

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Town of Hamden

The Parks & Recreation Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 10, 2010 in the Parks & Recreation Conference Room, Hamden Government Center. The following items were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Rich Leonardo, Sarah Morrill, Mick McGarry, Tad Watson

Others in Attendance: Ira Malkin, Hamden Soccer
Curt Leng, Chief Administrative Officer
Frank Rizzuti, Parks & Recreation Director
Gerry Tobin, Substitute Clerk

1. Mr. Watson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
2. Review of June 8, 2010 minutes

Mr. McGarry made a motion to approve the minutes of June 8th. Mr. Leonardo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. There was not a quorum at the July meeting.

3. There was no correspondence.

4. Report of the Director

Mr. Rizzuti reported that summer camps went well. Six weeks of camps ended on August 6th. Mr. Rizzuti will have a financial report at the next meeting. Receipts are in two fiscal years.

The Maintenance Division (Parks Department) moved to Public Works. After some adjustments, things seem to be settling down. Complaints and concerns can still go through Recreation and Mr. Rizzuti will forward issues to Public Works Director Joe Velardi.

Part timers also went over to Public Works. The Recreation part timers stayed at Parks & Recreation. Ricky Gentile was moved from the ice rink and is now the Recreation Coordinator in charge of Recreation Supervisors. His job description was approved by civil service.

Mr. McGarry asked if the Public Works Department will be taking care of fields. Mr. Rizzuti explained that it is the same crew, but it is now under the supervision of Public Works. Information actually still flows through Parks & Recreation.

There was discussion on the Middle School fields. Ira Malkin of the Soccer Association said they would like to help. He communicated with the Middle School but the principal is away on vacation. He asked what the Soccer Association can do to help. Carusone Field and the Middle School fields are the worst. Mr. Rizzuti believes the irrigation system at the Middle School is not working. Mr. Malkin said a year ago they had their ceremonies there and the sprinklers were running. Mr. McGarry said he has been on the field a lot, and there is no evidence of it being watered. Mr. Rizzuti mentioned that a retired teacher from Hamden High does the adult soccer league and wants to raise money for a soccer complex, which is why he got the report from Mark Albanese.

Curt Leng said he was shocked to hear that we have irrigation at a lot of our fields, but we don't use it. Some have minor repair needs that the Town is working on. Legion, Rochford, Maretti, the Middle School, Bassett #1 and Carusone Fields have irrigation systems, and he believes the only one that gets watered is Bassett. That one is automatic. No one is holding back water, but no one knows why the water has not been turned on. Mr. Leng asked about repair needs at the fields that have irrigation. Minor repairs are needed, and all could be irrigation ready for under \$2,000. Mr. Malkin said throughout the summer Westwoods was killed because of lack of water (no irrigation system). Mr. Leonardo said the best time to water the lawn is early morning before the sun comes up. The best time to seed is 8/15 to 9/15, but that is when they play. They are letting one field per season go. Soccer is willing to shut some fields down for a year. Mr. Leng said regarding maintenance, we will have to have Mr. Velardi, Public Works Director, come to one of our meetings. Mr. McGarry asked who has the key to the irrigation boxes. Mr. Rizzuti said John Torgeson has the keys. Mr. Leng said we should have our electrician put timers on the lights at the tennis courts, and we will have them do the same for the irrigation systems.

Mr. Leng was hoping Personnel Director Ken Kelley could come to this meeting so we could decide what we could do regarding volunteers, unions, etc.

Mark Albanese and Mr. Leng discussed the issue of stones at on the Middle School fields. There was discussion on the fact that if they pick up the stones manually, new stones will surface. They stones have to be removed, then top soil and seeds have to be placed. Mr. Malkin said to do the Middle School fields, you would have to do it in sections. There was discussion on the Sacred Heart fields. He thinks sections take two years to mature. Mr. Leonardo said Harvard University's website for facility operations, has information on how they take care of their fields with rainwater and how they make their own fertilizer. Their root systems are 8-12 inches deep. The better fields can be over seeded and fertilized.

Mr. Leng felt it would be a good idea to have Mark Albanese at the next meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Mr. Malkin said soccer fields measure 80 yards by 100 yards.

Mr. Leng said the next step for the short term is to get the irrigation systems up and running and put some plans in place for the Middle School fields. Work on the Middle School fields must be done with permission from the BOE. He will follow up with Joe Velardi on the irrigation system repairs and timers. These are not fixes for this fall or next spring. Mr. Leonardo said we should slit seed one field now and keep people off of it. Goal posts and nets have to be removed and orange fencing should be put around fields under repair. The Soccer Association will help out if necessary and if the work is done properly and people are kept off of it for a year. We are talking about the #14 at Westwoods School. Water and seeds are what is mostly needed, except at the Middle School.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for the Tuesday, September 14th.

Mr. Leng noticed that the trash barrels were dirty, rusty and nasty. He asked for a recommendation from the Commission.

Mr. Watson asked what happen to the 1.5 mile linear park at Lake Whitney. There was some discussion.

Mr. Leng will check with Hamden Hall about the Augur Street field. The Town uses the Eli Whitney field and maintains it.

Mr. Rizzuti mentioned that three children's concerts were held at Larry's Playground and they were well attended. Dave DeMartino did a good job. Mr. DeMartino also worked with the Commission on Disability Rights & Opportunities on a Summer Cookout for the over 21 disabled. It was held on Saturday, August 7th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. That event was also well attended.

Summer Bash for disabled 8/7 4-7

Mr. Rizzuti announced that the Department is looking to do more non-sports related activity. The Department will have learn to swim programs in September. Lights are being turned on and off at the Tennis Courts Mondays through Saturdays. There are some problems with the lights, and we will have an electrician look at that.

Bill Pfeffer looking to raise money for soccer complex.

Discussions have started on the Brooksvale Fall festival, probably the 3rd Saturday in October. We will have maple sugaring.

Rochford/Mill Rock Park – Remediation will begin on Rochford Field and Mill Rock part. This is a 3-5 year remediation program and the state is contributing to the remediation. Commissioners can email their ideas and suggestions to Mr. Rizzuti.

Mr. Rizzuti reported that the deck at the Brooksvale Veterans Building is done.

The Charter Revision Commission has had several meetings and a public hearing. They will ask for recommendations and want to make changes to departments that have adapted over the years, i. e. welfare department, which we no longer have.

The ice rink opened officially yesterday.

Old Business

Art Giulietti was at our meeting a couple of months ago, and attached is a list of signage proposed by the National Parks & Recreation Association and modified by our Insurance Carrier. Following review by Commissioners, Mr. Watson asked for a motion.

Mr. McGarry made a motion to accept the signage regulations as attached. Mr. Leonardo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Mr. Watson said each location will have different rules for locations, and they will be age appropriate.

Mr. Leng asked if the Commission would give the risk manager permission to tweak the wording.

Mr. McGarry made a motion to give the Town's Risk Manager, Art Giulietti, permission to tweak the wording of the regulations. Mr. Leonardo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Mr. Leonardo made a motion to adjourn. Mr. McGarry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Substitute Clerk