

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

**JANUARY 8, 2013**  
**5:30 PM**

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

Commissioners in attendance: Tad Watson, Chairman  
Rich Leonardo, Vice Chairman  
Arnie Mann  
Mick McGarry

Others in attendance: Mimsie Coleman, Director of Arts, Recreation and Culture  
Craig Cesare, Director of Public Works  
Chris Ruggiero, Hamden Soccer Association  
Bill Newman, Hamden Soccer Association

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Watson called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

**APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 2012 MINUTES**

**Commissioner Leonardo motioned to accept the Minutes of the December 2012 meeting as presented. Commissioner McGarry seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

Next, Mr. Watson thanked Public Works Director Craig Cesare and Hamden Soccer Association members Chris Ruggiero and Bill Newman for being in attendance.

Mr. Watson invited the Hamden Soccer Association representatives to address the Commission.

Commissioner McGarry asked about the status of Morretti Field regarding how long it will need to rest, security, etc. Mr. Cesare addressed these issues, discussed the work that has been done, and future work. He also explained the measures that will be taken to secure the field. Mr. Cesare said the field should be ready to use in the late spring. Mr. Ruggiero said they would rather wait another season to use the field. Mr. Cesare explained the work that has been done on this field, and added that he feels this will be a very nice field when completed. He also said that there would be a six-foot fence installed. There was a discussion regarding the type of bleachers that would be needed. Mr. Ruggiero discussed the need for a long fiberglass bench for the kids on the team to sit on. He noted that every other town has this type of bench. There was a discussion regarding this subject.

Mr. Newman discussed the goals falling over. He said that they are not secure when held down by sand bags. Mr. Ruggiero discussed anchors. There was a lengthy discussion regarding various types of anchors to secure the goals. Mr. Ruggiero will get prices on the types that would be the most secure, and forward them to Mr. Cesare.

Those in attendance discussed the necessity for fences at the fields.

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**JANUARY 8, 2013**

**PAGE 2**

Next, there was a discussion regarding the possibility of holding soccer tournaments in Town.

Mr. Newman discussed one of his players falling and breaking his femur at a game in Madison. He pointed out that this was a field in poor shape for Madison, but the condition of most of the Hamden fields. He pointed out that this creates a huge risk for injury. Mr. Watson asked if there are emergency personnel at the games. Mr. Newman said there are not. Mr. Watson also asked who decides if a field is too dangerous to play on. Mr. Newman said it is the Referee's decision.

Mr. Cesare said he e-mailed Superintendent John Torgerson, and instructed him to go to West Woods Field tomorrow and assess the work that needs to be done.

Mr. Watson discussed a policy regarding cancellations. He said it will be decided whether to cancel all the games scheduled that day, or to only cancel games at specific fields. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this topic.

Ms. Coleman said the Soccer Association needs to file an application for the stipend of \$2,000 that the department provides.

Ms. Coleman also discussed the \$35,000 account that provides stipends to all the athletic associations in Town.

Ms. Coleman said she has received a letter from the Hockey Association regarding the amount of money they pay for ice time and referees. The cost of these items is very high, and Ms. Coleman will go before the Council and ask for \$8,000 for this association. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this request.

**Commissioner Leonardo motioned to approve Ms. Coleman's request to the Legislative Council for an addition of \$8,000 to the account for athletic association stipends for the Hamden Hockey Association. Commissioner McGarry seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

Next, Brooksvale Park Ranger Vinnie Lavorgna addressed the Commission regarding the changes in the department since the Parks Division has come under Public Works. Mr. Lavorgna discussed projects he has suggested, and discussed with Ms. Coleman and Mr. Cesare. Some of these projects will fall under the Capital Budget. Mr. Cesare said there are funds in place to do some of the work that is necessary for safety at the park.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the proposed animal barn at Brooksvale Park. Groundbreaking is scheduled for May. Mr. Lavorgna said the building could be occupied by the fall. There was a discussion regarding this project. Mr. Mann asked if the public would have access to the barn to visit the animals. Mr. Lavorgna said it would, and he described how the building will be constructed. He added that he likes to have the park as interactive as possible.

Mr. Lavorgna said that being able to come before this Commission to discuss the parks needs, as well as the Commission's support has been very helpful and appreciated.

Next, there was a discussion regarding Mr. Lavorgna being able to have more control and access with his budget, specifically obtaining blanket purchase orders, etc. Mr. Cesare said he is in favor of this, and has discussed it with Mr. Leng. There was a discussion regarding this subject. All present agreed that it would be beneficial to give Mr. Lavorgna the ability to more easily obtain purchase orders.

Mr. Lavorgna thanked the Commission for their support.

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**JANUARY 8, 2013**

**PAGE 3**

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was a brief discussion regarding horseshoe pits being installed at DeNicola Park. Mr. Watson would like to see this done. He would also like to have tables with chess boards installed at this park. Mr. Watson added that when horseshoe pits are installed he would like to set up horseshoe tournaments.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was a discussion regarding the next two meetings, and who would be in attendance. The next meeting will be held on February 5<sup>th</sup>, and will include the Parks Directors, Craig Cesare, Director of Public Works, Matt Fitch, Chairman of the Town Center Park Commission, David Schaefer, Chairman of the Farmington Canal Commission and Brooksvale Park Ranger Vinnie Lavorgna. Mr. Watson would also like to include Recreation Supervisor Dave DeMartino at this meeting.

Commissioner Mann congratulated Mr. Cesare on a job well done. All present agreed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Watson called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner McGarry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leonardo and passed unanimously.** Chairman Watson adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM.

Submitted by:

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Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk