

# TOWN OF HAMDEN

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

**MARCH 12, 2013  
5:30 PM**

**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, Commission Clerk

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Watson called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM

### **MINUTES**

**Commissioner Morrill motioned to accept the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on February 7, 2013.  
Commissioner McGarry seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner McGarry motioned to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on January 8, 2013.  
Commissioner Leonardo seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT**

Ms. Coleman said that Ranger Lavorgna sent a bottle of Maple Syrup from Brooksvale Park to each of the Commissioners. Ms. Coleman said that Ranger Lavorgna tapped the last of the syrup from the trees this morning. Ms. Coleman said that Mr. Lavorgna and his assistant are working very hard. She added that Public Works Director Craig Cesare is being very cooperative in assisting the work at the Park. There was further discussion regarding the operation of Brooksvale Park. Ms. Coleman said the problem with Purchase Orders has been resolved.

Next there was a discussion regarding the Barn at Brooksvale. There was a discussion regarding this project. Ms. Coleman explained the process. She added that she believes there will be groundbreaking in May.

Next, Ms. Coleman said the area at Town Center Park that had been noted previously has been cleaned up.

Mr. Mann said the work done at Freedom Park was very nice.

Ms. Coleman said work has been done on Morretti Field.

Mr. Mann asked if there would be barriers so that vehicles will not have access to the field. Ms. Coleman said that bollards would be erected.

Mr. McGarry asked if the High School fields would be available for soccer. There was a discussion regarding the scheduling of the fields and whose responsibility it is to schedule the various fields. Ms. Coleman asked Mr. McGarry to e-mail her proposed dates for use of the High School field. Mr. Mann suggested that Mr. McGarry identify the time frames that would be needed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Watson discussed the problems with cancellations of fields. He said he feels that the problems are caused by a lack of communication between the parties involved. Ms. Coleman noted that Recreation Supervisor Dave DeMartino schedules the fields for baseball, and Public Works handles the scheduling of maintenance. The Commissioners discussed the communications between Public Works personnel and Mr. DeMartino. Mr. Watson stated that it is necessary for Public Works to inform Mr. DeMartino if the condition of any field would require canceling a game. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this topic and how the problems can be resolved. Mr. Mann asked if the Recreation Department wants the responsibility of canceling the use of a field. Mr. Watson and Ms. Coleman both agreed that they do not want this responsibility back.

Mr. Mann asked what the penalty should be for an organization using a field if a Town official has canceled the use of that field. Mr. Watson suggested that the Town Attorney be involved in creating a policy regarding this problem. Ms. Coleman agreed and will discuss this with the Town Attorney.

Ms. Coleman suggested that Mr. McGarry write a letter of appeal to the Board of Education regarding the use of the High School field for soccer.

It was suggested that cancellations be put on the Town website and the Town Facebook page.

It was pointed out that it is very important that the coaches be notified that the use of a field has been canceled.

Discussion regarding the cancellation policy continued.

Mr. Mann said he talked to Bobby Turcio the owner of Batter's Box. Mr. Turcio told him that he had spoken to the "lady" from WELI who said that we could use their field. There was a discussion regarding this topic.

Hamden Youth Hockey asked if we could give them a stipend. Ms. Coleman explained how much their costs have increased. There was also a discussion regarding the cost of renting ice time. Ms. Coleman said she met with the Mayor and Finance Director yesterday. She was told that the stipends would not be done away with. Ms. Coleman further discussed the stipends that are given to the various sports organizations. The Commissioners discussed the policy regarding stipends in other Towns. Ms. Coleman said her budget for stipends was \$35,000, and she has asked for an additional \$8,000. Ms. Coleman explained the benefits to the Town youth from the many programs that are offered.

Mr. Watson said that it is necessary to set a policy in order regarding field cancellations. Ms. Coleman suggested that the Commissioners send any suggestions for what should be included in the policy to her and she would then bring the to the Town Attorney.

**Commissioner Morrill motioned that Ms. Coleman speak to the Town Attorney regarding field cancellation policy and liability issue should people use fields that have been designated as closed regarding inclement weather or hazardous conditions. Commissioner McGarry seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Leonardo discussed a 16-team tournament that has been put together, and is currently going on. He reports that this tournament has been very successful. He added that Dave DeMartino has been very helpful in putting this together. They hope to expand the tournament next year, and include a girls tournament. He discussed the brackets for next year. Mr. Leonardo noted that other towns were very impressed with the tournament being able to use the High School court. Ms. Coleman suggested that a letter be sent to the BOE thanking them for their help in making this program successful. Mr. Leonardo added that the tournament earned \$900.

Mr. Watson asked that Recreation Supervisor Laura Luzzi attend the next meeting. He also requested that the Clerk send the Meeting Minutes to Public Works Director Cesare and Recreation Supervisor DeMartino.

**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 McGarry seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Watson adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk