



TOWN OF HAMDEN

Town Center Park Commission

Hamden Government Center
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MEETING MINUTES

The Town Center Park Commission held a meeting on Wednesday April 21, 2010 in the Mayor's Conference Room in Hamden government Center at 7:00 p.m. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Matt Fitch, Jay Matthews, Ann Bell

Others in Attendance: Citizens, Lucas Hernandez, Teo Hernandez, Liaison to the Mayor's Office Julie Smith, Commission Clerk Rose Lion

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fitch called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

SKLAVER TREE

The idea of planting a tree in Town Center Park in honor of Captain Sklaver has been delayed. The Sklaver family is not ready to proceed.

PROGRAMMING

The central focus of this commission meeting was to explore programming for Town Center Park. Mr. Fitch stressed that increased usage of the Park is desirable. Many suggestions and ideas were entertained. Practicality and feasibility of ideas, as well as their appeal were key considerations. It was suggested that public activities be done in conjunction with already scheduled events. Ms. Lion suggested tacking live music and a little dance party onto the end of a Farmer's Market. It is noted that any performers will have to volunteer, since financial resources are limited. Outdoor movies were also suggested and requirements for such were discussed, such as, time of year, (it has to be dark outside), and style of projection, (inflatable screens etc.) and cost factors. Line dancing with a DJ, based on the style of the West Haven Board Walk's successful program was explored. Ms. Bell noted safety and liability issues such as surface for safe dancing, and also the cost of a DJ was noted. Other proposals were, outdoor yoga, birdwalks, a concert series with local bands, ethnic festivals, "Pic-nic in the Park", and food festivals. Ms. Smith recommended that the commission focus on one or two ideas. The favorite and seemingly most feasible idea was "A Taste of Hamden" which Commissioner Matthews proposed. The group agreed that this has proven public appeal and also can pay for itself if managed correctly. Chairman Fitch has experience in this type of event. An ethnic theme can be incorporated into this concept as well, for example an Irish or Italian Festival. Late June or early July were both proposed for this type of event. Mr. Fitch noted that these programs should take place during the times when the port-a-potties and pails are already out in the park. "A Taste of Hamden" would fit in well in July during the Summer Concert Series season. July 6th may be a possibility. Mr. Fitch also pointed out that this event can pay for itself and that we don't need to make money, but to, at least, "break even". The commissioners present and Julie Smith all agreed that between now and the next Town Center Park Commission meeting, they would investigate vendor costs, permit requirements and police and clean – up needs. The group agreed

that a realistic goal is to focus on producing one (maybe two) events this summer. Other suggestions were, promote new events by making announcements during summer concerts, check New Haven's Irish and Italian Festival days to avoid schedule conflict, and to schedule a consulting meeting with Tom Conway and Mimsi Coleman.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09.

The next Town Center Park Commission meeting is Wednesday May 19, 2010, in the Mayor's Conference Room in Hamden Government Center.