



TOWN OF HAMDEN

P PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES: The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regularly scheduled meeting on December 8, 2009, at 5:30 P.M. in the Parks and Recreation Conference Room, Hamden Government Center, 2750 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Rich Leonardo, Vice Chairman
Rich Shultz
Ron Treanor

Staff in Attendance: Frank Rizzuti, Director of Parks & Recreation
Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Leonardo made a motion to accept the Minutes of the September 2009 meeting. Commissioner Shultz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

There was no communications or correspondence.

DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORT

Director Rizzuti presented the following information to the Commissioners:

The Commissioners present expressed their sadness at the passing of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Tony Mentone. It was noted that Mr. Mentone was a dedicated member of this Commission as well as a very active citizen of Hamden. Mr. Mentone's contributions to the Town of Hamden especially Hamden youth sports and activities was also noted. All present agreed that Mr. Mentone would be greatly missed by this Commission as well as by the Town of Hamden. A letter will be drafted and sent to the local media citing Mr. Mentone's many contributions to Hamden youth sports.

Breakfast with Santa went very well there were approximately 300 attendees at the event. The breakfast was held at Laurel View Country Club and there were two seating, the first at 9:00 AM and the second at 11:00 AM. There was a discussion regarding this event. Commissioner Treanor suggested that, as a cost saving measure, the event be held in the Hamden High School Cafeteria instead of at Laurel View.

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The outdoor portion of the Silverbells Celebration originally planned for Saturday, was postponed and rescheduled to Sunday due to inclement weather

The ice rink windows are being worked on and in the spring or summer the outside of the building will be painted. Commissioner Treanor asked about a Hockey Team Work Day. Director Rizzuti said this would have to be discussed with the union.

Work on the Brooksvale bridge is at a standstill. Originally the plan was to renovate the bridge but the footings are rotting and it is necessary to take it all down. The State will now have to be contacted so that the bid can be changed

Hamden Fathers Basketball opened on Friday December 4th.

There was a discussion regarding the backstop coverings at Bassett Park field 1 and one other field. Mr. Rizzuti will discuss this with Mr. Reilly.

The trees have been cut back around the fencing at Bassett Park field 3.

The Parks and Recreation crew are now on snow duty. They have been putting sanders and plows on the trucks getting ready for snow.

Denicola Park will be getting new signage. Mr. Rizzuti showed a picture of the sign. Landino Signs will be making the sign.

Mr. Rizzuti said the department is looking for grant money for the tennis courts for the lights. There was a discussion regarding the problems with these lights. Mr. Rizzuti reported that the Public Works electrician and the Board of Education electrician have both looked at the lights and the problem cannot be identified. This is a Parks and Recreation responsibility and Mr. Rizzuti has asked the Grant Writer to look into obtaining a grant for this.

Graffiti is increasing all over Town. Legion Field has been painted twice. There was a discussion regarding this problem.

The 2010-2011 Budget process will be starting soon. Mr. Rizzuti will try to upgrade the Department's equipment. This hasn't been done since the early nineties.

There is a Boy Scout who will be doing an Eagle Project at Legion Field. This will involve painting the dugouts and will be done in March or April. The union has agreed to the Boy Scout doing this.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Treanor asked about the proposed Youth Hockey building. Mr. Rizzuti reported that the OK has been given to proceed, and Public Works has taken down the trees. Mr. Rizzuti said the project has stopped. He will look into this and update the Commissioners.

Commissioner Treanor inquired about where we stand on the current budget. Mr. Rizzuti said that 51 percent of the budget has been used. Mr. Rizzuti added that he feels the Department is in good shape and is doing well. Mr. Treanor next asked what percentage the budget will be increased. Mr. Rizzuti said that he has not received the budget packet yet so he does not have that information.

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Next, it was noted that the DeNicola Park tree branches have not been cut yet.

There was a discussion regarding the stone on the trail. Mr. Rizzuti reported that they have used what they had but still need more. This stone is purchased from Keegan. Mr. Rizzuti will ask the Grant Writer to research funding for this since it is a green trail.

There was a discussion regarding charging outside “for profit teams” for use of our fields. Mr. Rizzuti will ask Dave DeMartino to contact the Wallingford Parks and Recreation Director to see how they handle this. A discussion regarding this followed.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the use of the fields, and when fields can and can't be used. Mr. Rizzuti stated that these are public parks and people can't be prevented from using them. Commissioner Shultz cited the damage that is done when muddy fields are used, and added that it requires a lot of work to get the field in shape for a game. Mr. Rizzuti will look into whether the fields can be shut down. He will check with Town Attorney Sue Gruen regarding this.

Regarding the batter box mats which Commissioner Shultz had discussed at previous meetings he said that these would be cost prohibitive and we will have to continue adding clay. Mr. Rizzuti will as the Grant Writer about field reconstruction grants.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Treanor asked if the Christmas tree sale in the parking lot between the Library and Meadowbrook Park is Town sponsored. Mr. Rizzuti said that this is not under the Parks and Recreation umbrella. Mr. Rizzuti added that he doesn't think it is Town sponsored.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the proposed Parks and Recreation Commission schedule of meetings for 2010. After the discussion, **Commissioner Treanor motioned to accept the proposed schedule as presented. Commissioner Shultz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.**

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission, and Vice Chairman Leonardo called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Shultz motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Treanor and passed unanimously.** Vice Chairman Leonardo adjourned the meeting at 6:45 P.M.

Submitted by:

Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission