



City of Ansonia

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Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

October 4, 2016

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Anne Lynch – arrived 6:35 p.m.
Jeff Devine
Timothy O'Reilly
Steve Sobolisky
Paul Velardi

Absent: Sandra Piccirillo

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

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

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Velardi stated there is a correction on page 2, 5th paragraph of the September 13, 2016 Special Meeting. He said the last sentence should read:

“Pop Warner Football & Cheer would be Ansonia Coppers and AYC Cheer will be affiliated with AYF.”

Mr. Velardi discussed documenting public comments in the minutes. His concern is the minutes don't capture what was stated. If someone wants their comments in the minutes as was previously agreed they should submit them in writing to the Commission.

Mr. Velardi made a motion not to put public statements in the record. If the public wants their comments in the record they should submit them in writing. Mr. O'Reilly seconded.

There was discussion on the motion.

Chairman Smith called for a vote. All in favor, the motion carried.

Mr. Devine made a motion to accept the minutes from September 6, 2016 as written and the minutes from September 13, 2016 Special meeting with correction. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Public Session

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

Alderman Carroll stated that the commission voted to abide by Roberts Rule of Order. For public session you have to put what people say. He said he has been going to meetings for years and you don't have to have them verbatim but you have to have the basics of the statement. Where's the transparency?

There was discussion between the Commissioners and Alderman Carroll on the above. The commission's concern is the public will be misquoted. The Commission will review Robert's Rules of Order for procedure.

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

Reports: Allison Rublemann, ANC Dir.

Allison Rublemann was not present.

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

Mr. Velardi discussed the posted sign at the ANC regarding dogs not allowed at the Nature Center. They are routinely asking to have the dogs removed from the field. Does the sign mean "dogs are not allowed – period" or does it mean "on the field"?

Discussion on the posted sign continued and it was determined that the dog owners were asked to remove their dogs from the field, not the park.

Mr. Coppola said there is an Ordinance and the Police Dept. can now issue a ticket to the owner because there is an Ordinance number posted on the sign.

Mr. Devine made a motion to accept Ms. Rublemann's report. Mr. Velardi seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Mr. Coppola was present.

Mr. Coppola stated the Commission has his report. He asked if there are any questions.

Mr. Devine asked if there was anything new to report on the floor at the Armory.

Mr. Coppola said they are looking at different options.

Mr. Velardi 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.

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

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

Appointment of Robert DeFelice, President Babe Ruth League

Mr. Coppola explained that Mr. DeFelice needs to submit the minutes to the Bank confirming he has been appointed as President of Babe Ruth League. He needs this so that he can be on the bank account for the Babe Ruth League.

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to appoint Robert DeFelice as President of the Babe Ruth League. Mr. Velardi seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Devine asked if Mr. DeFelice will be submitting a Financial Report to the commission.

Mr. Coppola stated no, the City gives Babe Ruth a donation for their program.

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.

Mr. Coppola stated the CJSA invoice payment went directly to them.

There was discussion on the soccer fields in Ansonia. Mr. O'Brien expanded on the condition of the fields stating that it has been very dry this summer. They looked at the GIS maps to see if they could fit another field in for soccer. They couldn't fit another field. The travel teams will be at ANC and Recreation teams will be at Abe Stone Park. There is a concern that soccer is being considered to be 100% at the Nature Center and this would not be in the best interest for the fields.

The discussion continued on the requirement for more fields and consolidating all soccer into one location. Mr. Velardi discussed the logistics of the fields and the teams that would be using these fields.

Mr. O'Brien said vandals threw a bench into the pond at the Nature Center. He said Public Works removed the bench. Public Works has been great for soccer this year and without their efforts soccer would not have had such a successful season.

Mr. O'Brien asked what the storage area was at Abe Stone Park.

Mr. Coppola stated it is used to store Public Works equipment.

Mr. O'Brien said they always wanted a Concession Stand at the field. They don't have a facility. In the past there was ice skating at the pond. He would like to get a Concession Stand in the Blue Building that is located there. He has a team on the Board that would help fix up the building. With Soccer at Abe Stone Park, the group would help to fix up the building for a Concession Stand. Soccer would be able to use the Concession Stand as would other groups using the pond for ice skating.

Mr. Devine asked about the cancelled game referee payment on the financial report.

Mr. O'Brien stated Ansonia cancelled the game with Prospect and they paid the referee because it was Ansonia's obligation to pay because we cancelled. He said they are paying the referees from their account.

Mr. Velardi made a motion to accept the Soccer Report as presented. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Baseball & Softball

Colleen Rondon was present.

Ms. Rondon reviewed her reports with the commissioners.

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

Ms. Rondon stated the Fall Baseball and Softball programs are in progress. She discussed some of the plans for the winter however there may be a new Board elected and they may have some plans for programs also.

Mr. Velardi asked if the Babe Ruth program is associated with Little League.

Ms. Rondon stated no but in order to go to the bank for signatures that person would need to be documented.

Ms. Rondon stated the Little League Annual Meeting and Board of Directors elections will be held on October 17, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. She said absentee ballots will be available and she will have them on their Website.

There was discussion on how to get the Little League website link put on the City of Ansonia website. Mr. Coppola will contact the Web Site person and advise Ms. Rondon.

The commissioners discussed the condition of the baseball and softball fields this summer due to the dry weather. Nelligan Field needs work. Mr. Coppola stated they are putting crushed stone on the side to help with the drainage.

Ms. Rondon stated that the Baseball District put a game on the back field at Nelligan and Public Works did a phenomenal job on the field to have it ready for the game. She said Co-Ed Tee Ball is at Nelligan and the Majors, Minors at Nolan.

Discussion continued on the fields and Ms. Lynch reminded everyone that Public Works Foreman Sean Rowley talked about a certain date for the Baseball and Soccer games to begin play in the Spring because of field conditions. Ms. Rondon said the games are coordinated with Derby and Beacon Falls. Softball is scheduled through the District.

Mr. Coppola stated Public Works is doing all the fields and if there is a bad winter we cannot get on the fields until they dry out. Mr. Velardi said Recreation did resolve this with Mr. Rowley. Mr. Coppola will check the field availability dates with Mr. Rowley.

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 the basketball program is outlined in his report. Vince Della Volpe and Dave Cirvella will be coaching. The registration forms went out to the schools. Registration will be held at the Armory on October 17th and October 18th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on October 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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

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

Football

Mr. Keith Maynard was present.

No written reports were received.

Mr. Maynard said Pop Warner has three scholar athletes with grades of 97+. They are Preston Dziubina, Chris Kaminski and Tristin Kerkes. There is a banquet to recognize all of the scholar athletes in CT Pop Warner.

Mr. Maynard said in the six weeks of play there have been two broken arms and one full concussion. In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness, the players are wearing pink socks to support the cause. They are looking for parents to make a donation to Seymour Pink for cancer. Instead of a 50/50 raffle, they will pass the hat at the game and all money collected will go to Seymour Pink.

Mr. Maynard said that So. Pop Warner is in contact with Regional and they are engaging in early discussions that the winner of Conn. will be playing the winner of Mid American Conference. The game will be played in Indiana Thanksgiving weekend. This is early discussions and not finalized yet. He said he doesn't know who will be in the playoffs.

There was discussion on the playoff games and what teams will be participating (U10, U12 and U14). The U10 and U 12 will be playing for league championship. The commissioners and Mr. Maynard discussed the teams in the No. CT Pop Warner and the So. CT Pop Warner and who is committed to the playoffs.

Mr. Velardi asked Mr. Maynard to submit a written report to the Recreation Commission each month.

Mr. Maynard said he was unaware that he had to submit a written report. He will have one going forward.

Mr. O'Reilly asked if the kids are required to go to the games.

Mr. Maynard said it is not mandatory if they can field a team. The kids will not be penalized if they can't go and they can field a team. He said he will send the Financial Report to the members.

Mr. Velardi made a motion to accept the football report as presented. Mr. O'Reilly seconded.

Mr. Devine asked that the Recreation members receive the written report in advance of the meeting.

The Chair called for a vote. All in favor, the motion carried.

Cheer

The Cheer Report and Cheer Financial Report were sent to all of the Commission members.

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

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to accept the Cheer reports. Mr. O'Reilly seconded.

Mr. Velardi asked if the 501C3 expense on the Financial Report is a filing expense?

There was discussion that the group is tax exempt. It was noted the expense is on the report at \$1461 year to date.

The Chair called for a vote. All in favor, the motion carried.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Coppola stated there are no new bills.

Correspondence

None

New Business

Ms. Lynch said the “NO SMOKING” signs have not been posted at the fields.

Mr. Coppola said that the signs go through the Police Department and Public Works. He said the signs have not been received yet. The Ordinance was approved about 5 or 6 months ago.

Ms. Lynch said she received an e-mail from Newington regarding the rules and regulations and certain restrictions, specifically no smoking, that are imposed for all teams playing on their fields. She said it was a nice communication to all of the parents who have children that would be using their fields. She would like to see Ansonia do something like that so that everyone using the Ansonia fields would know what is allowed and not allowed.

There was a discussion on the Newington Communication and how Ansonia could prepare a statement that could go out to other towns using our facilities.

Alderwoman Radin discussed Ansonia’s Ordinance regarding “no smoking” and the use of the electronic cigarette. She will check Ansonia’s Ordinance to verify

what it states. The Police Department cannot enforce the Ordinance if there are no signs posted.

There are dog signs posted at Abe Stone Park. These have helped to keep the dogs off the field. Mr. Coppola stated he will check with the Police Department and Public Works Department on the status of the signs for “no smoking” and “dogs on the fields”.

Mr. Velardi suggested a single sign with all of the City of Ansonia’s rules listed on it. This sign can then be posted at all of the fields.

Alderwoman Radin said that she would bring it up at the Board of Aldermen Ordinance Committee meeting.

Discussion continued on the ordinances and the number of signs that would be needed for the fields. The commission would like to request two dozen signs that could be posted at all of the City fields.

There was discussion on receiving the Recreation program financial reports electronically from the Directors. The commission members prefer to receive them in this manner.

Mr. Velardi asked if the minutes and the agendas could be sent to the members electronically also.

The following members stated they wished to receive electronic copies of minutes and agendas: Mr. Velardi, Mr. O’Reilly, Mr. Devine and Ms. Lynch. The following members would like hard copies: Ms. Lynch, Mr. Smith, Mr. Sobolisky, and Mr. Coppola.

Mr. Velardi asked if the background check forms were received from Soccer.

Mr. Coppola stated yes, they are all OK.

Old Business

None

Recreation Program Compliance Policy

Mr. Velardi said the document will be retitled “Recreation Program Compliance Policy”. The policy would require programs that would benefit from the City of Ansonia to be in compliance with the policy. It would require each Recreation Program to submit a budget for the beginning of the City of Ansonia’s Fiscal Year and submit a monthly expenditure report which will be in the same form as the budget. There will be an Application Process that each program will submit at the beginning of the Calendar year for the next year. Mr. Velardi said he will create the application form, for example we want to use the field – dates, days and time and Recreation will approve it. Then there will not be a dispute as to which Recreation Program has the use of the field.

The commissioners discussed the application for use of the fields. The application procedure would be backing away from supervision and moving toward compliance verification. This would be more for the programs’ benefit than Recreations. For example, Soccer has an application to use the field on Saturday and the public wants to use the field. Soccer produces a document stating they have the use of the field at that time.

Chairman Smith said these are our programs and they have use of the fields. A program wants to use the field they call Mr. Coppola for the field. Our programs are on the field per Mr. Coppola and if there is someone else there they will have to move.

Mr. Sobolisky said that Mr. Coppola schedules the games and the fields.

Discussion continued on the use of the fields and the application process. Mr. Velardi gave an example of the use of the Pavilion at the Nature Center for a party. The Nature Center gives you a letter stating you can use the Pavilion on Saturday at XXX time and there is no problem. They have a document that states they have use of the Pavilion. If there is an application with approval for use of the field there would be no conflicts in the schedules.

Chairman Smith said the programs have to come to Recreation for permission to use the field. If there is someone on the field they will have to leave the field or the court if they don’t have permission.

Any other business to come before the Commission

Discussion on agenda items.

Mr. Sobolisky made a motion to remove “new business” and “old business” from the agenda. Mr. Velardi seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Adjourn

Mr. Velardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Mr. Sobolisky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary