



# City of Ansonia

253 Main Street  
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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*Jane Velardi*  
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## ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

March 8, 2016

Special Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman – arrived 6:30 p.m.  
Michael Cratty  
Anne Lynch, Vice Chairman  
Timothy O'Reilly  
Steve Sobolisky  
Paul Velardi

Absent: Jeff Devine

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director  
Alison Rublemann, ANC Director  
Matt Edo, 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman – left at 7:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order by Vice-Chairman Lynch at 6:04 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. Cratty made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 2, 2016 meeting as written and place them on file. Mr. Velardi seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Rec 030816 SpcMtg

## **Public Session**

Vice-Chairman Lynch asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the commission.

Vice-Chairman 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 Vice-Chairman. She said once public session is closed, it is closed.

Jennifer Millea  
56 Hodge Ave.  
Ansonia, CT 06401

Ms. Millea said she served as treasurer during the 2013-2014 football season. There were some serious accusations of financial misconduct on social media. She asked if they were referring to the current or past years. She stated she turned in all of the Financial Reports during the time she served as the treasurer. If there are any comments for her that need to be addressed she will address them.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said the comments were made on social media and she has spoken to Mr. Coppola and the Board about it. Mr. Coppola will be in contact with Ms. Millea on how to proceed.

Keith Maynard  
8 Cook St.  
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Maynard said he believes there is a Football Financial Report before the Commission this evening. He stated there hasn't been a Financial Report submitted to the Board since November.

Dolores Basuljevic, current treasurer on the Executive Board, stated that she has the Financial Reports in her bag and hasn't given them to the Commission yet.

Mr. Maynard said the Recreation Commission does not approve the Financial Report. They haven't had any reports since November. They don't have this report. He said the Executive Board of Football hasn't seen the Financial Report yet to approve it.

There was discussion regarding an on-line signup sheet that showed the Mayor's Scholarship recipients for 2013 (no names were on the sheet). According to Mr. Maynard there were discrepancies on the order sheet such as paid the wrong child, quit and came back, able person identified as disabled, credit given for washing uniforms, etc.

Mr. Maynard asked that the Recreation Commission NOT accept the Financial Statement until the Executive Board has approved the 2015 season reports. There were no reports for October and November.

Dolores Basuljevic  
220 N. Main St.  
Ansonia, CT 06401

Ms. Basuljevic said she is treasurer for 2015-2016 AYF season. She has concerns like Jen Millea regarding the accusations of embezzlement. She stated that she had financial statements at every meeting of AYF Executive Board every month. She submitted the Financial Report she had in her bag to the Recreation Commission and the AYF Executive Board. She said she had the checkbook, bank statements and financial reports for her term as treasurer. She is concerned with the accusations of embezzlement.

Delvin Allen  
30 Berkshire Road  
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Allen said he is concerned about the Pop Warner and Shoreline leagues and the travel situation with the league. He said games split up the teams and everything should be in one place. It is better for the coaches, the families and the players if everything is local and on the same day. If there is a coach that has two kids in the program and one is playing in one location on Saturday and the other is playing out of town in another location it makes it hard for the families. He would like to have the games played locally.

Sukini DePina  
29 Lester St.  
Ansonia, CT 06401

Ms. DePina said as far as the money goes, there were questions to the AYF Secretary, Vice-President and Treasurer on the Executive Board and nothing was done. She was the only Executive Board member left when they all resigned. There is favoritism in Cheer and Football. She said she still has children in the program, she pays for her children and she doesn't ask for discounts, etc. Thank you.

Lou Criscuolo  
108 Tremont St.  
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Criscuolo thanked Mr. Coppola for a great banquet for all of the children. They really enjoyed the event and they appreciated it. Thank you.

Rec 030816 SpcMtg

Jennifer Millea  
56 Hodge Ave.  
Ansonia, CT 06401

Ms. Millea asked the time frame before they know anything about the accusations.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said that they will go into Executive Session this evening to discuss it. She said Mr. Coppola will contact her.

Mr. Coppola said we have Executive Session and if we need a special meeting we can look into that. He said they need time to investigate the accusations and talk about it as a commission. He said as of now nothing has come to the Recreation Commission. This is the first time a lot of the Recreation Commission members are hearing about this.

Amy Benjamin  
43 Glen Drive  
Ansonia, CT 06401

Ms. Benjamin asked Ms. Lynch about the papers that were handed to her by Mr. Maynard. She thought there were names on them.

Vice-Chairman Lynch gave these papers back to Ms. Benjamin.

Ms. Benjamin gave Vice-Chairman Lynch an e-mail that she had answered.

Vice-Chairman Lynch asked three (3) times if there was anyone else that wished to address the commission. She stated that once public session was closed it was closed. There was no one else who wished to speak.

Mr. Velardi made a motion to close public session. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. O'Reilly made a motion to go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting to take up this issue. Mr. Velardi 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 reviewed the Monthly Report for February 2016 with the Commission. Ms. Rublemann said the parking lot design is completed. They had a meeting on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> to go over everything.

Mr. Cratty moved to accept the Nature Center report. Mr. Smith 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 reviewed his report with the Commission. He said the Armory bathrooms are completed and are very nice. The Naugatuck Valley Corporate Cup will hold two events at the Armory. The Corn Hole Contest 4/19/16 and Basketball foul shooting Contest 4/24/16. There will be a Mission Give Back 2016 for care packages for soldiers on 5/21/16 place to be announced.

Mr. Coppola stated the field renovations should be complete by the first week of April for Little League. He discussed the work that will be done on Nolan field, Little League field, Pine Lot, Lynette Park and Nature Center.

There will be a spring fishing clinic and a First Annual Fishing Rodeo at Colony Pond this year in May.

Vice-Chairman Lynch asked Mr. Coppola if there has been information received on the environmental study for the Armory.

Mr. Coppola said the Mayor will have a meeting next week to discuss the Armory.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said she attended the Economic Development Meeting on the Armory and they discussed what they are going to do with the Armory. She said Ansonia needs another building for all of the Recreation activities and clinics that are held in the Armory if the Armory will not be available for Recreation. She said that as a community and part of the project if they don't want to fix the Armory something else has to be proposed for these activities. She said she is sure Mr. Coppola will keep the Commission informed as to what is happening with the Armory.

Mr. Coppola said the Aldermen discussed fixing the Armory for a Community Center. There is also a plan for Olson Drive project with a Police Dept. and Recreation Center, etc. He said he will keep the Commission informed as to what is being discussed and proposed.

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

### **Director Reports – Soccer**

Mr. Steve Kish is present.

Mr. Kish said he has met with the Public Works Dept. regarding the lining of the fields and the condition of the fields. He stated the Public Works Board said the fields will be in better condition this year.

Mr. Kish briefly discussed the election of officers for the Soccer program and Mr. Sheehy's transition to a new Director.

Mr. Velardi asked Mr. Kish for Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Hanaif's phone numbers so he can contact them regarding the soccer program and the transition from Mr. Sheehy.

Vice-Chairman Lynch asked Mr. Kish to make sure that the Public Works Dept. receives a game schedule as well as Mr. Coppola and Ms. Rublemann.

### **Director Reports – Baseball & Softball**

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

The Commission members received the Little League report in their packets. A copy is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

Ms. Rondon said she had an updated Little League Report which she submitted to the Commission. A copy is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

Ms. Rondon said she spoke with Mr. Coppola on the conditions of the fields. Nolan Field was not available for their use. They will use the other fields available and the Ansonia Middle School field. Opening Day is scheduled for April 9, 2016. There are a few clinics scheduled. The AHS teams will be participating in the clinic for the children.

Mr. Velardi made a motion to accept the baseball/softball report as presented. Mr. O'Reilly seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Director Reports – Basketball**

Mr. Coppola said the basketball program has ended for the season. They held the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade end of the year party on Wednesday and Thursday. It went very well. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

Mr. Coppola said the basketball program ran better this year than last year. He stated he doesn't know if there will be a girl's basketball program next year. He is working with Vince DellaVolpe on that so we won't have to spread the girls out. Mr. DellaVolpe has been helping with the Ansonia-Derby combined team. The boy's five teams (grades 3 through 6) are doing well. He said he is looking into the Milford League for the girls to play because they have more games and will take out of town teams.

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

### **Director Reports – Football**

Vice-Chairman Lynch said Keith Maynard is the new Football Director this season and Brad Zealor is the Cheer Director this season. She explained that the Football Board and the Cheer Board have been split and will be totally separate.

Mr. Zealor said the elections were held and the Recreation Commission has to approve them. Dolores will speak on the progress of the 501 3c. She has been working on it and can tell you how far the progress is.

Vice-Chairman Lynch asked if they were going to present to the Recreation Commission a copy of the Financial Report.

Ms. Basjulivc said she presented two forms to the Secretary of State and is in the process of being approved by them. She will then apply for the 501 status and the TIN. Once she received the TIN she will record it and open their own bank account.

Ms. Basjulivc gave a copy of the Financial Report to the Commission members.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said the money that is left in the account after all of the bills have been paid will be divided.

Ms. Basjulivc said there is one bill for Arrow Printers for the banquet tickets that has to be paid.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said next month will be the last Financial Report for Football and Cheer. Mr. Coppola will have everything. The TIN will be in place and we will be able to split the money 50/50.

Mr. Maynard said on behalf of the football program the following were elected: Keith Maynard, President; Brian Piccirillo, Vice-President; Jenny Romanowski, Treasurer and Sakini DePino, Secretary. He said he has one outstanding invoice for City Stitchers for four jackets for \$240.

Vice-Chairman Lynch asked Ms. Basjulivc if she will pay this invoice from the funds in the account.

Ms. Basjulivc said yes, she will pay for the four jackets in the amount of \$240.

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to accept the Football and Cheer Report excluding the Financial Report until further investigation. Mr. Smith seconded. All in favor, so carried.

The Financial Report submitted this evening by Ms. Basjulivc was not approved by the Recreation Commission.

**Approval of Bills**

Mr. Coppola presented the following bill for payment:

- |                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Derby Youth Basketball      | \$1,020.00 |
| 2. BJ's – Basketball Party     | \$ 149.38  |
| 3. Stadium System – Football   | \$1,644.81 |
| 4. City Stitchers – Basketball | \$1,120.00 |
| 5. McGill Moments – Basketball | \$ 300.00  |
| 6. Massimino's Pizzeria        | \$ 890.00  |

There was discussion on the bills presented by Mr. Coppola.

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

**Correspondence**

1. Richard Wade re: Request to forgo Recreation activities on 4/30/16 to ensure adequate parking on 4/30/16 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the Annual Earth Day Celebration. Dtd. 2/17/16

Mr. Coppola said there shouldn't be a problem with the parking. He will communicate the information to the Soccer League and reference Earth Day April 30, 2016 that there be no home games scheduled for the Nature Center on that date.

2. Assumption School gym teacher: request to use Nolan Field on April 15, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This was a verbal request through Vice-Chairman Lynch.

Mr. Coppola said he will contact the Gym Teacher at Assumption School and take care of the scheduling for them on April 15, 2016. He said there should not be any conflicts.

Mr. Velardi made a motion to accept the correspondence received and place them on file. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### AYF League Program Selection

Mr. Coppola stated that he, Brian Piccirillo, Keith Maynard and Steve Sobolisky will present the pros and cons on the two leagues that are being considered this evening. The commissioners can vote for either of the leagues. He said Ansonia has not been accepted into the Shoreline program.

#### Steve Sobolisky

Mr. Sobolisky said there have been a series of meetings with Shoreline and Pop Warner. Shoreline has been in existence for 10 plus years, since 1996. The AYF league allows unlimited weight. Pop Warner is different. Pop Warner has a pilot program to try to go to unlimited weight.

Mr. Piccirillo said Pop Warner in the last 3 years has had unlimited weight in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade across the nation.

Mr. Sobolisky said his concerns are as a parent and Board member. The City subsidizes our program and we are keeping Cheer. There is \$21,000 to Football and Cheer that will be split 50/50 giving \$10,000 to football. The registration cost is \$150 along with the subsidized money this Board, the taxpayers and parents pay we should at the very least ensure they have a full game schedule. The kids work in the Spring and in the Fall and they should play 8 games. With the money spent and the work put in it is our responsibility to ensure we get a full schedule of 8 games. Shoreline has 18 teams so we are guaranteed to get a full schedule. They have been in existence since 1996 and they have been running their league that way.

Mr. Sobolisky said he doesn't know how many teams are committed to the Pop Warner league. It is a concern to him and Jeff Coppola that the Pop Warner league might not take off.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said Pop Warner has been around for years. Why is there a pilot program?

Mr. Sobolisky said in addition to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade they have been considering weight based teams.

Mr. Piccirillo said 12 teams are committed to Division 3. Southern CT Pop Warner has five towns: Seymour, Derby, Naugatuck, Amity and Newington.

Mr. Maynard said No. CT Pop Warner has Division 3 across the board. There are 5 teams from So. CT and they will cross over to No. CT Pop Warner to make up the teams needed. He said Ansonia has been accepted by Pop Warner if we offer a Cheer program.

Mr. Coppola said there was a question on the Cheer group.

Mr. Maynard said yes. We answered them. We feel whatever money provided by City of Ansonia to the program we will privately fund a Cheer program competitive and non-competitive.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said it is obvious to us that Cheer is not leaving the program they are in. They have been pretty clear on that. They don't want to move.

Mr. Maynard said this Board never approved them to go to the Star Competitive program.

Mr. Coppola said Mr. Maynard was elected to run a Football program and only a Football program. He has nothing to do with Cheer. He should say he can't speak for Cheer.

Mr. Maynard said he is not using City of Ansonia money for Cheer. They will privately fund Cheer.

Mr. Sobolisky said we can continue with Shoreline but a concern is if Pop Warner weight based goes to unlimited weight, the parents may not be happy. There are many questions that must be answered. He said most teams are committed to try but if it doesn't work then what happens?

There was discussion on the teams based on weight and on unlimited weight and what that means to the players. Mr. Sobolisky said there are 500 kids in Pop Warner that may go from weight to unlimited weight. He said there may be a problem. Mr. Piccirillo said years ago it was different.

Mr. O'Reilly said we left Pop Warner and went with an established league. The towns can try it for the first year and if they don't want to do it they can go back to the same league.

Mr. Sobolisky said we can't play without filling out the rosters. The Shoreline league was established under that structure. Pop Warner is the first year going unlimited weight. He said he would rather play Derby and Seymour but being a Pilot program (Pop Warner) he doesn't know if it will get off the ground. If they happen to have 2 or 3 teams and they don't have a full schedule of 8 games what happens. The parents work all year for these games and we have to ensure there will be 8 games. There is travel for Shoreline.

Mr. Sobolisky said that is a plus for Shoreline because they have competition based games with two step divisions – a high competitive division and a low competitive division. They go by the team. That is the way they play the games. Pop Warner basically does the same thing.

#### Brian Piccirillo

Mr. Piccirillo said Mr. Sobolisky said it very well with regard to Shoreline. Travel is travel. The distances are farther and not only the distance but it is week to week. It's the games. There are 5 levels – 5 games every Sunday with one or two teams home. The rest are scattered between Ansonia, Glastonbury, Monroe, etc. He said he coaches and he couldn't go to see his son play because his game was out of town and he was coaching in another town. A parent with multiple kids in the program has to choose which kid they are going to see.

There was discussion on parents having to choose which child's game to attend, having to find rides for children when there is only one parent families, having buses bring the children to the games and the condition of the fields when there are games played every week.

Mr. Velardi asked how many games are played away and home.

Mr. Piccirillo said Pop Warner has 4 home games and 4 away games on the weekends.

There was discussion on the Pop Warner game schedule and that sometimes there are exceptions to the schedule. Mr. Coppola said there are times when a Sunday game is moved to a Saturday. There have been scheduling issues for everything. Derby has 4 teams. Oxford fields 1 or 2 teams.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said Pop Warner is a more local league for the teams. She said she likes the local aspect of games. She asked if the games are guaranteed for Pop Warner – 8 games and the play offs.

Mr. Sobolisky said Shoreline has 8 games every year.

Mr. Piccirillo said there will be 8 games for Pop Warner between the Southern CT Pop Warner league and the Northern CT Pop Warner league. They will play 8 games.

Mr. O'Reilly asked about the 8<sup>th</sup> grade games.

There was discussion on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade program.

Mr. Piccirillo said Pop Warner piloted unlimited weight two years ago at the National Tournament in Florida. Connecticut is pushing to get D3 this year.

Mr. O'Reilly asked the closest team that is unlimited weight.

Mr. Piccirillo said Derby, Naugatuck, Amity all have teams.

Mr. O'Reilly asked if it is offered to all Pop Warner teams.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said Ansonia was accepted to So. CT Pop Warner. In 1966, Ansonia was a founding member. She said Ansonia will have 8 games if they cross over to Northern CT Pop Warner for 3 games. Vice-Chairman Lynch stated that the only way Ansonia can join Pop Warner is if we offer Cheer.

Mr. Maynard said Ansonia will offer Cheer.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said our numbers are hurting now. Ansonia is a small town and we built the program up.

Vice-Chairman Lynch asked Mr. Zealor (Cheer President) if the Cheer group has to compete.

Mr. Zealor said yes, they have to compete.

Mr. Maynard said they have to offer it to the Cheer group.

Vice-Chairman Lynch asked what happens if they offer Cheer and no one signs up.

Discussion on the above.

Mr. O'Reilly said we have 5 teams. Pop Warner has a pilot program and we need to play 8 games. There could be a cross over with Northern CT Pop Warner to play the 3 games we are short. We would play against Wilcot, Watertown and Newington in the No. CT league.

There was a lengthy discussion on the travel for the Pop Warner program and on smaller children that have played for four years and now have to go to unlimited weight to play. There are smaller children that make up these teams that would be trying the unlimited weight. Mr. Sobolisky said Recreation can re-visit it if it takes off but for this season Recreation has to go where we can play 8 games. Mr. Maynard said they will play 8 games with Northern CT cross over. Mr. Sobolisky said the most they will travel is four times. Mr. O'Reilly asked if it is the difference between the leagues or is it about the traveling.

Chairman Smith said the question is on the weight issue.

Mr. Maynard said we do the weight now.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said it is grade level now.

Discussion on Cheer and Northern CT Pop Warner. Mr. Sobolisky said everything in Northern CT is a better option. He said they will not let our Cheer group cheer. Mr. Maynard said they are under Pop Warner. Mr. O'Reilly asked why they can't cheer at the home games. Mr. Coppola said we are discussing Shoreline vs Pop Warner and this should have nothing to do with this.

Vice-Chairman Lynch stated Cheer is not going over to Pop Warner.

Mr. Coppola stated So. CT Pop Warner will not let our girls Cheer. He said this isn't Football vs Cheer. He said his decision has nothing to do with Cheer.

Colleen Kiley said Cheer moved from Colonial to CYAC. It is not Pop Warner and it is not Shoreline. It is an AYF program to an AYF program. It is a different branch of AYF. She said Amy was brought up by Pop Warner. Cheer will not be affected by this decision.

Mr. Maynard said they left Colonial AYF to go to another AYF.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said they went to CYAC league. The move was made before Recreation Commission knew about it.

Mr. Coppola said he knew about it.

Mr. Maynard said there was an illegal meeting and a decision was made.

Mr. Sobolisky said last month at the Recreation meeting under new business they had to address the decision before Shoreline voted. He said he tried to have a meeting because it had to be done but the special meeting for Recreation was cancelled due to the icy weather. He said he went to the meeting of the Football Board as the Recreation Commission liaison because he needed to have a vote for Shoreline.

There was discussion on the request for a decision at last month's meeting and that there was a meeting held to discuss and vote on which league to support. Mr. Sobolisky said he went to the Aldermen and to Corporation Counsel. Mr. Maynard said he went to the meeting. He thought it was a Recreation Commission meeting. It was not a called Recreation meeting. Mr. Coppola said whether it was a legal meeting or an illegal meeting there were no minutes, no secretary and no quorum.

Mr. Maynard said there was a vote taken.

Mr. Coppola said the vote was accepted.

Mr. Maynard said he wasn't there for the vote but the vote was a 3 to 3 tie. Mr. Coppola, Mr. Sobolisky and Alderman Edo voted for Shoreline. Mayor Cassetti, Mr. Maynard and Mr. Piccirillo voted for Pop Warner.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said the only person from Recreation Commission present at that meeting was Steve Sobolisky.

Mr. Maynard said he has received e-mails and signed petitions from parents who said they will put their children in another league in another town based on the way Shoreline does their scheduling.

Mr. Coppola said we have a lot of animosity here. This is not the way we want to handle this. He stated his decision has nothing to do with Cheer. He said there is talk that his decision is Cheer based because he has a niece that runs the Cheer organization. He said that is totally untrue. My decision has nothing to do with Cheer.

Mr. Smith said the Cheer has to go to the football games and cheer for the players. They are set up to cheer for the Pop Warner program. The City of Ansonia gave them a stipend and they went to the games and cheered for the players. He said now it is a separate entity.

Mr. Coppola discussed the travel issues between Shoreline and Pop Warner. He outlined the distance of travel between towns as follows: Pop Warner: No.CT Pop Warner towns: New

Milford is 28 miles and 44 min.; Brookfield is 26 miles and 44 min.; Wolcott is 21 miles and 35 min.; Water Oak is 19 miles and 23 min.; Naugatuck is 11 miles and 15 min.; Oxford is 10 miles and 15 min. So. CT Pop Warner: Amity is 5 miles and 10 min.; Seymour is 4 miles and 5 min.; Derby is 1 mile and 3 min.

Mr. Coppola discussed the travel issues as follows: Shoreline: Old Saybrook is 44 miles and 54 min.; Glastonbury is 44 miles and 58 min.; Valley is 44 miles and 62 min. E. Haven is 15 miles and 29 min.; Monroe is 10 miles and 20 min.; Shelton is 3 miles and 6 min.

Mr. Coppola said the travel times and distances are comparable and not that much different. They are workable. He also presented a schedule of the games for Pop Warner and Shoreline and compared the team schedules. He said as the Recreation Director he has to give them something that is guaranteed. He said if Pop Warner pilot program doesn't work out for Ansonia, Shoreline will not accept us in two years.

There was discussion on the two leagues Shoreline and Pop Warner and what their requirements, rules and regulations are for the teams playing in the league.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said as a parent she would love to go to Pop Warner but it may not be a good thing for our boys. As a Recreation Board member and to be fair to Cheer and Football in our town, we can't tell Cheer what to do. She asked when Shoreline would make their decision.

Mr. Coppola said tomorrow night.

Vice-Chairman Lynch said So. CT Pop Warner accepted Ansonia but we haven't accepted So. CT Pop Warner. We would have to leave Shoreline and we don't know if Pop Warner will accept us.

Mr. Sobolisky said Ansonia would have to petition the league for acceptance. We have an interim vote with Pop Warner. Mr. Maynard and Mr. Piccirillo sent a petition to Pop Warner.

Mr. Coppola said that Shoreline knows we have a decision tonight. Pop Warner does know we have a decision tonight and they accepted us anyway.

Mr. Piccirillo said Pop Warner's decision assumed that we would choose them. He said Naugatuck President of Pop Warner said they are going D3 for the first time. If it fails in the So. Pop Warner league, there is the No. Pop Warner league that we can go to. All the teams going D3 are Valley teams.

Mr. Coppola said his decision is based on a guarantee.

Vice-Chairman Lynch asked if Pop Warner will accept Ansonia if we don't offer Cheer.

Mr. Piccirillo said we can offer it to the 7 year olds.

Ms. DePino said they can have Cheer. It doesn't have to be competitive cheer.

Mr. Velardi said unlimited weight is a benefit to Ansonia.

Mr. Sobolisky said we have been unlimited weight for years. We have been doing that and we can stay the way we are with Shoreline. Pop Warner is trying the no weight limit, they don't know how it will be.

Mr. Velardi said Ansonia currently has no weight limit. They go by grade level. Pop Warner only goes by grade level for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mr. Sobolisky said Pop Warner is trying to make all divisions no weight from grade 3 up to 8 unlimited weight. His concern is the parents with regard to unlimited weight and if we lose 5 kids we will not have a team. D3 is unlimited weight. Shoreline has 18 teams. He said it is 18 towns in the Shoreline league vs 12 towns in the Pop Warner league with a mix of So. CT P.W. and No. CT P.W. cross league play.

Mr. Sobolisky said No. CT P.W. said they accept AYP/CYAC Cheer if they stay where they are – the same schedule and the same league. So. CT P.W. said they will not let our AYP/CYAC Cheer group cheer at the games. It is a mess and we are trying to do the best for the players, taxpayers and town.

Mr. Velardi said Pop Warner offers 4 home games on Sunday. All of our teams play at home on Sunday.

Mr. Piccirillo said yes.

Mr. Velardi said all teams play at home on Sunday?

Mr. Maynard said all teams are home on a Saturday and/or Sunday on the same weekend.

Mr. Velardi said with Shoreline we get 4 home games for each team and we are not guaranteed the same weekend.

Mr. Sobolisky said we are not guaranteed the same weekend.

Mr. Velardi said given the facts, 18 teams involved vs 12 teams across two divisions and they may not be guaranteed 8 games. He asked if Ansonia will be guaranteed 8 games with Pop Warner.

Mr. Sobolisky said we don't know.

Mr. O'Reilly said No. CT Pop Warner will cross over the games if we don't have 8 games. They will make up the difference so we will play 8 games.

There was discussion on whether Ansonia can field 8 teams this year. AYF has five levels and Ansonia will have to restructure their teams. Mr. Maynard said that Ansonia would have to restructure the teams anyway. Mr. O'Reilly said there are 7 towns that host the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mr. Velardi asked what happens to Cheer. Who will they be cheering for?

There was discussion on the Cheer group and who they would be cheering for if Ansonia were to join the Pop Warner league. Vice-Chairman Lynch said if Ansonia goes with Pop Warner our AYF/CYAC Cheer would only be able to compete. They would not be able to cheer at the games because they belong to AYF/CYAC and not Pop Warner.

Mr. Zealor said the Cheer group can't cheer a game. We have to make sure the girls can support the football teams.

There was discussion on why Cheer doesn't want the Pop Warner program.

Mr. O'Reilly said if we pick Pop Warner and it fails we have no idea if Shoreline will take us next year. This leaves us with no one. If we go to Shoreline this year, we don't know if they will take us next year.

Mr. Piccirillo said it is hard to get back into Pop Warner.

Mr. Sobolisky said Pop Warner is similar with Shoreline. It is impossible to make everybody happy, our obligation is to the taxpayers and parents to guarantee a full schedule of games. He is not against Pop Warner. This season is a bump because we don't know. Pop Warner is committed and they need 22 kids on a roster.

**Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to accept Shoreline as the first option and Pop Warner as the second option.**

Vice-Chairman Lynch said if Recreation voted tonight, Pop Warner will not accept us if we don't offer Cheer.

Mr. Sobolisky said if we need a backup we can play in the Pop Warner league. We are accepted by them and we can go with them. If we are not accepted by Shoreline we have to go with Pop Warner and visit No. CT Pop Warner or So. CT Pop Warner but we are not there yet. It is Shoreline vs Pop Warner – guaranteed or not guaranteed.

**Mr. O'Reilly seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Al Smith</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Michael Cratty</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Timothy O'Reilly</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Steve Sobolisky</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Paul Velardi</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Anne Lynch</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Jeff Devine                      Absent**

**The Motion carried: 6 yes votes, 1 absent.**

**Executive Session**

Mr. Velardi made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. Mr. O'Reilly seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. O'Reilly made a motion to go back into Regular Session at 9:25 p.m. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

There were no decisions made in Executive Session.

**Mr. Velardi made a motion that all Financial Reports/Statements submitted to the Recreation Commission by each of the Recreation programs must be signed by both the President and Treasurer of that program validating its authenticity and accuracy. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.**

**Any other business to come before the commission**

There was discussion regarding attendees at a meeting that speak while the meeting is in session.

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to approve Tim O'Reilly as the Cheer liaison for the Recreation Commission. Mr. Velardi seconded. All in favor, so carried.

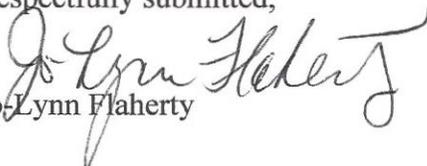
**April Meeting**

The April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Velardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jo-Lynn Flaherty