

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF HAMDEN

MINUTES: A meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission, Town of Hamden was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 5:30 P.M. in the Parks & Recreation Department Conference Room, Hamden Government Center, 2750 Dixwell Avenue. The following items were discussed:

MINUTES

Commissioners in Attendance: Anthony Mentone, Richard Leonardo, Richard Schultz

Others in Attendance: Frank Rizzuti, Director of Parks & Recreation
Gerry Tobin, Acting Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mr. Leonardo called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Commissioners all wished Ms. Craft a Happy Birthday.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 9th Meeting

The review of the June 9th Minutes was tabled to the October meeting.

3. Correspondence

Commissioners had a letter from Commissioner Anthony F. Mentone regarding the Creation of the Town Green District Commission. Mr. Mentone said the Town Charter says if it is a park in the Town of Hamden it is under the jurisdiction of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Other Commissioners agreed. He wrote this letter on his own behalf, not on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Mentone said the Charter also says that several items are under the jurisdiction of the Legislative Council, not the Mayor. The Town ignored the Commission with the carnival, the farmers' market, etc. Commissioners asked if the Town charged for the use of the Park for the carnival sponsored by the Westwoods School PTA.

4. Department Head Report

Mr. Rizzuti presented the annual report.

- The Farmington Canal trail, which consists of 10 miles from Cheshire to New Haven, has been completed.
- The lower level of the Veterans Building at Booksvale Park has been completed, and the outside deck is being worked on.

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- The ceiling reflectors have been installed above the ice rink and energy efficient fluorescent bulbs have been installed, which run much cooler than other bulbs. Parks & Recreation has been working with United Illuminating, and they hope to save on electricity costs.
- The Department is looking at improvements for Legion Field. Hopefully this Capital Project will get approved. The bathrooms at Legion Field have been repaired, but the Port o let is still there. Mr. Schultz said the point is to have the restrooms open from dawn to dusk so people can use them. Mr. Rizzuti said they have asked the coaches to have the kids clean up the dugouts, but they don't.
- Parks & Recreation is working on the October 17th Festival at Booksvale Park.
- There are problems at the Hamden High Tennis Courts. Some lights are out and trees overgrown. Parks & Recreation is working with Public Works to get the tree crew there. Parks & Recreation doesn't have an electrician or a bucket truck, so they have to work with Public Works. They have also tried to work with the BOE electrician.
- Stone dust is being put down on the Farmington Canal by Department staff. Mr. Rizzuti said Schultz would probably have charged \$15,000 to do it. The stone dust is high maintenance. Discussion followed.
- Dead trees and branches have been removed at DeNicola Park, and woodchips are being placed at the playground.

Hockey has started and basketball is coming up. Mr. Schultz said basketball flyers are going out to schools, and notices are going in the newspapers for signups on Saturday October 3rd and tryouts on October 10th. Mr. Schultz said fall baseball started with the first games being held last weekend. There are almost 200 kids involved. They have games at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

There was discussion on changing the girls from the Babe Ruth League to the Little League.

Mr. Rizzuti said someone moved the bases at Bassett Field, 4 70' bases with a portable mound.

Mr. Mentone said on Saturday at Cesare Field he didn't see any carts, but heard bad language on the basketball court.

Mr. Mentone is working on a project with the Ethnic Heritage Center. Right now there is no fee to use the Town Center Park. Mr. Rizzuti said Brooksvale is getting more and more use. Mr. Lavorgna is thinking about putting up a volleyball net. The boy scouts want to get involved in that project. They are going to meet with the neighbors about the location.

There was discussion on the poison ivy on the hill behind Hamden High School. Mr. Rizzuti said that is a BOE issue.

Old Business

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Mr. Rizzuti said the Department spent \$27,550 on summer camp trips. The cost of payroll was \$150,000 for four camp periods. \$200,000 was taken in. Mr. Mentone asked why we want to go up on the rates if the camps made money. Mr. Rizzuti said insurance was another \$3,500 and supplies \$500. We should only be breaking even.

Using the numbers above, Mr. Mentone made a motion not to increase the rates for summer camps. Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

There are special fees for non-residents. Hamdenites sign up until May 5th, and then registration opens to out-of-towners. There are scholarships available that are handled by Community Services.

Mr. Schultz mentioned the overhanging branches at DeNicola Park. They did the playground, but not the basketball courts. He asked for next season can we get new equipment for the boxes at the area baseball fields. A rake, a round edge shovel and a brown bristle broom would be good.

Mr. Schultz said last month we were talking about fees for out of town teams. In Wallingford, if fewer than five Wallingford residents are on a team, the team has to pay. If more than five team members are Wallingford residents, they don't have to pay. West Haven charges \$40 per game to out of town teams. There was discussion on how town workers in other towns who take care of the fields on weekends get paid. Mr. Rizzuti said it cost his Department \$750 for Hamden Fathers' opening day.

5. New Business

6. Adjournment

Mr. Mentone made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Acting Clerk