

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING  
JUNE 12, 2012  
5:30 PM  
PARKS & RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM  
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE  
HAMDEN**

**Commissioners in attendance:** Tad Watson, Chairman  
Rich Leonardo, Vice Chair  
Arnie Mann  
Michael McGarry  
Sarah Morrill

**Others in attendance:** Mimsie Coleman, Director of Arts, Recreation and Culture  
Peggy Craft

Hamden Soccer Association Members:  
Chris Ruggiero, President  
Luigi DiMonaco  
Mick McGarry  
Ira Mackin

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 2012 MINUTES**

**Commissioner Morrill motioned to approve the Minutes of the April 2012 Meeting as presented. Commissioner Leonardo seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

Prior to beginning the regular meeting, Chairman Watson invited the members of the Hamden Soccer Association to introduce themselves. The members of the Commission also introduced themselves.

Next, Chairman Watson invited the Hamden Soccer Association representatives to address the Commission.

The Association members presented their ideas regarding the use of the field and the possibility of applying for a grant to improve and expand the fields in Town. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this topic. The discussion included the maintenance of the fields, the present condition of the fields, who makes the call to close a field due to wet weather, the water availability at the fields, etc. Mr. Watson said he feels it is necessary to have Public Works Director Craig Cesare attend a meeting to discuss these issues. Ms. Coleman asked how many fields they are looking at creating and renovating. There was also a discussion regarding creating a synthetic field and where it would be located.

Ms. Coleman discussed a \$35,000 grant that has been received, and will be used for Morretti Field. She distributed copies of her notes after visiting the field. There was a discussion regarding this subject. The discussion included bleachers, benches, fencing, netting, nets, etc. There were several suggestions made by the Association members and the Commissioners. Ms. Coleman will look into these suggestions. Ms. Coleman also discussed the use and cost of bollards to block the entrance to guard against the possibility of vandalism and damage to the field. It was decided that the Association members would be invited back to the next meeting when Mr. Cesare and/or Mr. Leng attend, and when the Morretti plans have been finalized.

Ms. Coleman discussed the possible simulcast of a Yankee Red Sox Game at Town Center Park on August 19<sup>th</sup>. She would also like to have an event on that day honoring all the coaches that have served Hamden youth over the years.

Mr. Ruggiero discussed the possibility of having a race to raise money for their Association.

**DIRECTOR OF ARTS, RECREATION AND CULTURE'S REPORT**

Ms. Coleman presented an Ordinance Establishing the Parks and Recreation Commission. This Ordinance adds two members to the Commission bringing the total of the Commission members to seven. It also states that the Commission will be advisory to both the Recreation division of the Arts, Recreation and Culture Department and the Parks division of the Public Works Department.

Ms. Coleman next reported on the parks. Larry's Playground is scheduled to be renovated beginning next week. There was a short discussion regarding this topic.

Ms. Coleman said that the youth football league is having a difficult time finding fields. They had been playing at Eli Whitney Technical School. They may need to play at the former Middle School. There was a discussion regarding this subject.

Next, there was a discussion regarding Rochford Field.

Mr. Watson said providing Ms. Coleman gets the proper paperwork to go forward with the grant, we will then invite the Soccer Association members back when Mr. Cesare and Mr. Leng can attend.

Regarding a suggestion made earlier that other sports organizations be invited to the meeting, Mr. Mann suggested that we deal with soccer first, and then move on to the other organizations. Ms. Morrill said the focus shouldn't be solely on soccer. There was a discussion regarding this topic.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to come before the meeting and Chairman Watson called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Morrill motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Leonardo seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Watson adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission

