

ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

December 8, 2009

Regular Meeting

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

Absent: Tom Lynch
Lynda Williams

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director
Donna Lindgren, ANC Director
Michael Schryver, Supt. Public Works Dept.

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 if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the commission.

Rec120809

Mr. Schryver asked the commission what was happening with the practice field at Nolan Field. Is Recreation Commission shutting down the field so Public Works can re-seed it in the Spring? There are five men's softball teams that want to use something for their program. He said can they use the field at the Ansonia Nature Center.

Mr. Kichar said he thought with the nice weather that Public Works would have done something with that field.

Mr. Schryver said Mrs. Soldra is asking to use the softball field at the Ansonia Nature Center. It would be limited to baseball one or two times a week.

Mr. Kichar said that the Recreation Commission wants to keep everyone off of the field at Nolan field so that the work can be done next season. He said that the Recreation Commission talked about doing this work right away but the football team practiced everyday on the field. This is the first week there is no practice on that field.

Mr. Schryver said Recreation wants to shut down the field to softball for one year.

There was a discussion on the work that has to be done on that field to prepare it for regrading and re-seeding. The concern is if there is a heavy frost in the ground the field will not be regraded until Spring. Mr. Schryver said early Spring will have the same effect as if the field was done now.

Mr. Coppola said the Firemen's League use that softball field.

Mr. Schryver suggested the Recreation Commission put them at the Ansonia Nature Center.

Mr. Kichar said that Recreation Commission wants to shut down that field for repair.

Mr. Coppola said that will stop the Firemen's League for next year.

Mr. Schryver said they will have to find a field. He will let Mrs. Soldra know what Recreation Commission plans for the fields.

Mr. Kichar said they have to get the field fixed right. He asked Mr. Schryver if Emmett O'Brien will let them use their field. Ansonia Nature Center field is good for the J.V. and Freshman.

Mr. Schryver said yes.

Mr. Coppola questioned what happens if there are two games scheduled for the same time.

Mr. Kichar asked the number of games to be played.

Mr. Schryver said there are 10 home games. Practice on the field is the big issue.

Mr. Rowley said the softball field has to be done. Grass that other field and let everyone know that is where they will practice. We are trying to make that a game field for football games in bad weather.

Mr. Kichar said we have to keep everyone off that field until it is stable. There are kids that go up there and play on their own and they have to be kept off of that field.

Mr. Kichar asked Mr. Schryver what can be done to repair the Main Football game field because it is in bad shape.

Mr. Schryver said that they will air-rate it, seed it and top dress it and hope that it comes back.

Mr. Rowley said that the football team practiced on that field for the last month.

A discussion followed on the recent work that was done to re-do the main football field and the shape it was left in.

Ms. Lindgren suggested they have someone go to the Organic Land Conference because they specialize in organic commitment and ways to repair a field, etc. She will send the information to Mr. Schryver.

Chairman Smith asked if there was anyone else from the public who wished to address the commission.

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

Director's Reports

Baseball & Softball

Softball

Kathy Paskiewicz was present.

Ms. Paskiewicz said there is nothing going on with softball at this time.

Baseball

Marty Mikos was present.

Mr. Mikos said that they will have baseball elections for the Board of Directors.

Mr. Mikos said that Steve Tamburino sent a letter asking to be appointed Director of Baseball for Little League. He will take over Marty Mikos position.

Mr. Coppola said that he will present the entire Board of Directors to the Recreation Commission for approval after their election.

Mr. Mikos said he submitted Mr. Tamburino's request early so the commission can approve it.

Mr. Kichar noted that the Commission already approved Mr. Mikos as President of the Little League group last month.

Mr. Rowley said Marty Mikos is the President of Little League and Steve Tamburino will be the Baseball Director?

Mr. Kichar said that Recreation Commission always recognizes the President and Director of the programs.

Jan Stevens
Baseball Parents Association

Ms. Stevens was present. She said there will be a Ziti Dinner Fundraiser next month at Assumption Church Hall. The movie night did not raise and money.

Mr. Kichar asked if the outstanding Little League bills were paid.

Ms. Stevens said that Mr. Coppola has one bill. The Parent's group also owes \$50 to a player because they didn't receive their candy.

Mr. Coppola said the money went back through the Parent's Association. The player gave the check to Ron Sells. He said they have a copy of the cancelled check.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept as presented the Baseball and Softball report. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Soccer

Paul Velardi is not present this evening as he has another commitment. He sent a copy of his report for the commission.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept his report and take no action. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Basketball (Boys & Girls)

Mr. Coppola said Lynda Williams is coaching the Girls Basketball Team. He is coaching the Girls Travel Team.

Mr. Coppola said Don Palmer is running the Instructional Basketball program for the 5, 6, 7 year olds.

Mr. Coppola said the Ansonia Boys and Girls Club is running the Basketball program for the third grade and up players for both the boys and girls.

Mr. Kichar asked why Lynda Williams is running the girls program.

Mr. Coppola said that no one wanted to run it and the 7th and 8th grade girls didn't want to play co-ed with the Boys & Girls club. Lynda Williams has a two tier program with the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders. They play Derby, Seymour, Shelton, Bethany, and Oxford. They will be using Mead School three nights a week. There are a couple of people who may help but she has to coach.

Mr. Kichar asked if the Armory was available in the evening.

Mr. Coppola said Thursday is taken.

Mr. Mikos asked if he can use the Armory for Baseball practice if no one is in there.

Mr. Kichar stated there is NO discussion on the floor during the regular meeting.

Chairman Smith said he thought the Commission was going to curtail the use of the Armory for Basketball and Baseball because of the condition of the floor. He said the floor is in bad shape and someone may get hurt.

Mr. Coppola said he is trying to get a grant to fix the floor because the City has no money to fix it.

Mr. Kichar said the floor is a hazard and someone can hurt their knee.

Mr. Coppola agreed stating the Commission discussed limiting the use of the Armory because of the condition of the floor.

Mr. Smith asked if there could be a temporary fix on the section of the floor that is bad.

Mr. Coppola said no. The cost is over \$100,000 and there is no money for fixing the Armory floor. There is no grants available either.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept the basketball report as presented by Mr. Coppola. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Football

Tim O'Reilly was present.

Mr. O'Reilly said all of the teams went to two play-offs. Two teams went the next round and lost. He said half the team and half the coaches showed up. The coaches who didn't show will not be allowed back. He said he spoke to Rocky from AYF regarding the behavior of the parents. They will institute a parent policy and will call the police if they get out of hand. These parents will not be allowed back.

Mr. Kichar said at our facility you have the right to remove anyone – parent or otherwise.

Mr. O'Reilly said calling names, etc. will be addressed. The \$50 fee for return of equipment was waived. There is \$5934 worth of equipment still out on the town that has not been returned to us. He said they have called everyone on the list. He asked if they should call the Police and have them go out to the homes and get the equipment. He said they will reinstitute the \$50 fee for next season.

Mr. Kichar said in the past if you don't turn in your equipment you weren't allowed to participate in basketball or baseball.

Mr. O'Reilly said he would like to have the Police go and get the equipment from them. He said a \$20 garden hose was taken at the Police Dept. and there was more done on that issue.

Chairman Smith said Mr. Coppola will check with Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake on this and see what action the Recreation Commission can take to retrieve the equipment.

Mr. O'Reilly said the cheerleading group ages 10, 12, 13 came in 5th in the Competition. The 13 and under team voted NO to going to Florida. Only two teams in the division went to Florida. The 12 and under weren't going no matter what. They performed Saturday at Competition and now they want to go to Florida. If you commit to Florida and don't go you aren't allowed to compete – no one in the program can compete.

Mr. O'Reilly presented his Financial Report from November 2009. All the bills are listed and totaled. All the bills from Stadium Systems are not paid.

Mr. Coppola said that Mr. Miller has requested to see a Financial Report.

Mr. O'Reilly said he is waiting for a template.

There was a discussion on the template. Mr. O'Reilly met with Mr. Miller and it was decided that Mr. O'Reilly would e-mail his report with the income and expenses to Mr. Miller. Mr. O'Reilly said he didn't e-mail his report because he was waiting for a uniform template that all sports programs can use.

Mr. Kichar said that Mr. O'Reilly has done everything that was asked of him. He said that the Commission has not received a Financial Report from the Parent's Association. The Parent's Association can't come to the Commission for money, there is no Financial Report from them. He said he will meet with Mr. O'Reilly, Sean Rowley, Jeff Coppola and Jamie Puro to discuss this. He asked if Coach Patty received her money from the Credit Card expense.

Mr. O'Reilly said he will write her a check.

Mr. O'Reilly discussed the scoreboard paperwork he submitted to Mr. Coppola. He said that Corporation Counsel was to review it. He explained that once you get sponsors for the Scoreboard the sponsors pay and the City gets money to make repairs etc.

Mr. Rowley said that the Mayor said something about that to him.

Mr. O'Reilly said that the City is out of time for the Scoreboard sponsorship. He said that the NFL USA Football donates money for every dollar you put in USA Football matches it. For example the turf that was put on the field, they would match double for the work. If you hired "Joe" down the road for \$50 you pay \$50 and they pay \$50. He said no one called him about this. He said Category CT falls under the Giants and Jetts. This is another way to get things done.

Mr. O'Reilly said the AYF Banquet will be held on January 11, 2010 at Grassy Hill Country Club.

Mr. Rowley said he thought they didn't want to spend \$10,000 to \$15,000 on a banquet.

Mr. O'Reilly said that everything should be uniform for all sports such as a uniform spread sheet or template.

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

Reports: Donna Lindgren, ANC Dir.

Donna Lindgren was present.

Ms. Lindgren reviewed her report with the commission members. She discussed the Massaro Farm project.

Ms. Lindgren advised the commission that Friday opened up Archery hunting for deer on the open space adjacent to the Nature Center. After that there will be a lottery for gunshot hunting. She said that the DEP website has it posted for the Nature Center. There are signs warning people to stay from the Nature Center when hunting.

She reviewed the Calendar of Events. She said that the Friends of the Nature Center have hired a Financial Planner for the Red Wing Pond House.

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

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Jeff Coppola was present.

Mr. Coppola gave a brief overview of the workshop meeting held on Monday. There was no quorum.

He said that baseball is the next sport to come up. The discussion last night was that the registration money is to come back to the City and put in the line item. They City will be paying the referees through their accounts payable system. He said he will get the slips every Monday from Marty Mikos and submit them to Finance and they will cut a check on Thursday.

Mr. Coppola said that he has to go and do an inventory of all of the baseball equipment. Some of the equipment is old and needs to be discarded. He is asking the Commission permission to go through the equipment and throw out the old helmets, bats, etc. that are no good. He will inventory what is discarded.

He said at the beginning of the season they will have to get sponsors for their uniforms. If something is needed, they will have to fill out a Purchase Order requisition before anything is ordered. If it cost \$400 and it is ordered and not approved before hand it will not be paid.

Mr. Coppola said that he would like to get all of the equipment ahead of time and then there are no hold ups for equipment. No hold ups to pay the referees.

Mr. Kichar said to get the inventory of the equipment done. Order the equipment that is needed before February and that way the City will have the equipment. He said we can't have a repeat of last year with Little League.

Mr. Coppola said he will inventory the baseball equipment at the Armory on Sunday. There are 6 to 8 people who will help him go through the stuff.

Mr. Kichar said they will sit down with Marty Mikos on the registration fees.

Mr. Coppola said that the City of Ansonia has been very generous to baseball and all the other sport programs.

Mr. Coppola said that there was an incident on Sunday during the party for the Disabled Children. The Men's Basketball program was to start at 7:00 p.m. and they came to the Armory early. The people who ran the Party were trying to clean up and get out of the Armory and the basketball players were in there playing. Mr. Schryver had someone there to help. The children with the disabilities were scared. The basketball players were shooting baskets and giving them a hard time. If they come back next year the team that was there on Sunday will not be allowed back next year. There are three (3) people not allowed back.

Mr. Kichar asked if they are Ansonia residents.

Mr. Coppola said they have Ansonia addresses.

Mr. Kichar said that is the league that we didn't want in the Armory. They have no schedule and no roster.

Mr. Coppola said he spoke to Craig Behun and the Mayor. They have to fill out a form to have a key to go into the Armory. Their season has ended.

There was a discussion on this league and their hours of play and the people who participate. Mr. Coppola said if it was done the right way it would be good for Ansonia. Chairman Smith said next year they have to tell Recreation who is playing and who is in the Armory.

Mr. Kichar said he is concerned because every time they use the Armory Public Works has to go in there and clean up.

Mr. Coppola said that the Veterans will be at the Armory on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There is nothing else scheduled in there. Assumption School knows they were moved to Sunday.

Mr. Coppola said that he has Assumption Church Hall for the Veterans affair. His family will be cooking Pasta for them and there will be grills outside to cook hot dogs and hamburgers for them.

Mr. Coppola said the Instructional Basketball program began this Sunday. He said he did the first week for Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer will finish the three sessions left.

Mr. Coppola said three people left checks for the Basketball Clinic. Someone left \$25 in cash in an envelope. He matched up the checks with the names he had however he doesn't know who left the \$25 cash.

Mr. Mikos asked if baseball could use the baseball cage in the Armory since it is vacant.

Mr. Coppola said the Winter Hitting League is using the batting cage at the Armory. There is a little fee for the participants in this league. They are there early January through March. He said it is our kids in the Little League program.

Mr. Kichar said pick a time frame for them Saturday or Sunday.

Mr. Coppola said that they should come to us with a proposal. It is not easy putting the cage up and down.

Mr. Kichar said then they don't use the batting cage during Basketball season.

Mr. Coppola said then it will be February.

Chairman Smith asked who will be using the batting cage.

Mr. Coppola said it will be open to all kids in Little League and Softball.

Mr. Kichar said go with a schedule. No hard balls on the floor. We told them that numerous time and they do not do it.

Chairman Smith said if they don't do what we ask shut them right down.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Mikos will not disrespect us like that.

Mr. O'Reilly asked what kind of balls do they use in the Armory. He said he has a lot of balls they could use.

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the November 8, 2009 meeting. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Coppola asked if the AYF bills could be paid with the approval of Mr. Miller. He said that Stadium Systems has been waiting.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to accept and pay all soccer and football bills providing Mr. Miller says they are correct. Mr. Rowley seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar made a motion to pay the following stipends for Directors for the year:

1. Paul Velardi: \$750
2. Steve Cavanaugh: \$750
3. Amy Butler: \$750

Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Kichar said that Tim O'Reilly is the President of Football and there is no stipend for that. This is same for Softball/ Little League President. They don't receive stipends.

There was a discussion on who receives a stipend for serving as a Director of a program.

Mr. Kichar said the following Directors receive stipends:

1. Football \$750
2. Cheer \$750
3. Baseball Directors:
 - a. Baseball \$250
 - b. Softball \$250
 - c. Instructional \$250

Kathy Paskiewicz, Marty Mikos, Steve Tamburino did not receive a baseball stipend this year season.

Mr. Kichar said is there money to pay these people for last year. Make a schedule and put the funds aside.

Ms. Paskiewicz is Director of the Major League, Minor League, Juniors and Instructional for Softball.

Mr. Kichar said there is a \$750 cap for stipends.

Mr. Coppola said he has been discussing the stipends with Mr. Miller, Mr. Bshara and Corp. Counsel Blake.

Correspondence

1. Letter from Steve Tamburino requesting to be appointed Little League Director.

Mr. Rowley made a motion to appoint Mr. Tamburino as Little League Director. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

2. Armory Schedule

Mr. Rowley made a motion to accept the Armory schedule. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

3. Soccer Report from Paul Velardi.

This report was accepted earlier in the meeting under Soccer.

Any other business to come before the Commission

Mr. Kichar said he wanted to talk about all of the clinics that are going on. Our programs continue to use the Armory. There are baseball, softball and football clinics that have to start doing some free clinics. Our high school football coaches use the Armory all the time. They use the fields and Armory free of charge. Conn. Speed School Clinics use our facilities free of charge. They are going to have to start paying.

Mr. Rowley said anyone who uses any facility in Shelton, running a clinic or league they come up with a formula and they have to pay. They charge the kids and everybody has to pay. The people who use Linett Park should pay.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Coppola received a \$300 check from Linett Park.

Mr. Rowley said they have to pay. Start with the Armory and the Basketball clinics, etc. We have to come up with a fee. They have to provide a certificate of insurance also. Anyone who uses the fields or Armory the fee goes to the City.

The discussion continued on the use of City facilities (fields, Armory) and charging fees for this use. The members discussed ways that the different groups could help the City and the Recreation programs when they use our facilities for free. The Recreation Commission/City of Ansonia gives and gives to these groups and they receive nothing in return.

The commission members agreed that any of the high school coaches that charge the kids for the clinics should be charged to use the facility. In Shelton the football coach is charging the kids for the clinics and he has to pay to use the facility. Ansonia can't make anymore exceptions.

There are people using our fields and facilities and we are not charging them what is to stop anyone from using the field without Recreation Commission's approval or knowledge. Something happens and the fields get ruined and the City has to pay to fix it.

Mr. Kichar said Mr. Coppola allows the high school to do whatever they want. Why should Recreation pay someone for clinics. Why can't our basketball, softball, baseball,

football coaches do something for the City. Why can't they run a free clinic. They are constantly using our facilities for free and hosting their clinics without a fee.

Executive Session (if needed)

None

Adjourn

Mr. Rowley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Mr. Puro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary