



City of Ansonia

253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

RECEIVED FOR FILE
16 FEB -9 PM 3:27
Justine Waugh
TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

February 2, 2016

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Michael Cratty
Jeff Devine
Anne Lynch
Steve Sobolisky
Paul Velardi

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director
Alison Rublemann, ANC Director
John P. Marini, Corporation Counsel
Richard Kaslaitis, 4th Ward Alderman
Frank DeLibero, 7th Ward Alderman
Lorie Vaccaro, 2nd Ward Alderman
Matt Edo, 6th Ward Alderman – arrived 7:25 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Smith at 6:05 p.m.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll and there was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Devine made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 5, 2016 meeting with the following corrections:

Page 13: The February meeting will be held on Monday, February 1, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Should read: "The February meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 6:00 p.m."

and Mr. Velardi had the following correction:

Page 11: Mr. Velardi made a motion to separate the Cheer and Football programs. No second.

Should read: "Mr. Velardi suggested that the Youth Football put forth a proposal to separate the organization and put forward a proposal to hold elections within the next couple of months."

Mr. Velardi seconded Mr. Devine's motion to accept the minutes with the corrections stated above. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Devine made a motion to accept the revised minutes from last month. Mr. Velardi seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Public Session

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

Ms. Lynch stated that there will be a three (3) minute limit to speak during the public session due to the amount of people in attendance. She said the commission welcomes your comments however you must be recognized by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Barbara Zealor
30 Elm Street
Ansonia, CT 06401

Ms. Zealor said she is a Cheer coach and she seeking information on the liaison for Recreation. She said her understanding of liaison is when they have problems with Cheer and they want to go to someone with questions, etc. and have that person present it to the Recreation Commission. She asked who is the Cheer liaison.

Ms. Lynch said that she and Mr. Sobolewski are the liaisons for football and cheer.

Ms. Zealor said how does she go to someone who doesn't know anything about Cheer?

Mr. Coppola said he is available and he knows the programs. The Recreation Commission doesn't have anyone with Cheer knowledge.

There was discussion on having a member from the Recreation Commission representing the commission as liaison attend the Cheer events and Football events so that they would know what is going on with the programs. They would understand the sport and be able to communicate with the Executive Boards/coaches and the Recreation Commission when there is a problem or situation that needs to be taken care of. Mr. Coppola said when there are issues he brings them to the Board and Ms. Lynch and Mr. Sobolewski may be able to address any situations or issues that arise. He said it will be better with two separate Executive Boards for Cheer and Football.

Ms. Lynch said that Ms. Zealor brought up a valid point. She said that these things will work out and she will follow through. She said it should be better with two separate organizations.

Colleen Rondon, President, Little League

Ms. Rondon said that she put in an e-mail that she would love a Recreation Handbook. A document of people who are in charge of things with the rules of the programs, a list of the coaches and the players in each of the programs.

The secretary stated that she received the e-mail and that Recreation Commission has no handbook. She spoke to Ms. Lynch regarding the e-mail. Each league and program has their own rules and regulations and that is what they go by – their own by-laws, rules and regulations or Charter.

Ms. Rondon said she would love a handbook with all of the information in it. It would also say how much money is allocated to each program and what they are allowed to spend it on.

Ms. Lynch said that each program has their By-laws. Little League has their By-laws that say what the rules are and you have to follow that.

Mr. Coppola said with regard to liaisons and who to go to with problems and issues and seeking information – I am the first call you make. If there is anything anybody needs the first phone call should be to him. He said it is his job to oversee the Recreation programs.

Haneefah Burrell
179 N. Main St.
Ansonia, CT 06401

Ms. Burrell said she has asked for the same information Ms. Rondon asked for months ago. She is a parent with three children. She said she has spoken with Mr. Coppola, the Commission members, Mr. Marini on this subject and on an issues that are not resolved. She said there is no regard for her request to have the by-laws, Roberts Rules or protocol sent to her. She said there is no written protocol, how does a resident get put on the Executive Board for these programs,

how do you qualify for the Executive Board of the program, when are the elections for officers. The parents don't know when these events happen. She said she is available and willing to meet for answers to her questions.

Ms. Lynch said the Recreation Commission doesn't have anything to send out and at this time the Football and Cheer Boards are separating their two organizations. There will be elections for these two Boards in February. They will set their Boards and they will follow procedure. The information comes from their organization to the parents.

Ms. Burrell said the Recreation Board doesn't have anything to give me.

Mr. Devine said the By-laws and Rules are set within the programs own perimeters. Issues go through their Executive Board to Jeff Coppola and then to the Recreation Commission. The Sport programs have their own By-laws. We review and approve the officers.

Ms. Burrell said she has an issue and no one followed through. She wasn't given an invitation to send an e-mail, she talked to people, she tried to get to Mr. Coppola. She said she has a big issue for Mr. Coppola for a situation that happened and she got no response from him. She said her question to Recreation is if Recreation itself doesn't have anything to say and it is given to Mr. Coppola and it is not rectified and if it is proven to be a violation and nothing happens and I have to take my child out of the program. I have to deal with Mr. Coppola and I have to move my children. I am willing to talk to you about this.

Mr. Coppola said this is a Summer situation and it was taken care of. The counselors were dealt with in an appropriate manner.

Ms. Burrell said speak to the situation now. Tell me there is no protocol for Personnel issues. The counselor was an employee. You did not speak to the children involved and there was physical aggression. This is not acceptable and there is nothing in place for this behavior. I was mortified by the incident. It is unacceptable. I expect you to deal with it. She said she spoke to Corporation Counsel Marini and he asked her to provide a written statement of what happened.

Ms. Burrell said it is not OK to say to a parent there is nothing in place. She spoke to parents and there is also a vendor in question. She asked if the vendor was an employee for the City program. If not, the vendor permit should be pulled.

Mr. Coppola said with regard to this situation, the vendor was approached and he wasn't video-taping that incident.

Ms. Lynch said Corporation Counsel Marini asked you to write down what happened. You have to document it and submit to him your written statement. There is a line of command that has to be followed. We are all Recreation Board members. All teams have their own Board of Directors. Other leagues have their own Boards. There are Aldermen who are liaisons – Alderman DeLibero, Alderman Kaslaitis, Alderman Vaccaro who are Recreation liaisons that you can call.

Vice-Chairman Lynch asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the commission. She asked three (3) times. There was no one.

Mr. Sobolewski made a motion to close public session at 6:37 p.m. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Reports: Alison Rublemann, ANC Director

Alison Rublemann was present.

The Commissioners received her monthly report. (copy on file in the Town Clerk's office)

Ms. Rublemann said the Ansonia Nature Center will celebrate their 40th year. She said the ANC attended MLK day January 17 & 18 at Yale Peabody. They are working on the annual Maple Festival on March 5th. They are looking for donations and raffle items for the event. The meeting with the Hamden Rotary Club went well. There will be a wine tasting fundraiser event in Seymour on April 10th. B&L Engineering is scheduling the driller for the borings at the ANC parking lot.

Mr. Devine asked if the drilling in the parking lot would conflict with any of the programs.

Ms. Rublemann said it is scheduled for the Spring and they will work around the schedules.

Mr. Velardi said the Soccer program will work with Ms. Rublemann on the parking lot renovations.

Mr. Devine asked if there was any work planned for the Pond this year.

Ms. Rublemann said the pond will be first next year and they then they will replace the playground. They are in the process of securing funding and grants for the work.

Mr. Sobolewski moved to accept the Nature Center report. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Mr. Coppola was present.

The Commissioners received his monthly report. (copy on file in the Town Clerk's office)

Mr. Coppola said that Mr. D'Alessio advised him the Armory will be done before winter is over. There are two locks on the bathroom doors and they will put metal plates over the holes in the doors.

Mr. Coppola said Soccer is holding their clinics. They have the clinics in the winter so they don't interfere with the Soccer Season. He said a suggestion was brought to him to put something together with the soccer group as part of the clinic that a player pays one fee for the clinic and it would allow him to play for Recreation soccer. The fee will pay for Recreation and the player will be eligible to go to the Summer Travel program. He said he advised this group that Mr. Velardi is in charge of Soccer.

Mr. Coppola said the quotes for the field renovations were too high. There is a walk through this week with another company for all of the fields. Mr. Rowley wants to get more quotes from other companies.

Mr. Coppola said that Dave Connolly will do the Fishing Clinic this April. There will be a fishing class held at the Armory on May 19th and a fishing trip to Colony Pond on May 21st. He said that Mr. Sobolewski has been working with Mr. Connolly on the Fishing Rodeo at Colony Pond.

Mr. Coppola said that the Summer Camp program will be expanding. He has met with Ms. Rublemann, ANC Director and they will be working together this summer for a program at the nature center.

There was discussion on looking into groups that run clinics for the Summer Camp. Ms. Lynch asked that the Summer Camp schedule be sent out through the schools early because parents make their summer plans. Mr. Coppola said he has to get permission to use the schools and he has to find out the Board of Education summer programs and schedules.

Mr. Coppola said that Mr. Dziekan, Mayor's office discussed expanding the Recreation program. There are talks with Emmett O'Brien regarding the use of their school and site for programs. He said the Mayor's office is also contacting surrounding towns for joint programs.

Mr. Cratty asked if the children participating in the fishing clinics and rodeo need a fishing license.

Mr. Coppola said no, they don't need a fishing license to participate. He said there is usually 30 to 40 kids at the Armory.

Mr. Velardi asked about the scope of work defined for the bids on the field improvements and if there are written specifications.

Mr. Coppola said Mr. Rowley and Mr. D'Alessio have that information. Everything goes through Public Works Dept. There is nothing out yet for the specifications and bids for the field work.

Mr. Devine asked if there is a grant for these field improvements or is the City of Ansonia paying for them.

Mr. Coppola said Ms. O'Malley is looking for a grant.

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

Director Reports – Soccer

Mr. Chris Sheehy is not present.

Director Reports – Baseball & Softball

Colleen Rondon, President of the Little League Executive Board was present.

Ms. Rondon said that the January registration had four people register in person and the on-line service was able to register new players and returning players. The baseball numbers are over 100 kids. Softball had 40 people register in person and more on line. She said the people can continue to register on line. There will be a Softball Clinic on February 6th and a Baseball Clinic on February 13th where people can register for the spring season.

Ms. Rondon reported on the Car Beater Fundraiser. She said you can apply on the phone and make an account with the company and this will eliminate any cash – it will be money order or credit card. There is no income for December and there was \$2192.23 in expenses. She said she was invited by the School Readiness Coordinator to put up a table for registration and they were able to register 12 year olds.

Mr. Velardi asked about the out of town registration and the Little League requirements.

Ms. Rondon said she included the eligibility requirements in the packet of information for the commission.

There was discussion on the eligibility requirements for Little League and for the City of Ansonia. Ms. Rondon said there was one family that had specifically asked about it. She said out of 140 registered there may be 2 registered from out of town that attend school in Ansonia.

Mr. Devine said we play a combined program with Derby for softball.

Mr. Zealor said there is a combined Charter because Derby doesn't have enough players and Little League granted a waiver so they could sign up. He said there is about 20 to 30 girls from Derby participating in Ansonia's program. They advertise for us and it is the same group of girls playing.

Mr. Cratty asked about player evaluation.

Ms. Rondon said player evaluation will be March 13th and March 15th to make sure the kids are properly placed.

Mr. Zealor said the underage evaluations will get two dates and if they miss both evaluations they cannot move up. They have to get the scoring.

There was discussion on the above and on the evaluation process. They discussed the coach pitch program, the minors and the majors. The kids come to the evaluation so that they can be placed on a team.

Mr. Devine asked about the one team that had less 12 year old boys on it.

Ms. Rondon said that evaluation is separate from the draft. They have to draft 12 year old players first and they cannot play in the Minors.

There was discussion on the floors in the Armory. Mr. Coppola said he will check the Armory calendar for the draft and work with Mr. Zealor on scheduling. Ms. Rondon said they may have a pitching clinic at Mead School, she has to look at the availability of the gym. She said Mead School gym would be great for this clinic.

Mr. Velardi discussed establishing a regulation that Little League permit out of town players as long as they attend school in Ansonia. There is a concern that out of town players get more playing time.

Mr. Coppola said playing time is a Little League rule.

Mr. Zealor discussed the issue with the Derby girls and the picking of the coaches for the league. A couple of the parents felt they were slighted because they wanted to coach and were not called or contacted. There is always a question when it deals with players and parents that coach – some people feel the coach's child will get more playing time. This doesn't happen and none of the players ever play the minimum time. He said they held a meeting with everyone that was involved and explained everything. They understood and there was no problem and they were in agreement with the way things were done.

Ms. Rondon said it is an issue in every sport that is why she is asking for a handbook or guidelines for everybody.

Mr. Zealor said football and cheer have rules and regulations.

Mr. Devine said baseball and softball there is playing time. The rules are by the National Board and local sport group.

Mr. Velardi said the issue is the Ansonia taxpayer being concerning tax dollars are used to fund sports for non-residents. As long as Ansonia residents playing opportunities are not diminished and the policy is clear as to what we expect.

Ms. Lynch said we are clear with the Little League rules and regulations. The coach has to follow the Little League rules to the "T" whether it's for Ansonia or Seymour they have to follow the rules.

Mr. Zealor said the out of town child is using City of Ansonia property to play their games.

The discussion continued regarding out of town children that play in the Ansonia sport programs. Some of the points brought up are - accept the league's Charter, rules, regulations and by-laws, approve exemptions for out of town players on a case by case basis approved by the League and Recreation Commission, defer to the League program's Charter, rules and regulations and let them administer their own rules and regulations.

Discussion on each child playing a minimum playing time on the field or court. Who would monitor this during the games? The rules for soccer have no minimum playing time. Each sport has their own rules and regulations by Charter or By Laws.

Chairman Smith said that each child has to play a minimum amount of time and we as the Recreation Board should see that each child is given a minimum amount of playing time. He said the rules and regulations state that every kid is given equal playing time.

Discussion on the rules of Recreation superseding the Little League Charter and Rules, the Soccer Rules, etc. Mr. Sobolewski said it is too hard for the Recreation Board to monitor that. Mr. Velardi said we don't have a policy and we deal with any complaints. The rules provide for playing time in the given sport. Chairman Smith said the coaches we have seem to be able to handle this equal playing time.

Ms. Rondon said the kids don't get equal playing time. We have minimum playing time and it may not be equal. There are rules on playing time. We satisfy the minimum but it might not be equal.

Mr. Velardi said we may want to consider a policy at some point.

Mr. Sobolewski made a motion to accept the baseball/softball report as presented. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Director Reports – Basketball

Mr. Coppola said there is three weeks left for basketball and it is running smoothly.

Mr. Sobolewski made a motion to accept the basketball report as presented. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Director Reports – Football

Corporation Counsel John Marini, Mr. Brad Zealor, AYF President and Mr. Brian Piccirillo and Mr. Keith Maynard were present.

Corp. Counsel Marini said on behalf of the Mayor's office he would like to thank the Recreation Commission and everyone involved in the AYF program for all of their time and hard work. He said it takes a lot of time to do this job and they are doing it for the right reasons and Ansonia is proud of them and all of the hard work they do for our youth. He said he was asked by the Board of Aldermen and Mr. Zealor to come to the Commission this evening to explain the separation of the Cheer and Football program. He said they are splitting the Football and Cheer programs into their own separate program. Right now they have one set of by-laws, one set of officers and one set of financials under the Recreation Commission. They have an Order of Dissolution and a Plan of Dissolution until the new Boards are formed and in place.

Corp. Counsel Marini said there is an Interim Board of Directors for Football and Cheer recommended by the Ansonia Youth Football Executive Board. It is a legal creation of new Boards. They are two groups from the beginning with objectives, By-laws and they will hold elections. All of which could be amended after the Boards are set. The dates, etc. should be approached under this Board until everything with the separation is done correctly. Ansonia Youth Football Inc. will have their own By-laws, own entity, own officers and their own finances. Ansonia Youth Cheer Inc. will have their own By-laws, own entity, own officers and their own finances. Both will be under the Recreation Commission.

See attached "Proposal for Separation of Ansonia Youth Football Cheer" document. Also attached to the minutes is the 2016 Ansonia Youth Football Inc. By Laws and the 2016 Ansonia Youth Cheer Inc. By Laws.

The Commission members discussed some of the points in the Proposal and the By-laws. Mr. Zealor said the By-laws are the same as last year with the removal of "Cheer" from the language.

Ms. Lynch said you will hold elections and then the new Boards will come back to Recreation to amend the By-laws. She said she questioned whether the Recreation Commission should be approving this. Does Recreation have the authority to approve the officers.

A discussion followed on removing any procedure where Recreation is asked to approve or disapprove candidates for the AYF program participants that are either elected or nominated by each of the programs. The Youth program elects an Executive Board and presents the names to Recreation and they ask Recreation to approve them.

Mr. Velardi suggested Recreation remove any procedure where Recreation is asked to approve or disapprove candidates for their program. He said the candidates are either elected or nominated by each program. They elect an Executive Board and present the names to Recreation to approve them. There is no reason for Recreation to approve or disapprove their candidates. He said Recreation needs clear policies.

Ms. Lynch said she doesn't think a decision can be made this evening. She said Recreation should talk to the Board of Aldermen and get their feeling on this. In Orange the Commission doesn't approve coaches or Boards.

Chairman Smith said these people are all volunteers and we don't want so many rules that we lose the volunteers.

Ms. Lynch said this subject should be new business.

Mr. Zealor said Section 4.6 should be removed. He said the amended By-laws will come back to the Recreation Commission when they are officially separated.

There was discussion on Section 4.6 and the election of the officers. Cheer proposed elections every other year. They also discussed that a resident of the City could go to the election of officers and vote.

Corporation Counsel stated that the By-laws are in effect until you elect a new Board. He said the Football group kept the same By-laws, the Cheer group changed some sections and their election is not open to the general public. You have to have a child in the program or volunteer in the program to vote. They have a close circle of people who are eligible to participate. Both election procedures are valid. They want to act under the By-laws in effect. Corporation Counsel Marini said the AYF football and cheer are separate legal entities subject to Recreation approval.

Discussion on the requirements as to who will participate in the voting process for each program. The question arose as to who is going to say "you are a parent" or "you are a volunteer" when it comes to voting for the officers. Mr. Cratty asked if this process was researched. Mr. Zealor said no, they adopted the process currently in place. Ms. Lynch said come February you send to your parents a notice stating they will have elections to elect the Boards. Mr. Sobolewski said the voting process is the same under the By-laws. They are two separate entities with a uniform voting process especially if a Cheer and Football person is voting who has a vested interest in the program. People voting should be associated with the program such as a parent or a volunteer.

Brian Piccirillo said as far as the football By-laws, they are in place from last year without change. Everyone is familiar with them and they are leaving them in place. We are the interim Board and feel we should let the next Board make any changes to the By-laws. Rather than the interim Board changing them we will keep them the way they are because the people know them.

Ms. Lynch asked Corporation Counsel Marini if the Recreation Commission has to approve the By-laws tonight.

Corporation Counsel Marini said the Commission should approve the two Interim Boards and the two new By-laws. There is a new document that falls to Recreation. The organization is going in two directions. It is up to Recreation – it is your pleasure. There will be two elections where one is open to the public and one is closed. Get input on what they would like to follow.

It would be their decision. Any complaints – there are two separate legal organizations reporting to Recreation. He said once the Boards are formed they can then amend their By-laws.

Ms. Lynch said Recreation has to approve the Interim Board and approve how the elections will be held.

Discussion on approving the By-laws and approving the closed system for voting continued. Mr. Maynard asked if a volunteer who doesn't have any kids in the program is eligible to vote. Corporation Counsel Marini said yes, parents, guardians and volunteers can vote. Your plan covers anyone who volunteers. Mr. Coppola said that football and cheer will have their lists as to who is parent or volunteer.

Corporation Counsel Marini asked where the line is for the volunteer status. They have to figure out the criteria to qualify as a voting volunteer.

Chairman Smith said they are two separate entities what happens if they decide they don't want to cheer for the football players.

Corporation Counsel Marini said when you approve the By-laws you can mandate they have to cheer for the boys.

Corporation Counsel Marini said the Commission has a Dissolution Plan before them. The following must be considered: The election process for both groups, the Interim Board and By laws and Recreation must make a decision to go forward with it.

Chairman Smith said the commission should take home and read the By-laws.

Mr. Coppola said the By-laws are the same with one change to the Cheer By-laws regarding the election process.

Ms. Lynch said the Commission has to approve the Interim Boards. Mr. Piccirillo and Mr. Maynard said they suggest the election process remain the same for football. Ms. Kiely and Mr. Zealor said they suggested every other year for elections for Cheer but will keep it the same this year. They can come back to Recreation after the election of officers with amended By-laws to cover all of that.

Discussion on who will be allowed to vote continued. Alderman DeLibero said his understanding on who will be allowed to vote is if you have a child in football you can vote football only. If you have a child in cheer you can vote cheer only. If you have a child in football and a child in cheer you can vote both. If you have no interest (child) in either program you are not allowed to vote.

Mr. Sobolewski said you have to consider the volunteer who should be allowed to vote.

Corporation Counsel Marini said they have to be consistent with the elections in both programs and should take up the volunteer criteria together as guidelines.

Chairman Smith asked why they are separating the football and cheer programs.

Mr. Zealor said the programs are getting big and the Cheer and Football want to make their own decisions.

Mr. Devine made a motion to approve the Proposal Plan for Separation of Ansonia Youth Football and Cheer as set forth in the proposal received at the Recreation Commission meeting and is attached to the minutes. Mr. Sobolewski seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Devine made a motion to approve the Interim Board of Directors and the Interim By-Laws with the modification they will both be closed elections and with the modification that the Recreation Commission will not accept bi-annual Cheer elections at this time. Mr. Sobolewski seconded. Roll Call Vote: All were in favor. The motion carried.

Ms. Lynch asked if there was access to the computer system so that everyone will be notified of the elections.

Mr. Zealor and Mr. Maynard said they will get the e-mails out to all of the football and cheer parents.

Corporation Counsel Marini said they will report back to Recreation next month on the vote and on the financial dissolution process. He said it is important that they do the financials correctly. After that happens the Interim Board of Directors will disband.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Coppola presented the following bill for payment:

1. Stadium Systems: Purchase football equipment \$1,623.43

Mr. Velardi made a motion to pay the bills presented. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Correspondence

1. Registrar of Voters re; Use of Ansonia Armory as a voting facility for Wards 1 and 2 for elections. Dated 1/14/16

Mr. Coppola said that he will get the schedules to Ms. Valentine and Mr. Maffeo regarding the use of the Armory for the elections this year. He said there is no problem with scheduling in April. He will meet with them and go over everything.

Any other Business to come before the Commission

Colleen Kiley, Cheer Coordinator stated that the D10 and D12 Cheer Teams won titles in Florida this year. They were recognized by Mayor Cassetti at Ansonia High School last night. They are the National Cheer Champions and they received jackets.

Mr. Sobolewski said a decision has to be made as to what league football will play in. He asked who makes this decision. What league does Ansonia Youth Football go into – Shoreline – Pop Warner?

Discussion on the above continued. Ansonia submitted applications to both leagues. Recreation Commission prefers the new Executive Board that will be elected sit down and discuss the pros and cons of each league and then bring it to Recreation. Shoreline meeting is February 10th and Pop Warner meeting is February 20th. The Executive Board elections will be held at the end of February. Mr. Sobolewski explained the Shoreline League program and the Pop Warner League program to the Commissioners. Shoreline has 18 teams and is an established program. Pop Warner is starting a trial pilot program in this Division with 5 teams trying this new Pilot program. It is an unlimited weight program. If it works Ansonia can revisit Pop Warner but we have an established program with Shoreline. Ansonia hasn't been accepted by either Shoreline or Pop Warner.

Mr. Zealor said he would like clarification on who will make the decision on what league AYF will go with.

Alderman Edo said we as the town, we fund the program and the Recreation Commission should make the decision.

Ms. Lynch said that none of the Commissioners have gone to these meetings.

Mr. Sobolewski said as the liaison he has given his recommendation for Shoreline as the established program and it's in the best interest for Ansonia.

Mr. Velardi asked who makes the decision.

Chairman Smith said the football people.

Mr. Coppola said the last time Ansonia changed leagues, we created a separate Board to investigate the facts and report back to the commission.

Mr. Velardi said it is a significant decision and it should be the Football Interim Board that makes a recommendation and presents the pros and cons and Recreation Commission makes the decision.

Mr. Sobolewski said this is a whole season for these kids and it's a trial program and he doesn't see the upside of Pop Warner.

Mr. Sobolewski made a motion to have the Recreation Commission make the decision on the 2016 League Football affiliation with the modification that the decision is made after a presentation is provided by the Football Board of Directors. Mr. Velardi seconded. Roll Call vote: Yes: Cratty, Devine, Lynch, Sobolewski, Velardi. No: Smith 5 yes, 1 no The motion carried.

Discussion on setting a Special Meeting date to go over the programs.

Mr. Sobolewski made a motion to hold a Special Meeting on Monday, February 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center to decide on the league Ansonia Youth Football will join. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Executive Session

None

Any other business to come before the commission

None

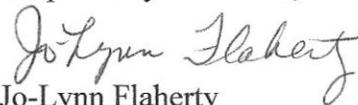
March Meeting

The March meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Mr. Velardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary

Attachments:

1. Proposal for Separation of Ansonia Youth Football & Cheer
2. 2016 Ansonia Youth Football Inc. ByLaws
3. 2016 Ansonia Youth Cheer Inc. ByLaws -

Rec 020216

15