

TOWN OF HAMDEN

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING

**5:30 PM
JUNE 14, 2011**

**PARKS & RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE
HAMDEN**

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Watson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken as noted above.

APPROVAL OF MAY 10, 2011 MINUTES

**Commissioner Leonardo motioned to accept the Minutes of the May 10th meeting.
Commissioner Morrill seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

COMMUNICATIONS

Director Rizzuti shared a letter he received from second grader Donna Mauro. Donna said how much she enjoyed visiting the Parks & Recreation Department during her class' recent school tour.

DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORT

Mr. Rizzuti reported that camp revenue has picked up in June. He said they will not reach the projected numbers due to the shortened camp schedule; camp will be five weeks not six weeks as it has been in previous years. He added that sign-ups will continue through August..

Mr. Rizzuti said the Department did not hire a lot of kids back this year. He said they signed up

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Several CITs (Counselor In Training). Mr. Rizzuti explained that CITs are not paid; they are allowed to attend camp for free.

Next, Mr. Rizzuti reported that Camp shirts have been ordered. He also said that bids for buses will be going out at the end of June.

Clean-up Day at Brooksvale Park was held on June 4th.

Commissioner Morrill said she saw peacocks at the park. She also said that she saw two ponies there. Mr. Rizzuti said the ponies are mother and daughter.

Mr. Rizzuti said there will be three concerts at Larry's Playground this summer. The concerts will be held on August 13th, 20th, and 27th.

The Farmers Market will open on June 24th. There will be 15 vendors.

The Department is planning on starting a summer basketball league. Commissioner Leonardo said this is a big undertaking during the summer. He said one of the benefits this league will be that it doesn't conflict with many other programs. Mr. Rizzuti said this program will be directed by Chris Wilson. Youth Services Director Susan Rubino will oversee the program that will be held at the Middle School. This will be open to both boys and girls in 7th and 8th grades.

Program Supervisor Laura Luzzi has started a Chinese and Italian language program.

The bike park behind the Dog Park is being knocked down.

Mr. Rizzuti said the Dog Park is going very well. He added that RDOG is a wonderful group.

Program Supervisor Dave DeMartino is working on free lunches for kids at camp. This is the second year of this program that was very successful last year.

Mr. Rizzuti this will be his last Commission meeting. He is retiring at the end of June. He said Mimsie Coleman or Rick Gentile will be here next month. He added that both are experienced will do a good job.

Mr. Watson said he will be meeting with Mr. Gentile next week in regard to organizing a horse shoe tournament. Mr. Watson would also like to organize a chess, bocce and checkers tournaments in the future. He will also discuss this with Mr. Gentile.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Commission.

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ADJOURNMENT

Before adjourning, all present wished Mr. Rizzuti well in his retirement and added that Mr. Rizzuti has been an asset to the Town of Hamden where he served as a Councilman and Director of Parks and Recreation. He has especially been a very positive influence on the youth of Hamden during his distinguished career. Mr. Rizzuti will be greatly missed.

There was no further business to come before the Commission, and Chairman Watson called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Morrill motioned to adjourn. Commissioner McGarry seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Watson adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.

Submitted by:

Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission