

# **TOWN OF HAMDEN**

## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **MEETING**

**5:30 PM**

**August 9, 2011**

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

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

Others in Attendance: Mimsie Coleman, Director of Arts, Recreation & Culture  
Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Watson called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance was taken as noted above.

### **APPROVAL OF JULY 12, 2011 MINUTES**

**Commissioner Morrill motioned to accept the Minutes of the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
Commissioner Leonardo seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORT**

Ms. Coleman reported that Arnold Mann has been appointed to the Commission. The Commissioners present felt this was a good choice, and are looking forward to Mr. Mann's involvement with the Commission.

Ms. Coleman said the Department is doing well; it has been a busy summer. She said the members of the Department work very well together. She also said an intern from SCSU will be doing a study comparing Green Dragon Camps to other camps in the area; she expects Green Dragon to fare very well.

Mr. Watson asked how the camps did regarding enrollment. Ms. Coleman said enrollment was high. She added that enrollment is open throughout the camp sessions. She visited all the camps and was very impressed. She attended Carnival Day at the Green Dragon Camp and said it was

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an excellent event. She also said that the Farm Camp was very successful. She added that the staff did a very good job at all the camps.

Mr. Watson asked Ms. Coleman to bring any letter received regarding programs and parks as well as any letter regarding complaints, compliments or requests to the meetings. Ms. Coleman said she has turned correspondence regarding parks over to Frank Cooper but will make copies and bring any correspondence regarding parks to the commission meetings.

Next, there was a discussion regarding Charter Revisions and how they would affect this Commission. Ms. Coleman said she has discussed this with Deputy CAO Julie Smith. Ms. Smith is not sure what decisions have been made. Ms. Coleman will investigate this for the next meeting

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Coleman said she has looked into the suggestion of a senior area at DeNicola Park, and has discussed this with Frank Cooper and Rick Gentile. She would like to visit the park with Mr. Watson to determine what could be done regarding horseshoe and bocce courts.

There was a discussion regarding limbs hanging over the basketball courts at DeNicola Park. Mr. Leonardo said it is his understanding that the cherry picker truck would be needed to trim the limbs.

Next, there was a discussion regarding Rochford Field and the cleanup in that area. Commissioner Leonardo noted that DeNicola Park and Rochford Field are very busy.

There was a short discussion regarding the renovations of the soccer fields behind the Hamden Middle School.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Leonardo discussed the Dunbar Hill School field closest to the street. He said it looks like the dirt part of the infield is all grass. Mr. Watson said this is an example of this Commission still being involved with fields. CAO Curt Leng is supposed to get back to the Commission regarding this question.

Ms. Morrill pointed out that it is difficult to separate the programs from the fields they are held on. Mr. Watson added that this Commission does not want to be in charge of all the Public Works fields. He stressed the point that we only want to be involved in the Parks Division of Public Works. Mr. Leonardo agreed that it is necessary to have a definition regarding this problem.

Mr. Watson discussed previous boxing programs. There was a discussion regarding this subject. Ms. Morrill said she thinks that Councilman Mike Colaiacovo was involved in this.

Ms. Morrill said she might miss the September and October meetings due to her coaching schedule.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to come before the Commission, and Chairman Watson called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Leonardo motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Morrill seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Watson adjourned the meeting at 6:16 PM.

Submitted by:

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Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission