O'Brien on these fields.

Mr. Velardi said that they can use ANC fields. They have to do some maintenance – there is brush that has to be cleaned up and pot holes to fill but he will work it out with Mike Schryver. The older girls softball field could be used for the youth 12 girls. It has to be re-graded because it is 1 ½ inches too high and has to be level. He is hoping the City can do this work for the league.

Mr. Velardi continued stating all checks made payable to the City of Ansonia have been turned into the City. These checks were deposited into the separate revenue line item for soccer. The other checks the Parent's Club kept.

There was discussion on purchasing uniforms in the Spring and using different vendors i.e. B&L Men's Store and City Stitchers.

Mr. Kichar said the uniforms total over \$5000 and you have to go out to bid.

There was a discussion on going to bid for the uniforms and how the bid process works. If the cost is \$5000 or more you must go out to bid per the City Charter.

Mr. Velardi discussed the different vendors that are local and all of the prices are very close. He said the cost for uniforms is about \$5800. He is concerned that they would have to settle for the low bidder even if their quality of product is not the same.

The discussion on the quality of the product and the cost continued. There is an ordinance passed by the Board of Aldermen that states City vendors should be given preference and there is a 10% margin where the City vendor could meet the bid. The concern is the quality of the product and service vs. low bidder with poor quality and poor service.

Mr. Velardi said that the Parent's Club is about \$5500 short of funds from last year.

Mr. Puro said that the City of Ansonia maintains the Emmitt O'Brien field and they should not tell Ansonia Recreation that they cannot use that field. Part of the maintenance agreement was that the recreation programs would be able to use the soccer field.

Mr. Coppola said he will clarify this with the Athletic Director at Emmett O'Brien.

Ms. Lindgren said that the ANC field needs to be re-graded and seeded. She discussed the workshops that are held that teach how to organically maintain the fields. This group is called NOFA. She advised the Commission to look into having them come down and work with Public Works.

Reports: Donna Lindgren, ANC Director

Ms. Lindgren reviewed her monthly report with the commission members. She discussed the grants from the State of CT for the Nature Center. She also discussed the hunting program on the 600 acres of State Property. She said that for one square mile there are 122 deer. The State wants to manage the land. The deer need to be managed and controlled, therefore the State of CT is instituting all hunting. There is no understand because the size of the herd is very large. She said she would like bow hunting only. The State doesn't think archery will control the herd. The State has instituted a Lottery system for 24 hunters for a 3 week period with guns. She said that she doesn't want it. She is advocating no trapping, no guns only archery.

A discussion followed on archery hunting and safety with regard to hunting with guns on property adjacent to the Nature Center. Ms. Lindgren said no hunting will be allowed within 500 feet of the Nature Center.

Ms. Lindgren presented her Annual Report. She discussed the Red Wing Pond House. There have been several requests to use the facility and she can allow them the use of the building but there is no fee schedule. There is already a fee schedule in place for the picnic pavilion. Ms. Lindgren asked if the Commission could incorporate the Red Wing Pond house into that fee schedule for out of town people.

Ms. Lindgren said she is using the Red Wing Pond house for a science project which will begin on Saturday. They are paying as a vendor.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to allow Ms. Lindgren to use the same fees that are in place for the Nature Center facilities for the Red Wing Pond House. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to approve the Calendar of Events and the Report presented this evening. Ms. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Correspondence

1. Donna Lindgren re: ANC Mission Statement dated 11/5/09.

The Board of Aldermen approved it this evening at their monthly meeting.

2. No Vet Left Behind Inc. Flyer

Mr. Coppola explained this event to the members. He said that they will hold it at the Armory and serve the Veterans Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, etc. and give them items that they need. The bus will begin at 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be clothes, hats, jackets, etc. for the Veterans plus food. They pick up the homeless and bring them here and feed them and clothe them.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to approve the use of the Armory for the "No Vet Left Behind" event. Ms. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

3. Natalie DiDente-Dunleavy re: use of Armory for Annual Holiday Party. Dtd. 10/5/09

Mr. Coppola said that this event will be held on Sunday, 12/6//09 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for under privileged children.

Mr. Kichar asked if the Armory will be cleaned out after this party.

Mr. Coppola said that it will be cleaned.

4. Little League Movie Night Fundraiser Flyer

5. Seth Gibson & Tyrone Maynard re: Use of field for Adult Softball League

Seth Gibson was present.

Mr. Kichar discussed the plans to turn the field into grass for youth teams in Football. The Commission doesn't want to do the field in the Fall and stay off of it for 6 months. We want to do the field right away and stay off of it until August.

Mr. Gibson said that Sean Rowley didn't say there were any plans for the field. Who put the plans in place first.

Mr. Kichar said that the Commission has been discussing doing this field for over two months. We waited to let the Varsity use the field to the end of the season.

Mr. Coppola said the only way is if Public Works doesn't do the field. Then you could use it.

Mr. Kichar said have Paul Kozak give a price for doing the field if Public Works doesn't do it. We don't want to OK his program if we are working on the field. Mike Schryver said no later than mid-December the field will be flattened and reseeded.

Ms. Williams said the softball field will be gone.

Mr. Kichar said there hasn't be softball up there for years. There will be no softball up there anymore. We will use it for football. We have to sit down with the coaches and have the Freshman games played there and the Main Field will be for the Varsity team.

Mr. Coppola said we can't do anything until we know what Public Works is doing.

Mr. Kichar said we had a discussion a few years ago. Other towns they have to pay to use the field. That field is not to be used until August.

Mr. Coppola said that is right.

A discussion continued on getting the work done by Public Works. The outcome is that there will not be a softball there anymore. The Commission is requesting Public Works to re-grade and re-seed the field because the softball field will be grass and cannot be used until August.

Mr. Coppola said to Mr. Gibson that the field can't be used until August so there is no field that the Commission can let him use for his league.

Mr. Gibson said that Mr. Rowley did mention the work that might be done on the field at the last meeting.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to DENY Mr. Gibson the use of the field at Nolan Field because of the work that is to be done at the field to refurbish it. Ms. Williams seconded. All in favor, so carried.

6. Ansonia Soccer Club Program Report dated November 10,2009
7. Ansonia Little League Parents Association Monthly Report dated November 2009
8. Donna Lindgren's Monthly Report dated November 10, 2009
9. Joseph Miller, to Recreation Commission re: Policy dated 12/1/09

The Commission members received Mr. Miller's letter and discussed it when he was present at the meeting.

Mr. Coppola said that there should be a special meeting with the Directors/coaches and the Comptroller and the commission.

A discussion followed on the above. It was discussed that the Recreation Commission should meet and discuss how they want to run their Recreation programs. Once they determine that they can meet with Mr. Miller and Mr. Bshara and discuss their plans with them. After the commission is set on how they want the programs to run they should write a policy and then meet with the Directors only. At this Director meeting the commission should advise the Directors that this is the Policy that will be followed and if the policy is not followed the program may be in jeopardy.

Any other business to come before the Commission

December Meeting Date Conflict

There was discussion on changing the December meeting date because of the football championship game that is scheduled for December 1st.

Mr. Puro made a motion to change the December 1, 2009 meeting to Tuesday December 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall. Mr. Kichar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

The commission discussed possibly holding a Special Meeting on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. with Mr. Miller and Mr. Bshara to discuss the changes to the policy.

Executive Session (if needed)

None

Adjourn

Mr. Kichar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary