



City of Ansonia

253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

RECEIVED FOR FILE

16 SEP 13 AM 10:42

Janelle Waters
TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

September 6, 2016

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Anne Lynch, Vice-Chairman
Jeff Devine
Timothy O'Reilly
Steve Sobolisky

Absent: Paul Velardi - excused

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director
Alison Rublemann, ANC Director – arrived 6:20 p.m.
Randolph Carroll, 1st Ward Alderman
Richard Kaslaitis, 4th Ward Alderman

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Smith at 6:00 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

Ms. Lynch made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on August 24, 2016 at the October meeting because page 14 of the minutes is missing. Mr. O'Reilly seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Any corrections or omissions to those minutes will be taken up at the October 2016 meeting of the commission.

Public Session

Randolph Carroll, 1st Ward Alderman
40 Fourth St.
Ansonia, CT 06401

Alderman Carroll said he is before the Recreation Commission as a formality to give them an opportunity to review the following pieces of land that the Land Sales Committee is currently reviewing for sale and to ask the Commission for their recommendation on the parcels.

Alderman Carroll discussed 20 George Street explaining that this is a road that is owned by the City of Ansonia and has not been used as a road but goes down to the homeowner's property. The road has not been maintained or plowed by the City of Ansonia and serves no purpose as a city street. It is not a legal size road which is 50 feet and this area is 25 feet wide. The homeowner wants this property so he can pave the area and maintain it.

Alderman Carroll explained that this property must go to Recreation and Conservation to see if they have any use or need for this land. He showed the commissioners pictures of the property. He said he needs a recommendation from the Recreation Commission that they cannot use it.

The Commissioners discussed the location of this property and the size of the land on George Street and that Recreation could not use this land for anything.

Alderman Carroll explained the property located at the corner of Hill St. and Shortell Drive that is also being considered for sale. He said it is listed as open space land on Shortell Drive. He said the owner of the Greenhouse wants the

corner of Hill Street and Shortell Drive (side of the brook closest to Hill St.) and the owner of the house on Shortell Drive (side of the brook closest to his home on Shortell Dr.) wants the other piece of land. He said he needs a recommendation that the Recreation Commission cannot use this property.

There was discussion between the commissioners on the location of the land and the brook and possible uses. Ms. Lynch asked if there are any Recreational purposes that the commissioners' think recreation can use this property for. Mr. Devine asked if a Dog Park could be located on that parcel. This use was discussed by the Commission.

Alderman Carroll said there are tiny bits of property that the City of Ansonia owns as open space and is looking to sell to the adjacent property owners.

Ms. Lynch polled the members as to whether these two properties can be of use to the Recreation Commission. They all agreed Recreation could not use these properties.

There was discussion on the wetlands and the brook that is located on the Hill Street/Shortell Drive property.

Mr. Sobolisky noted that the property will go back on the tax rolls and it will be maintained by the property owner.

Ms. Lynch made a motion to recommend that the Recreation Commission has no use for the lands located on 20 George Street and the corner of Hill Street and Shortell Drive as explained by the Chairman of the Board of Aldermen Land Sales Committee. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. Vote: Yes: A. Lynch, T. O'Reilly, S. Sobolisky, A. Smith. No: J. Devine. 4 yes votes, 1 no vote. The motion carried.

Alderman Carroll requested that the Commission send a letter to the Land Sales Committee with their decision.

Ms. Lynch asked three (3) times if there was anyone else who wished to address the Commission. There being no one she closed the public session.

Reports: Alison Rublemann, ANC Dir.

Alison Rublemann was present.

A copy of the ANC report is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Ms. Rublemann reviewed her monthly report with the commission members. She stated she is working on the Calendar of Events.

Ms. Rublemann said she was approached by Adam Rylski, Instructor for the Karate Club, to hold a Karate Club at the Ansonia Nature Center. He will charge a fee of \$45.00 which will go directly to him. He will just be using the Nature Center to hold his classes. There will be no money being paid to the Nature Center. The Club is open to children Kindergarten through Grade 6.

Ms. Rublemann said September 17th will be the ribbon cutting for the new playground. She is working with Perkin Elmer and Valley United Way for the Volunteer Day to be held on Sept. 13th. She said she had 150 cubic yards of playground mulch delivered for the event. There will be an event on Oct. 9th with CT Basement Systems and a proclamation and thank you for Larry Janesky for his generosity in building the new playground at the Nature Center. A \$2000 grant was received from the Turtle Shell Fund for the education station.

Chairman Smith asked about the Karate Club at the Nature Center.

Ms. Rublemann said the instructor has had a background check through the City of Ansonia. He is charging for his classes and he keeps the money. The only thing he is using is the Nature Center building to hold the classes. He has provided a Certificate of Insurance.

Mr. Coppola said the City of Ansonia is not liable for the Karate Club. The instructor who receives the check would be responsible.

Mr. Coppola stated that he has been up to the Nature Center at least two times a week and it is usually packed with children. Last night there was about 80 people there.

Mr. O'Reilly made a motion to accept Ms. Rublemann's report. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Mr. Coppola was present.

Mr. Coppola reviewed his report with the commission members. He said he will send out an e-mail to parents as well as post on social media of his intent to establish a Basketball Board to run the Basketball Program in November.

He said the Baseball Fall season is underway. He will send out the schedules as soon as he receives them. He will provide Public Works with the schedule so they can prepare the fields.

Mr. Coppola said he submitted a request to the Board of Ed requesting the use of the Ansonia Middle School gym for Pop Warner Cheer indoor practices. He hasn't heard back yet. Their schedule is Monday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at AMS. Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at AMS.

Mr. Coppola said the Ansonia Youth Cheer is not cheering at the Pop Warner home football games. They will not jeopardize the boy's football. Pop Warner National sent their ruling stating AYC cannot cheer at the games.

Mr. Coppola advised the commission that the Soccer season begins this week. He will give the schedule to S. Rowley, Public Works so he can prepare the fields.

Ms. Lynch asked if Public Works will repair and prepare the field for Fall Baseball. She asked if it will be fixed before the first game because of the damage that was done to the fence and field this summer when there was an automobile accident there.

Mr. Coppola stated he didn't know however he will check with Public Works.

Ms. Rondon stated the first game will be played this Saturday, Sept. 10th and they have to put something up to insure the safety of the children.

Mr. Coppola said he will speak to PWD to install a temporary Snow Fence for the game on Saturday.

Mr. Devine asked if there is a janitorial fee for the Cheer at the Ansonia Middle School.

Mr. Coppola said no because the janitors are there during those hours.

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

Recreation Director Financial Report

Mr. Coppola reviewed the line items with the commission members.

Mr. Devine asked if the football and cheer have enough funds to cover expenses.

Mr. Coppola stated yes, and all their bills have been paid.

A copy of the financial report and monthly report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Mr. Devine made a motion to accept Mr. Coppola's Financial Report as presented. Mr. O'Reilly seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Director's Reports

Soccer

Kevin O'Brien was present.

A copy of the Soccer reports are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Mr. O'Brien reviewed his report with the commissioners. He said the season begins September 11th. There are 36 volunteer coaches. There are 21 teams this year due to the new guidelines from CJSA. They held a Coaches meeting on 8/28/16 that was attended by everyone. They had to purchase some equipment. The Soccer group is working on a new website to make it easier to register for soccer and get information on the league. The Financial Report is a little different

that the previous one. He explained how the Financial Report has been set up. The big purchase was \$5670 for uniforms. He said some of the uniforms received were too big so they are being corrected.

Mr. O'Brien thanked Mr. Coppola for the new goals. He said they removed the old goals and they were unsafe. The new goals were a much needed purchase.

Chairman Smith asked where the games will be played.

Mr. O'Brien said Abe Stone Park.

Mr. O'Reilly said that the Financial Report should have two signatures.

Ms. Lynch asked if the Recreation Commission should ask for another signature.

Mr. Devine said they should have someone from their Board in addition to the Treasurer sign the Financial Report.

Mr. O'Brien said they haven't appointed a Treasurer. He said he can have someone serve as an Interim Treasurer or he can have a current Board member double up as a signer on the report.

There was discussion on the interim treasurer and/or a current Board member serving as a signer on the account. The commissioners agreed they didn't have a problem with a Board member serving as a signer on the report.

Mr. O'Reilly made a motion to accept the Soccer report. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Devine said to those in attendance that have already presented their reports that they could leave if they are done.

Mr. Kevin O'Brien and Ms. Rublemann left at this time (6:55 p.m.)

Ms. Rublemann had to attend the BOAT/BOA meeting.

Baseball & Softball

Colleen Rondon was present.

Ms. Rondon said their last meeting was held in July 2016. The July and August Financials will be done and presented to the Board at next month's meeting.

Ms. Rondon presented the Ansonia Little League Financial Statement for June 2016. (Copy on file in the Town Clerk's office)

She stated that she received money from the Concession Stand and that most of the money was used for uniforms. The Fall Baseball program is beginning. She said both Baseball and Softball are playing games. There are two Co-ed teams, T-ball, Coach Pitch and Major and Minor teams. She said the Coach Pitch softball team has combined with Seymour. They split practices and games between Seymour and Nelligan Field. There are 55 kids in baseball and 30 kids in softball.

There was discussion on the Jr. Level girls' softball team that combined with Seymour, Shelton and Ansonia this year. They played under the name of "Valley Pride". Ms. Rondon said Ansonia had 8 girls so they teamed up with the other towns to form this team and it was successful.

Chairman Smith said that the kids are good. They play a great game and he gives credit to the coaches.

Ms. Rondon said Mr. Rondon held a Coaches Workshop for all of the coaches in the Spring. It worked out very nicely and it was beneficial to all who attended.

There was discussion on the fundraisers that were held this summer and how successful they were and the children had fun. Ms. Rondon is hoping to schedule some pitching clinics.

Mr. O'Reilly made a motion to accept the Baseball and Softball report as presented by Ms. Rondon. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Basketball (Boys & Girls)

Mr. Coppola said he is trying to establish a Basketball Executive Board. He would like to start the basketball program around Thanksgiving or early December.

Football

Mr. Keith Maynard was present.

Mr. Maynard said Pop Warner football began this Saturday. The U10 game was an exciting win. The U8, U12 and U14 lost their games. The kids are positive and working hard. There were no serious injuries. One child will not play this year due to a medical condition. He will be part of the program and participate in whatever he is able to do.

Mr. Maynard said the Pop Warner Cheer group will use the Ansonia Middle School (AMS). He asked Mr. Coppola if they have mats.

Mr. Coppola stated no.

Mr. Maynard asked if there is an extra set at the Armory.

Mr. Zealor said no.

Mr. Coppola said they will have to purchase some mats and store them at the Middle School.

There was discussion on the equipment and the storage of the equipment.

Mr. Maynard said there was an incident at Saturday's game. It is being investigated. He was on the Naugatuck side when the incident happened but they are investing to figure out the discipline. Otherwise everything is running smoothly. He said he received a copy of the stipulations of his approval in the mail.

Chairman Smith asked about the games.

Mr. Maynard stated there are 7 more games. He will get a schedule for Mr. Smith and the Commission members. The UCONN game will be on Sept. 24th. The parents will take their children. The tickets are available for them to purchase. They are getting group rates for the cost of the tickets.

Mr. O'Reilly said that Mr. Maynard has 48 hours to write the incident up and get it to the Recreation Commission and Recreation Director.

Mr. Maynard said he will get the report to Mr. Coppola tomorrow. He said he wasn't there when the incident happened.

Mr. Sobolisky asked if there was anyone from our Board there.

Mr. Maynard said yes, one person was closer than himself who saw the incident.

Discussion on the incident that happened continued. The incident did not involve the children – it was the adults.

There was discussion on the ages for the Mighty Mite group. Mr. O'Reilly said they are 5, 6, and 7 years old. He said the Cheer group can only cheer for their age group.

Evan Gonzalez – Pop Warner Cheer Coordinator was present.

Ms. Gonzalez said there are two rosters.

Mr. O'Reilly said you cannot have two rosters. It should be 5, 6, and 7 years old. The flyers said 5, 6, and 7 non-compete. The girl's teams have to cheer within the age group of the boys they cheer for. The Pop Warner rule was broken as was the Ansonia rule we agreed on when they separated. These rules were broken. There was a 10 year old on the field.

There was discussion on the roster – the names and ages of the girls cheering. Mr. O'Reilly asked for a copy of the roster.

Chairman Smith asked what the problem is.

Mr. O'Reilly said they are not following our rules. They just go ahead and do what they want. They are out of control – you have to follow the rules or you cannot cheer.

Mr. Sobolisky asked what rules.

Mr. O'Reilly read the rules from the Pop Warner Rule book.

Mr. Maynard said he will come back to the Recreation Commission meeting with the information on what happened. He said AYC was offering non-compete cheer for 5 & 6 year olds.

There was discussion on the rules and regulations. The situation was that someone let someone on the field that should not be on the field. There are photos of the incident and the child on the field cheering. The discussion continued with Mr. O'Reilly reading a section of the 5/16/16 minutes. He stated you have to enforce the rules. He said we did not allow AYC to cheer because it violated Pop Warner National rules. You cannot make up your own rules.

Mr. O'Reilly said the President of Pop Warner would come down with punishment if someone was in violation of the rules. He said the Executive Board of Pop Warner should handle these incidents. He asked Mr. Maynard to provide a roster with the names and ages of the participants. He said someone put kids out there on the field and someone should notice who is on the field. The person in charge should know if that child/children should be out there on the field.

Mr. Maynard said the girls are not vested with So. CT until October. The boys are vested with So. CT. already. He said the rules have to be enforced.

Discussion continued on enforcement of the rules, the cheer roster, the names and ages of the girls who will be cheering. Mr. O'Reilly said that there are issues out there and there are parents sending information on the issues they have.

There was a discussion on the age of the Mighty Mites and an e-mail Mr. Maynard received from Mr. Coppola stating if "8 is a part of Mighty Mites I'm good with it." Mr. Coppola stated if 8 is a part of Mighty Mites he is good with it.

Mr. O'Reilly said Mighty Mites are 7, 8, and 9. Your job is to make sure they are not under or over the age - that they are not "out of age group". There was a 10 year old on the field and out of the age bracket.

Mr. Maynard said absolutely.

Mr. O'Reilly said whomever let her out there, that person is in violation of the Pop Warner National rules and your Board's responsibility is to discipline that person who allowed her out there.

Mr. Coppola said the older girls will have nowhere to cheer next year if the two sides don't get together. We let the football choose whatever they want and the Cheer choose whatever they want. Hopefully next year it will work.

Mr. Coppola stated the AYC parents are upset they can't cheer but it's a Pop Warner National rule. So, CT is unhappy they didn't go with Pop Warner when we changed. He said there is no way AYC Cheer will go with Pop Warner. He said our objective is to get them together.

Ms. Lynch asked if they can add a year to cheer next year.

Mr. Devine said you will overlap the ages we approved if you are a Mighty Mite.

There was discussion on the ages for Mighty Mite (7,8,9) and Tiny Mites (5,6,7). Chairman Smith said the girls have to be able to cheer. Mr. O'Reilly said when National got back to us we follow the rule. Someone should take charge out there. You have to know if they are the right age before you put someone out there.

Mr. Coppola stated that football chose to go with Pop Warner and AYC Cheer chose to stay with AYC.

Discussion on the above and how to get the two groups together to solve this situation. It was noted that you cannot stop the AYC from cheering at the football games but if they cheer then Pop Warner can punish the boys. The discussion continued regarding serving on AYC Board and then participating in the Pop Warner program. Pop Warner does not allow anyone from another organization to serve on their Board.

Steve Sobolisky was excused from the meeting at this time – 7:40 p.m.

Ms. Lynch asked Mr. Maynard to provide a roster with the names and ages.

Mr. Maynard stated he will do that by Thursday of this week.

Mr. O'Reilly asked if there is a Financial Report.

Mr. Maynard said he has the July Financial Report which he submitted.

Mr. Maynard asked if they can rotate the time at the Armory so the girls can use the mats.

Ms. Lynch asked if we can purchase a set of mats for the girls.

Mr. Coppola stated that the mats are expensive.

Ms. Butler said that one roll of mats is \$3000. They will need 7 to 9 mats for the Cheer group. She said there is a different type of mat that could be used that isn't as expensive. She said a set of 7 mats is about \$3000.

Ms. Gonzalez stated the girls do lifts and have competition so they will need to use mats. Their first practice is Thursday at the Middle School.

There was discussion on the Cheer mats and sharing the Cheer mats, the number of mats needed for the Pop Warner Cheer program. Ordering new mats will take a few months to receive. The mat sets are expensive. Mr. Coppola stated there are 4 AYC programs at 6 hours a week practice each for 24 hours with 4 nights to use the Armory. Thursday is a short night because there is Boxing in the Armory on Thursday.

They discussed the type of mats needed for Cheer and the number of mats that would be needed for the Pop Warner Cheer program. Mr. Coppola said he will check to see if there are mats at the Ansonia High School that they can use. Mr. Maynard said they need 9 mats. Ms. Lynch said there will probably not be any mats by Thursday but hopefully a solution will be reached by Thursday. Mr. Coppola said he will look into purchasing mats and storing the mats at the Ansonia Middle School.

Ms. Lynch stated that Mr. Maynard must have an answer for the Commission by Thursday for Pop Warner Cheer. She said he has to provide the following information to the Recreation Commission:

1. Incident Report to Mr. Coppola and he will explain it at the next Recreation Commission meeting.
2. Roster with the names and ages of the cheer and football participants.
3. A report on the mats
4. August Financial Report

Cheer

Mr. Brad Zealor and Ms. Amy Butler were present.

Mr. Zealor stated that Ms. Basuljevic has the paperwork and the Financial Report for Cheer with her and she is still at a meeting at work.

Mr. Zealor said on Sept. 10th the girls will cheer the runners for the Smilow fundraiser. On Sept. 25th they will be at Renseleir at 7:45 am. For the ALS Walk from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. In October (date to be announced) they will be at Spooner House to donate food and cook and serve a meal. October 1st they will participate in the Seymour Pink Walk. He said all four teams with their parents will be involved. He said the girls are working hard and learning the routines.

Ms. Lynch asked the dates for the Competitions.

Ms. Butler said the Competition dates are: 10/22/16 Local, 11/6/16 State, 11/19/16 N.E. Regional and 12/8/16 through 12/11/16 National Florida.

Ms. Lynch asked if the Tax ID number that AYC combined use has been closed out. She said that Fred Williams is concerned because his name is on it.

Mr. Zealor said he will ask Dolores Basuljevic and let Ms. Lynch know the status.

Ms. Lynch made a motion to accept the Cheer report. Mr. Devine seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Coppola stated there are no new bills.

Correspondence

1. E-Mail from Rich Wade, ANC Events Chairman re: ANC AutumnFest. Did. 8/22/16

Mr. Coppola stated this has been taken care of. There are no games scheduled on that date.

2. Randy Carroll, 1st ward Aldermen: re: 20 George St. and Open Space Shortell Drive.

3. Recreation Commission to K. Maynard, K. Douglas, K. Tinney re: Recreation Decision. Did. 8/31/16

New Business

Mr. Brad Zealor stated that he received an e-mail asking for a child that has been in the AYC program three years previous be re-instated. He said they held a meeting and voted yes that AYC will take the child back to AYC.

Old Business

None

Any other business to come before the Commission

Mr. Devine said he would like to see if there is any way Recreation can speed up the meeting. He said the Soccer reports work well – they have bullet points on their report.

Mr. Coppola said we can e-mail the reports to the members and they can review them before the meeting and if there is a question on a particular report, the commissioner can ask the question.

The Recreation Programs have to submit a written report for the program along with the Financial Report that can be mailed or e-mailed out to the members before the meeting.

Mr. Coppola said the commissioners can think about it during the month and bring their suggestions to next month's meeting.

Mr. Devine asked if there was any new information on the Baseball Cart that was given to Baseball by ARMS.

Mr. Coppola said yes. He spoke with Chief Heon and he is concerned because he gave the Cart to Little League and the cart is still the City of Ansonia's property.

Mr. Coppola said he is working with City Hall on retrieving the Cart and getting it back to Ansonia.

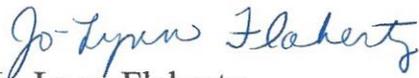
Minutes – August 2, 2016 Regular meeting

Ms. Lynch made a motion to approve as written the minutes of the August 2, 2016 regular meeting. Mr. O'Reilly seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Adjourn

Mr. Devine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Mr. O'Reilly seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary