

**TOWN OF HAMDEN  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
MAY 14, 2013  
5:30 PM  
PARKS & RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM  
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE  
HAMDEN**

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Tad Watson, Chairman  
Rich Leonardo, Vice Chairman  
Michael McGarry  
Arnie Mann

Ira Malkin, Field Coordinator, Hamden Soccer Association

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Watson called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

**MINUTES**

**Commissioner Leonardo motioned to accept the Minutes of the April Meeting as presented. Commissioner McGarry seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORT**

There was a discussion regarding Morretti Field. Ms. Coleman said the front gate is destroyed. She said double seeding is being done on the field. Fertilizing is also being done. There was further discussion regarding the work being done.

Next, Ms. Coleman said the sprinkler system was destroyed by vandalism. She said the sprinkler head were also damaged. The department is in the process of checking each sprinkler head. Ms. Coleman said the piping is intact. Watering has been done.

There was a discussion regarding how to prevent further vandalism. Ms. Coleman said there will be a locked gate. Mr. Malkin suggested the possible use of a surveillance camera. He also asked if there would be a gate on the street. Ms. Coleman said there would be. Ms. Coleman said some of the work done was in violation of Inland Wetlands regulations. This is presently being discussed, and a resolution is near.

There was a discussion regarding when the field will be open. It was suggested by Mr. Malkin that the field not be used until fall 2014. Ms. Coleman said the department had suggested using the field in the spring of 2014. Mr. Mann asked if this Commission could suggest that the field not be used until the fall of 2014. Both Ms. Coleman and Mr. Watson said they could. Mr. Watson asked about signage at the park. Ms. Coleman said there is a problem with signage in the park. She said the Mayor has asked her to look into signage that is esthetically pleasing for the parks in Town.

Regarding the control box for the sprinkler system at Morretti Field, it was suggested that the control box be enclosed in a steel box. Mr. Mann suggested that the Commission look into the statue at Bobby DeMaio Field in North Haven to see how they protect their control box.

**Commissioner McGarry motioned that the Commission support the request by the Hamden Soccer Association that Morretti Field is not used any earlier than the fall of 2014. Commissioner Leonardo seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner McGarry motioned that the Parks & Recreation Department look into creating a secure enclosure for the sprinkler system control box to minimize vandalism. Commissioner Leonardo seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

There was a discussion regarding the parking lot.

Mr. Mann asked about the Police Department patrolling the field. Mr. Watson said that when proper signage is in place, the police can then patrol the field. Ms. Coleman said this is public area, and the public has a right to access.

The Frankson Fence for behind the goals will be delivered and installed next week.

Next, Ms. Coleman said Mill Rock Park is being renamed Peter Villano Park. Ms. Coleman said the Town Attorney has suggested that this Commission support this with a motion.

**Mr. McGarry motioned to approve the renaming of Mill Rock Park as Peter Villano Park. Mr. Leonardo seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **Cancellation Policy**

Ms. Coleman discussed how the cancellation policy presently works. There was a discussion regarding how the High School games are canceled.

There was a discussion regarding the cutoff time for deciding if the fields should be closed. It was decided that 3:30 PM would be an appropriate time. Ms. Coleman said the decision is made by the Public Works Director who then informs Recreation Supervisor Dave DeMartino. Ms. Coleman also said that after 4:30 PM the department is no longer responsible for informing teams of cancellations. Mr. Mann explained how cancellations are handled if there is a thunderstorm late in the afternoon. He said that the umpire in charge of the field is the one to make the call. There was a discussion regarding whether the umpire should make the call without consulting with a league official. Mr. Mann again explained the procedure, stating that once the umpire starts the game he is in control of the field regarding whether a game should be played.

Next, there was a discussion regarding consequences for a team ignoring a field being closed, and what liability would apply if a team was to use the field and an injury occurred.

Next, there was a discussion regarding cancellations on the weekends. Mr. Mann recommended that a letter be sent to every sponsoring body of a sport in Town informing them that they are responsible for canceling a game on the weekend. There was further discussion regarding this subject. Ms. Coleman suggested that when a policy is agreed to and voted upon it should be sent to all the sponsoring organizations.

Ms. Coleman will finalize the cancellation policy and submit it to the Commission for consideration and a motion at the next meeting.

Ms. Coleman discussed ordinances regarding dogs being allowed in Town parks. She discussed the policies at various parks in a Town. Ms. Coleman said a policy should be put in place regarding pets in the parks. Mr. Mann suggested that the word pet be used instead of dog. Mr. Mann also said that the policy should include “clean-up after your pet.”

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Coleman discussed having Town Center Park Chairman Matt Fitch attend a meeting. She said that Mr. Fitch has supplied her with dates that he is available. There was a discussion regarding when the Commission would like to meet with him on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM. Ms. Coleman will check with Mr. Fitch to see if that date and time are agreeable to him.

**ADJOURMENT**

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 motion was seconded by Commissioner Leonardo, and passed unanimously.** Chairman Watson adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.

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

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