



City of Ansonia
Recreation Commission
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16 AUG 31 PM 3:42
Alfonso Smith
Alfonso Smith
Chairman

Jeffrey M. Coppola
Recreation Director

ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

August 24, 2016

Special Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Jeff Devine
Anne Lynch
Timothy O'Reilly
Paul Velardi

Absent: Steve Sobolisky

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director
Randolph Carroll, 1st Ward Alderman
Richard Kaslaitis, 4th Ward Alderman
Joan Radin, 5th Ward Alderman

The Special Meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Smith at 6:30 p.m.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Deviate from the agenda

Mr. Velardi moved to deviate from the agenda to explain the procedure that would be followed this evening and to hold the public session immediately after the explanation and after the public session to go into Executive Session. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Procedure Explanation

Mr. Velardi said he will review the Policy passed by the Board of Aldermen briefly and the Recreation Procedure that was approved. After that there will be a Public Session and he will invite the public to speak – there will be a 3 minute limit for speaking. Lastly after the Public Session the Commission will continue with the Regular agenda.

Mr. Velardi stated the policy was passed by the Board of Aldermen. He read the Purpose from the “Recreation Volunteer Background Check Policy” Section II. Purpose as follows:

II. Purpose

To provide the safest environment possible for children who are under eighteen years of age and who are involved with youth sports sponsored by the City of Ansonia’s Department of Recreation. Perform mandatory comprehensive background checks on all recreation coaches, assistant coaches and volunteers. In doing so the City of Ansonia seeks to:

1. Foster an environment that puts the needs of children first.
2. To discourage people who have a history of inappropriate behavior or who are unfit to work with children as volunteer coaches.
3. To further clarify and reinforce the standards and expectations of our youth sport programs.

Mr. Velardi said the City of Ansonia will do the background checks and they will notify the Recreation Director of any concerns. There were concerns raised to the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Velardi read the Purpose in the Candidate Risk Assessment and Approval Process, Version 1.1 adopted by the Recreation Commission as follows:

Document Purpose:

This document is intended to establish guidelines to be followed when considering candidates that have been flagged as potential risks resulting from public information, documented evidence, witness testimony, security background investigation or other such sources for approval to participate in Ansonia sponsored or co-sponsored recreation programs. It is the purpose of this document to attempt to protect all participants from harm, threat of harm and/or intimidation.

Mr. Velardi explained that this is the first time the Recreation Commission has had to apply these documents and he is hopeful the process will be flawless. If there are corrections that need to be made, the Commission will look into them.

Mr. Velardi made a motion to move to Public Session. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Public Session

Ms. Lynch stated the public session is open and anyone wishing to address the Commission will be limited to 3 minutes.

Shanaya Lathrop
6 Paige Street
Ansonia, CT 06401

Ms. Lathrop read her statement to the Commission as follows. (Copy on file in the Town Clerk's office)

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and Board members. I'm speaking tonight as a concerned parent of a football player. First I would like to point out the cheerleaders had a choice to join Pop Warner and declined. So my question is if they had a choice to do so why are they so persistent now. Their choice seems to be made for selfish reasons and not for the best interest of these kids. All those boys want to do is go on that field and play their hearts out. Last I would like to address is all the Facebook nonsense and people bashing - it needs to end. The same thing we are teaching our kids as parents to have respect for one another we

are doing the opposite. Every parent in this room needs to realize at the end of this it will only hurt our boys. To the Board members there should also be consequences for the cheerleaders if they aren't going to follow the rules. Why is the punishment only directed towards the football players. It shouldn't be who you know in this town. These kids should be the first priority. For all the hard work and dedication Keith put in along with all the other board members and coaches and parents have put in. It would be a shame to pull anyone away from these kids. Keith is someone the kids look up to!!! Thank you.

Ms. Lathrop presented a petition to the Commission for Keith Maynard to remain as President of Ansonia Youth Football. (On file in the Town Clerk's office)

Joe Johnson
156 Springfield Ave.
Meriden, CT

Mr. Johnson said he is back here to Recreation again. He said he was at Recreation a few months ago on football. He asked which coaches were being questioned and that this has happened in the past. The rule has to do with children and they are picking out people – it happened in the past and it should not be here.

Lillian Esquilian
53 Meadow St.
Ansonia, CT

Ms. Esquilian told the Commissioners how all of this controversy has affected her son and daughter. She said Mr. Maynard is professional and the kids love him. If you have a question, he answers the question. The program is organized and running smoothly. She said a decision was made in the past and why is it being revisited now?

Frederick Silva
Ansonia, CT

Mr. Silva said this is his first year in Ansonia. He has custody of his children – 3 boys and Mr. Maynard has 2 of the boys and they are smiling again. He said black lives matter – all kids matter and they are representing the children no matter what.

There are smiles on his boy's faces again. What Mr. Maynard did in the past is in the past.

Victoria Dziubina
8 Reservoir Dr.
Ansonia, CT

Ms. Dziubina said with Mr. Maynard this organization has never been run so smooth. This is the best season because of Mr. Maynard. She discussed the Policy and Procedures and keeping the children safe. She is concerned that Cheer will come and ruin it for the Football players. The Cheer group has a choice to be in the Pop Warner program. The kids idealize these guys and they are positive role models for the players and the program.

Dolores Basuljevic
220 N. Main St.
Ansonia, CT

Ms. Basuljevic read her statement to the Commission as follows. (A copy of the e-mailed statement is on file in the Town Clerk's office)

As indicated in the letter previously provided to the Rec Board and to the Mayor's office (see below*), there are many valid reasons as to why the established cheer program decided to remain under AYC for the 2016 season and not enter into the Pop Warner Pilot Program. However, breaking away from the football side/sideline cheering was not one of them. It is our belief that regardless of the league umbrella we each fall under, at the end of the day, we are still Ansonia. While the **cheerleaders are not required by AYC to sideline cheer at football games in order to be eligible to compete**, it has always been an important aspect of the cheer program. The cheerleaders, as well as their coaches and parents/family, want to support the football players – they are their friends and in some circumstances, even family.

Please understand that it not our intention to jeopardize the football program's affiliation with Pop Warner. Keep in mind AYC Cheerleaders and staff have their own insurance and we have confirmed that the City has not entered into a contractual agreement with Pop Warner regarding the use of Nolan Field. If there is truly a valid, non-negotiable, rule that indicates if the Ansonia Youth Cheerleaders are standing on city owned property, aka Nolan Field track, cheering on the football players it will risk the football program not having a league, being sanctioned/fined, or required to forfeit a game etc., we are requesting that Pop Warner please provide such documentation from a current rule book/by-laws etc. and it will be reviewed. As unfortunate as it may be, if the football program will indeed suffer negative repercussions from Pop Warner due

to AYC cheering, we will have to refrain from sideline cheer. We are still holding out hope that Pop Warner does not have any rule or intention to sanction the football program and truly hope everyone agrees that it would be best to unite as Ansonia and offer a seamless experience for both the Football players and the Cheerleaders.

So you are aware, the cheer program did our due diligence during the league negotiations and reached out to our AYC league to ensure there was no conflict or rule that stated the AYC cheerleaders could not cheer for Pop Warner football games had the decision been made for the boys to go there. AYC has no rule stating we cannot cheer for our town's football program just because they are in different league. Based on the response from AYC Nationals, it was our assumption that it would not be an issue and also assumed it was being considered from the Pop Warner side. It does not seem as though the BOR/City/Football program took into account the repercussions for our cheer program when considering what league to move the youth football program to.

Edwina Figueroa
30 N. State St.
Ansonia, CT

Ms. Figueroa read her statement to the Commission as follows. (A copy of her statement is on file in the Town Clerk's office)

I am here this evening in complete confusion. I am a Mom – I have a son who plays Flag Football for the new Pop Warner league and a daughter who's a cheerleader for the AYC and all they want is to be able to go thru their seasons experiencing things together.

My daughter, Alley would like to support her brother JJ on the sidelines just like she did for her older brother Gabe. Hold a banner for him to run thru before games and at our pep rally.

I do not ever want to see any child or team penalized because of something they have no control over but this is our town. Ansonia has always been known for doing things together. Our community, our family. There are siblings, friends, classmates that have always been there for one another during whichever sport they play and to be told that because I am a coach, if I was to attend a game with a group of girls and sit in the stands and have them root for their family and friends – it could potentially be an issue. It's horrible. This is only because the girls I sit with are cheerleaders and they know cheers and I am their coach. Now instead of being a fan I have organized and I am posing a threat to the boys playing.

Please if it is written in black and white that a town cannot allow the town's cheerleaders to cheer at their home field because they are a different league than football – print it out for everyone to read and this issue will get resolved. If this is not possible just let it go. It's supposed to be for the kids. Teaching them to support one another in ups and downs. We as the adults have failed and I am not ready to even attempt to explain to my children why the grown-ups who care so much about them has allowed this to happen.

Todd Kennedy
22 Cottage Ave.
Ansonia, CT

Mr. Kennedy said he has known Keith Maynard for 10 years. His experience has been positive things. He said he supports Mr. Maynard, the children and the program. Mr. Maynard accepted the role and he supports the kids. He discussed the football and cheer issue stating that they are separate from one and other. Cheer and football go hand and hand unless it is competitive cheer. He said Recreation's duty is to bring Cheer and Cheer Competition back together. If Pop Warner will not allow them to cheer on the sideline or in the stands it is Recreation's job to bring it back together.

Randy Carroll – 1st Ward Alderman
40 Fourth St.
Ansonia, CT

Mr. Carroll stated he served on the Ordinance Committee and helped write the ordinance. He discussed the process of the ordinance stating that if people had a problem in the past and paid their debt to society, lead a clean life it should be forgiven.

William Sanders
151 N. State St.
Ansonia, CT

Mr. Sanders discussed the Cheer program stating Recreation voted on it, talked to the staff and the Cheer group and worked it out. Now it is all about Cheer. The

groups have to get together and work it out. He said Football went to AYF and three times during playoffs we were told we were not in the playoffs when we had the numbers. It is not right when the kids were happy, they worked hard and then told they weren't in the playoffs. Our numbers were off the charts and our kids should have been in the playoffs. We have to get the kids where they are happy and having fun. He said he feels the criminal stuff with the coaches is that they did their time and earned another chance. We need to have better communication with the Cheer and Football – sit down together and work it out.

Santo Figueroa
30 N. State St.
Ansonia, CT

Mr. Figueroa said this is his son's first year in football. He said if there is anything he can do for football and the City of Ansonia, anything at all, let him know. He said he will help with anything for the City.

Sakini DePina
29 Lester St.
Ansonia, CT

Ms. DePina said she served on the Executive Board for football and cheer last year. Her daughter was in Cheer for four years. Cheer split mid year and it should be one team, they should all be together. Keith, Brian and all the coaches worked hard to get here. They are two different organizations (football and cheer). AYC asked Pop Warner to have Cheer at Special Events and Cheer didn't do the Special Events. It is for all the kids, we're here for a purpose.

Brad Zealor
30 Elm St.
Ansonia, CT

Mr. Zealor said he is not here for the background checks. He said there is talk back and forth stating that Cheer would jeopardize the Football program. He said he has stated multiple times that Cheer would never do anything to harm the Football Program. There are other activities that Cheer would do such as "homeless bags", etc. He said the discussion regarding background checks has

been visited since 2002. The Commissioners should do their homework on this instead of rehashing and rehashing it.

Mr. Zealor stated that he wants to assure Football that Cheer will not do anything to harm Football. He said Cheer will not harm Football, if they cannot cheer on Nolan Field, OK. He said they are not a Travel Cheer Team so they will do something else. He said his intention is to take care of the 70 girls in Cheer.

Mr. Zealor said for the record: "I will never hurt Football".

Alanna LaFayette
18 Chamberlain Road
Seymour, CT

Ms. LaFayette said her son plays flag football and her daughter participates in the AYC Cheer group. She said they were in the program before the rules came out and it should be left alone. They are two separate organizations but we are all Ansonia groups.

Patricia Chrisanti
94 S. Cliff St.
Ansonia, CT

Ms. Chrisanti said she has been involved with this program since she was 5 and she is now 18. Everyone involved with football and cheer are her friends. She doesn't like the background checks and she still thinks they should be coaches. This is terrible for Cheer, they followed them for the football games. It is very clear there is nothing to do with football but they should support both sides. Cheer should be at the football games. Without football games there will be no cheer. She said she doesn't understand why they can't cheer. Football and Cheer are doing a great job. They should figure this out and go to the games and have fun.

Terry Goldson
20 Hunter's Lane
Ansonia, CT

Mr. Goldson said he came to talk and to support Mr. Maynard. He said the Policy is to keep children safe. He discussed the policy and the background checks and how it affects people. People should be allowed to grow and straighten themselves out. He said you have to be careful with “policies”. He said he supports Keith Maynard and what happened in the past is in the past. Many of our young adults redeem themselves and become good citizens. He supports Keith Maynard, he coached for 25 years in Pop Warner. They won championships. Pop Warner Cheer and Football have always gone hand and hand. Pop Warner always learned to resolve the issues. He said he hopes everyone can get it together because it is about the kids. He said he has worked his whole life with children. He said everyone is here to support the kids. He asked they make sure the policies are fair and there is a good outcome for the kids.

Keith Maynard
8 Cook St.
Ansonia, CT

Mr. Maynard thanked everyone for their kind words. He said one goal is to continue to serve our youth. He read the following statement from the February 9, 2016 Board of Aldermen minutes – page 12:

Mayor Cassetti stated:

“Before I start, I want to assure you that I am going to set up a meeting with the Board of Recreation and the Ordinance Committee to meet. Keith, Kente, let me tell you, as long as I sit in the Mayor’s Office you will still be here. You’re not going anywhere. These are going to be based on a sex offender. Do you want a sex offender watching your kids? No. So we have to do this. I know that you guys are embedded in Ansonia and you’ve done a phenomenal job with the football. My wife informed me tonight if this goes through that our child is going to Derby. I know that I’m the Mayor of Ansonia; that kid is not going to Derby even though half of me is from Derby, my mother. But I assure you I’m going to set up a meeting with the Ordinance Committee and the Recreation Board, and I will be there. We’ll do this as soon as possible. The Rec Chairman will set it up. We’re going to rectify this. I know how important this is. Thank you.”

Mr. Maynard said no practice was cancelled tonight because of this meeting. He presented copies of e-mails from 2015 through August 2016 stating that Cheer could not cheer at the games. In an e-mail in August 2016, it was stated by

National and Regional that AYC Cheer would not be allowed to cheer at the games. If they were to cheer there would be a \$500 fine and association probation for 1st offense. The 2nd offense would be all of the above and loss of league voting privileges, loss of football post season eligibility and forfeiture of games and/or season. The 3rd offense would be all of the above; communication to National Pop Warner of direct violation with recommendation of revocation of Ansonia's Pop Warner charter.

Mr. Maynard read the rules – Article 3 Restriction against Dual Membership from the 2016 Pop Warner Rule book.

Mr. Maynard submitted the following for the record:

1. 2016 Pop Warner Rule Book, page 19, Article 3: Restriction Against Dual Membership.
2. E-Mails:
 - a. from Greg Genna dated 8/15/16
 - b. from Brian Piccirillo dated 12/21/15
from Sandy Piccirillo dated 12/20/15
from Karen Pope dated 12/17/15
from Jon Butler dated 12/17/15
from Sandy Piccirillo dated 12/16/15
 - c. from Keith Maynard dated 8/9/16
from Lisa Moroski dated 8/3/16
from Sandy Piccirillo dated 8/3/16
 - d. from Keith Maynard dated 8/23/16
from Brian Piccirillo dated 8/23/16
from Jon Butler dated 8/11/16
3. Board of Aldermen minutes, dated 2/9/16 page 3 through 13
4. Article: Connecticut Looks to Limit Hiring of Suspected Sex-Predator Teachers
By Michelle R. Smith, Susan Haigh, dated 3/7/16

All of these items are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Wanita Lathrop
50 Coppola Terrace
Derby, CT

Ms. Lathrop said she doesn't understand why the football and cheer can't come together. The City of Bridgeport forgave a felon who became Mayor. She asked at

what point do you forgive. Why not now? Sow more love, not hatred and fighting and the kids will grow up better. Her son uses football as an outlet. What does having a background or not having a background have to do with teaching our kids the right way? She said this is all petty – there is a felon in Bridgeport who is Mayor.

Kenny Tinney
72 High Street
Ansonia, CT

Mr. Tinney said he would like everything to be together and the issues resolved. There is one week to prepare before the season begins.

Kente Douglas
55 Beaver St.
Ansonia, CT

Mr. Douglas said football and cheer should be together. He is a former Pop Warner player and Mr. Goldson was his coach. He said that they should compromise so that there is a win win situation for everyone. There is no way adults should be in the way, the adults make the decisions.

Mr. Douglas said his coaches (Goldson, Hunt, Rowley) helped him when he went that route and he is doing the same thing for his team. It is not about you it is about the kids and we need to all grow up.

Chairman Smith asked three (3) times if there was anyone else who wished to address the Commission. There being no one he called for a motion to close the public session.

Mr. Velardi made a motion to close the public session at 7:30 p.m. Mr. O'Reilly seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Recess: 7:30 p.m. to 7:40 p.m.

Executive Session

Mr. Velardi made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to review background checks received from the Mayor's Office and invite Staff, Alderman Carroll, Alderman Kaslaitis, Alderwoman Radin and Secretary. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Velardi stated that each candidate will be called into Executive Session individually. They have the right to invite anyone they wish into Executive Session with them.

Mr. O'Reilly made a motion to go out of Executive Session and go back into regular session at 10:25 p.m. There were no votes taken during Executive Session. Mr. Devine seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Action on the Background Checks

Mr. Velardi made a motion to accept Keith Maynard's application for the position of Football President under the conditions we have documented as follows:

Conditions: (conditions were read)

1. All interactions must occur in the presence of another adult not of the Candidates choosing.
2. Candidate must make an effort to avoid confrontations.
3. Candidate must cease any interaction as soon as the interaction becomes heated or as soon as the other party asks for it to end.
4. Candidate must not violate the conditions of their probation.
5. Participation will be revoked if there is a credible and corroborated threat.
6. There will be a notification to participating parents through Ansonia Constituent Services of the restricted conditions.

Ms. Lynch seconded. Roll Call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: A. Smith

A. Lynch (A. Lynch stated she voted yes but is not in favor of Condition #1)

P. Velardi

J. Devine

No: T. O'Reilly

Absent: S. Sobolewski

The motion carried: 4 yes, 1 no, 1 absent.

Mr. Velardi made a motion to accept Kente Douglas's application for the position of Football Volunteer Coach under the conditions we have documented as follows:

Conditions: (conditions were read)

1. All interactions must occur in the presence of another adult not of the Candidates choosing.
2. Candidate must make an effort to avoid confrontations.
3. Candidate must cease any interaction as soon as the interaction becomes heated or as soon as the other party asks for it to end.
4. Candidate must not violate the conditions of their probation.
5. Participation will be revoked if there is a credible and corroborated threat.
6. There will be a notification to participating parents through Ansonia Constituent Services of the restricted conditions.

Ms. Lynch seconded. Roll Call vote:

Yes: A. Smith

A. Lynch

P. Velardi

J. Devine

No. T. O'Reilly

Absent: S. Sobolewski

The motion carried: 4 yes, 1 no, 1 absent.

Mr. Velardi made a motion to accept Kenny Tinney's application for the position of Football Head Coach U14 under the conditions we have documented as follows:

Conditions: (conditions were read)

1. All interactions must occur in the presence of another adult not of the Candidates choosing.
2. Candidate must make an effort to avoid confrontations.
3. Candidate must cease any interaction as soon as the interaction becomes heated or as soon as the other party asks for it to end.
4. Candidate must not violate the conditions of their probation.
5. Participation will be revoked if there is a credible and corroborated threat.
6. There will be a notification to participating parents through Ansonia Constituent Services of the restricted conditions.

Ms. Lynch seconded. Roll Call vote.

Yes: A. Lynch
P. Velardi
J. Devine

No: T. O'Reilly

Abstain: A. Smith (A. Smith abstained because K. Tinney is his relative)

Absent: S. Sobolewski

The motion carried: 3 yes, 1 Abstain, 1 no, 1 absent.

Mr. Velardi stated under the Risk Assessment Policy Version 1.1 the candidates can appeal the decision one time per calendar year

Alderman Carroll asked that the Commission send the Candidates a copy of the motion with the conditions.

Mr. Velardi stated that they will receive a letter with the conditions.

Football and Cheer Discussion

Ms. Lynch stated that Ansonia's football is in the Pop Warner League and Ansonia's Cheer (AYC) program is in the AYF League. The AYC wants to cheer at the football home games.

There was discussion on the rules and regulations of the Pop Warner League and the AYFC League. Mr. Maynard stated he was notified by Pop Warner that it is prohibited for the AYFC Ansonia Youth Cheer group to cheer at the Pop Warner games. Mr. Maynard stated that the Pop Warner football will be fined and be on probation if this occurs.

Mr. Maynard brought forth the e-mails that stated Cheer is not authorized to cheer at the Pop Warner games. Copies of the e-mails are on file in the Town Clerk's office. Ms. Lynch read Article 3 from the Rule Book.

Many examples were given regarding the situation of cheering for a team other than Pop Warner that is not in the same league as the Cheer group, i.e.: cheering for a Shoreline team. Mr. Coppola said they can't cheer for Shoreline.

Mr. O'Reilly discussed the boundaries of the field with regard to where the cheerleaders would stand to cheer for the team at home games. He said that past the fence is open to anyone – it is not the field.

Mr. Velardi said football applied for the use of the field. They were approved and given permission to use the field. Football has the use of the field it is cut and dried. Pop Warner will permit or not permit a non-affiliated organization from using that space.

Mr. O'Reilly said a Pop Warner player in the game collides with a non-Pop Warner Cheerleader – what happens, what insurance covers that incident?

Discussion on the above insurance situation regarding a non-affiliated group using the field to cheer on the sidelines and during half time.

Discussion on the field barriers of where the football field boundaries are located and where the sideline boundaries are located. Mr. Velardi stated the area outside the fence barrier is not Pop Warner.

Mr. O'Reilly said that Mr. Zealor and Mr. Maynard have to get together and discuss this and see if they can come to a conclusion and agreement.

Discussion on the rules and regulations that state there will be a \$500 fine and probation, suspension, etc. Mr. O'Reilly asked to see where this is stated. He asked Mr. Maynard to submit something in writing stating this. Mr. Maynard stated he presented all of the e-mails from the President of their organization and the page from the rule book – Article 3. Mr. Maynard stated that So. CT Pop Warner President sent him the e-mails – it's a So. CT. policy.

Mr. O'Reilly asked for the sheet from the rule book.

Mr. Maynard stated the President sent the e-mails. They are reserving Jarvis Stadium along with the bleachers.

Mr. O'Reilly asked if there is a contractual agreement.

Mr. Maynard said that it is not his decision. The So. CT Pop Warner Board is telling him what he has to do.

Mr. Velardi said they would like to see a rule that prohibits that from happening and So. CT has concerns. He said Recreation is not here to create a problem but Pop Warner hasn't said what happens and where it happens. Is it anywhere on the field, during the game or at half time?

There was a question of where the rule is written – in the handbook or an e-mail. Mr. Maynard stated he will ask the President for the rule in writing or the rule book where it is written so a decision can be made.

Mr. Coppola stated that Brian Piccirillo said it was a National rule that they could not cheer.

Mr. Piccirillo said he received an e-mail.

Discussion continued back and forth regarding the AYC cheering at the Pop Warner football games and the AYC joining the Pop Warner program. Those

present stated that Mr. Maynard and Mr. Zealor should sit down with the So. CT Pop Warner and try to work this situation out. Pop Warner is for the children therefore they should be willing to sit down and work it out so the AYC can cheer at the games this year. Next year there should be discussions with the football and cheer becoming one group in the same league. It was stated that before a decision was made for football to join Pop Warner it was stated that Cheer would not be able to cheer at the football games. "Everyone thought what could possibly happen if they were there cheering". Mr. Piccirillo stated if it happens two times, football will forfeit their season.

Discussion on where the problem is – So. CT Pop Warner or No. CT Pop Warner. Mr. Piccirillo said you have rules when you work and you have to follow the rules or there are consequences. Mr. Zealor said he met with No. CT Pop Warner and they told him to bring the cheerleaders and let them cheer they didn't care. It's a National rule.

Ms. Lynch said that Pop Warner had registration for Cheer ages 5 to 7 and there are 13 girls registered. They will cheer at the games.

Mr. Zealor said they have to cheer for their age group.

Ms. Lynch said it is insurance purposes that they can't cheer. She said Recreation created this problem by trying to make both groups happy. We didn't tell either group where they had to go to play – Pop Warner or AYF. It is not fair to tell either group where they had to go to play or cheer.

Mr. Velardi said Recreation agreed to separate the organizations and the football group was going with Shoreline. Shoreline denied Ansonia.

Mr. Zealor said there were discussions between himself and Colleen and we decided we weren't going to jump out of AYF and go to Pop Warner because they had a Pilot Program and if it didn't work Ansonia would be out. We said we would revisit it and go to Pop Warner if the pilot programs were a go.

Discussion on the rule that So. CT prohibits non-Pop Warner organizations to cheer on the sidelines. The census of everyone is why create animosity when it doesn't need to be. Recreation authorized football the use of the field during the game time space but didn't authorize Cheer the use of the field. The commissioners discussed the use of the field by football and cheer. Cheer using

the sidelines of the field and at half time. Mr. Zealor said it is not the Cheer's intention to cause a stir. They have other things they can do.

Ms. Lynch stated unless it is in writing in a handbook, Mr. Maynard, Mr. Zealor and the President of So. CT should work it out. She said they need a football schedule to make sure there are no Cheer competitions on the dates of the football games.

Mr. Coppola said if the So. CT Pop Warner President still says he will punish the football program if we allow the cheer – where are we? He said he is upset the Cheer didn't go with Pop Warner. If it is not a rule why punish our program because we didn't go with Pop Warner this year?

Mr. Maynard said we have to administer this Policy. What do we do after the first game?

Mr. Coppola said it is not a by-law, appeal to Pop Warner and ask for the rule in the book.

Mr. Zealor, President of AYC stated Cheer will not infringe or harm the boy's football in anyway. We are not going to hurt the boy's program.

Mr. Velardi stated this has to end tonight. He said football can try to convince So. CT. Pop Warner to change their position on this. Football has the use of the field during those time frames and Cheer cannot use the field or sidelines.

Mr. O'Reilly said he will get together with Pop Warner because the goal is to get along and find a solution together. It has to be figured out. If you have a rule that you cannot cheer then you are done.

Mr. Velardi said we asked for the rules and by-laws and yet they have threatened harm to the football program. Why antagonize them. The long term solution is to bring them together but it is not going to happen this season.

Discussion on the above.

Mr. Maynard stated he will try a meeting with So. CT Pop Warner football to see what can be done.

Mr. Velardi said football has use of the field during the game time. Cheer will not take the field or sidelines or any part of the field space. Mr. Maynard will seek to have a meeting with So. CT Pop Warner.

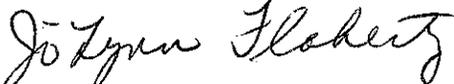
Discussion on Cheer cheering outside the fence and at all of the games. Mr. O'Reilly discussed the area between the fence and the field and what is considered the sidelines. Ansonia always cheered outside the fence. Ms. Lynch said AYC cannot cheer until they have a meeting on the sideline location and the outside fence and where they can cheer.

Mr. Velardi stated the Recreation Commission has only authorized AYF to occupy the space within the fenced perimeter of the field during scheduled football games.

Adjourn

Mr. Velardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 p.m. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary