

TOWN OF HAMDEN

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MARCH 13, 2012

5:30 PM

PARKS & RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM

HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER

2750 DIXWELL AVENUE

HAMDEN

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

Others In Attendance: Rick Gentile, Parks & Recreation Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Leonardo motioned to accept the Minutes of the January Meeting as presented. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Rick Gentile was in attendance for Ms. Coleman who is on vacation.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Gentile read from a memo from Curt Leng that states that the Parks and Recreation Commission will be responsible for a report on the parks and fields in Hamden.

There was a discussion regarding why this is being required. Mr. Watson stated that parks and fields have always been a part of the discussion and the Minutes of the Commission meetings.

Mr. Gentile distributed a copy of the 2012 Camp rates. Mr. Mann asked if the camps service people in Town. Mr. Gentile said they do, and explained how people can apply for assistance in the form of a scholarship through Community Services. Mr. Gentile explained how the funds are raised for the scholarships. Next, Mr. Mann asked what happens if funds are not available, and if children whose families are not able to afford camp are denied. Mr. Gentile said this has never happened in the past. Mr. Gentile explained that there are funds received from the State for breakfast and lunch at the Munchkins and Rascals and Camps. He also explained what the qualifications are to receive these benefits. Mr. Mann said that in today's environment, it seems necessary to provide financial assistance. There was further discussion regarding this topic.

Mr. Gentile discussed the Extreme Camp and explained what is included in the price. He also said the maximum enrollment for this camp is listed as 22 but should be 25.

Mr. Mann asked if the camps make money, lose money or break even. Mr. Gentile said they are trying to break even.

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

March 13, 2012

Page 2

There was a discussion regarding how many children attend camp.

Mr. Gentile explained the early registration fee, regular registration, and rates after June 1st. Mr. McGarry said that the camps look great, Ms. Morrill agreed.

Next, Mr. Gentile explained the Mad Science, Play-Well TEK, and Whitney Players Theater Company Camps. He said the fees for these camps go directly to the program providers, and the department receives \$10.00 for each child enrolled.

Mr. Leonardo said Mr. Gentile did a very good presentation on the camps, the activities provided at each camp and the fee structures.

Commissioner Leonardo motioned to accept the camp fees as set by the department and presented by Mr. Gentile. Commissioner McGarry seconded the motion that passed with a unanimous vote.

Next, Mr. Gentile presented rental information for the Brooksvale Park Pavilion, Veterans' Memorial Hall Rental, and Special Use Permits.

Mr. Mann asked if Brooksvale Park is smoke free. Mr. Gentile will check on this.

Mr. Gentile said the Special Use Permit would stay the same, as well as the Scouting information.

There will be a change in the Veterans rental; the old rate was \$15.00 an hour, and it is proposed to raise the rental fee to \$25.00 an hour.

Mr. Mann asked for an explanation regarding the Special Use Permit. Mr. Gentile explained the difference between the Special Use Permit and the Pavilion rental charge.

Ms. Morrill asked if the funds raised for these rentals go into the General Fund. Mr. Gentile said it does. Mr. Mann asked why it doesn't go into the Park and Recreation Department programs. This was discussed by the Commissioners.

There was a discussion regarding why the department does not receive the funds. Mr. Gentile said this could be looked into further by the Commission.

Commissioner Morrill motioned to accept the fees for Brooksvale Park as presented. Commissioner Leonardo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Mann motioned to explore, with the Mayor's Office, the possibility of the Brooksvale Park Special Permit fees and rental fees being returned to the Brooksvale Park accounts. Commissioner Leonardo seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Mr. Gentile said horseshoe pits and picnic tables and a grill have been installed at Brooksvale Park.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Watson discussed the duties of the Commission in the past regarding fields, programs and employees. He said these were always duties of the Commission in the past. He asked if the Commissioners had anything to

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

March 13, 2012

Page 3

add to these duties. He said anything involving programs, fields, parks and maintainers should come to the Commission. Mr. Watson also suggested that the Commission hold its meetings at various locations where programs are held. He added that this was done in the past.

Mr. McGarry said he likes the idea of an Annual Report. He said this gives the Commission the opportunity to bring attention to the various needs of different programs, fields, parks, etc.

Mr. Mann suggested that the Commissioners go out in teams of two on a quarterly basis to examine different locations, and programs overseen by the Commission.

Mr. Watson said this is being done in some manner now, as the Commissioners observe fields with their children, families, etc.

Mr. Mann said he thinks this would be beneficial for citizens to observe the Commissioners involved with the programs and the maintenance of the fields.

Mr. McGarry asked what the Town Center Park Commission does, and why the Town Center Park does not fall under the Parks and Recreation Commission. There was a discussion regarding this question.

All the Commissioners stated that they are in favor of the addition of two Commissioners to this Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission, and Chairman Watson called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Morrill motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leonardo, and passed unanimously.** Chairman Watson adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Submitted by _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk