

**TOWN OF HAMDEN
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

**MARCH 8, 2010
5:30 PM**

**PARKS & RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER**

Commissioners in Attendance: Tad Watson, Chairman
Rich Leonardo, Vice Chairman
Sarah Morrill
Michael McGarry

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Watson called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Watson asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the Minutes of the last meeting. Hearing none, Chairman Watson called for a motion to approve the Minutes.

Commissioner Leonardo motioned to accept the Minutes as presented. Commissioner McGarry seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Next, Chairman Watson informed the Commissioners present that Ronald Treanor had resigned from this Commission.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Rizzuti updated the Commissioners regarding the progress on the after school program that the Recreation Department and the Youth Services Department are engaged in. Rick Gentile of the Recreation Department has been working with the Youth Services Department. There was a trip to a Knicks Basketball game on Monday. Mr. Rizzuti reported that the trip was very successful. This is a Youth Services program, Recreation is only helping out. Mr. Rizzuti said he has visited this program many times and noted that it is a very nice program, and is starting to grow. He also said that there are Quinnipiac students participating in the program.

Mr. McGarry asked if there are any eligibility requirements. Mr. Rizzuti said there are none.

Mr. Rizzuti provided a Program Calendar for Brooksvale Park that was prepared by Program Supervisor Vin LaVorgna. He added that they have just finished the Maple Syrup Program. He said the Department is trying to take advantage of Brooksvale, which he feels is the golden jewel of the Department right now.

Boy Scout Julian Davie and friends have painted Legion Field and did a good job. Mr. Rizzuti has asked Mayor Jackson to give Scout Davie a proclamation for his work.

There is another Boy Scout who would like to do something also, perhaps a garden on the Farmington Canal.

REPORTS

Mr. Watson said at the last meeting Gerry Tobin said she would contact Commissioner Ron Treanor to ask if he plans to continue on this Commission. Mr. Treanor has since resigned. Mr. Rizzuti said it is possible that the Commission might be expanded to seven members by the Charter Revision Committee. Mr. McGarry asked if it would be beneficial to contact member of the Legislative Council to suggest this. Mr. Rizzuti said he believes this could be helpful.

There was a discussion regarding the makeup of this Commission and if it will be considered the Recreation Commission now that the Parks aspect of the Commission has been turned over to the Public Works Department. It was noted that this could not be done without a Charter revision.

Mr. McGarry asked if there is an overseeing Commission for the Public Works Department. Mr. Rizzuti said there is not. Mr. McGarry pointed out that this could prove to be a problem in the future if a citizen has a complaint that they wish to bring to a Commission member. There was a short discussion regarding this topic.

Mr. Watson said it is important to have CAO Curt Leng attend a meeting regarding this Department and this Commission's relationship with Public Works.

Baseball signups are going on for both Greater Hamden Baseball and Hamden Fathers Baseball.

Mr. Leonardo reported that Hamden Fathers Basketball has finished for the season. The traveling teams are finishing their schedule.

Soccer and Lacrosse signups are beginning.

Rick Gentile has had knee surgery and has been out for two weeks.

The current budget is running at 74.8%. The Department hasn't had to cut any programs. Mr. Rizzuti said the staff is doing a good job staying within budget. Ms. Morrill asked about next year's budget. Mr. Rizzuti said he has kept the budget at level funding.

Mr. Rizzuti said that January was a terrible month due to snow – many programs had to be cancelled or rescheduled.

The staff met with the Board of Education on Monday regarding Summer Camp. There will be five weeks of camp from July 5th to August 12th. The BOE gave the Department the schools they requested.

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There may be a new class entitled Italian Cooking and Language Class to be held at the High School.

There was a problem at Brooksvale with water testing. The Department was cited by the State. It was formerly done by QVHD, but the person who did it is not working there any longer. Ranger LaVorgna is now taking the samples. It is done quarterly and taken to Long Wharf to be tested.

Mr. Rizzuti said the Department is working with other departments to try to be more efficient and come up with new idea.

Mr. Rizzuti and Mr. LaVorgna asked for a grant for the Farm Camp Program. The request was denied due to the fact that there is not a 51% enrollment for moderate to lower income attendees. The camp will still be held. This is a six-week course consisting of three two-week sessions about 15 kids each.

There were some extra expenses for the Department due to roof shoveling at the Veterans Building.

There was a trip to a UCONN game on February 14th. Mr. Rizzuti reported that it was very successful.

Mr. Rizzuti listed the many programs that the Department is offering.

The Administration would like to do background checks on summer hires. Letters have been sent to the employees from last year stating that background checks could be done.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Watson emphasized the need for Mr. Leng to attend a meeting to discuss this Commission's role.

Chairman Watson also reminded the Commissioners that they needed to make arrangements with the Commission Clerk to have ID cards made.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McGarry said the Hamden Soccer Association would like to request that the soccer field at West Woods be rested and rehabbed. The field was played on last year, and was rested in the fall. There is an adult soccer association, The Hawks that has requested the use of the West Woods field. They have said they would only play eight games, but Mr. McGarry noted that once the goals are up the field would be used extensively. Mr. McGarry said the Soccer Association would like to have the adult clubs play on another field.

Commissioner McGarry motioned to move the meeting schedule for April 12, 2011 at 5:30 PM to April 5, 2011 at 5:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morrill and passed unanimously.

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On March 14th at 5:00 PM there will be a meeting with Mark Albanese of the BOE, the Hamden Soccer Association and the person who tested the fields four years ago. The Hamden Soccer Association wants to spend money on the Hamden Middle School fields over a four-year span. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this topic. The meeting will be at 60 Putnam Avenue. Mr. Rizzuti will make every effort to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Watson called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Leonardo moved for adjournment. Commissioner Morrill seconded the motion that passed with a unanimous vote.** Chairman Watson adjourned the meeting at 6:27 PM.

Submitted by:

Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission