

TOWN OF HAMDEN

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

FEBRUARY 11, 2014

5:30 PM

PARKS & RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM

HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER

2750 DIXWELL AVENUE

HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

Commissioners in attendance: Tad Watson, Chairman
Rich Leonardo, Vice Chairman
Arnie Mann
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 5:45 PM

MINUTES

Mr. Watson asked if there were any deletions, additions or corrections to the Minutes of the January 14, 2014 Minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Watson called for a motion to approve. **Mr. Leonardo motioned to approve the Minutes of the January 2014 Meeting. Ms. Morrill seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

There was a brief discussion regarding the vacant seats on the Commission. Ms. Coleman said a name has been sent to the Legislative Council for approval. There is also another person that is interested in serving on this Commission. Mr. Mann will contact this person to discuss his serving on this Commission.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence to present.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There is not a report available from the Public Works/Parks Division. Ms. Coleman said they have been very busy with snow plowing/removal.

There was a short discussion regarding the duties that are detailed in the report.

Ms. Coleman distributed the Selected Design for Mill Rock Park & Rochford Field. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the design. Ms. Coleman described various aspects of the design. Mr. Mann pointed out that foul balls hit at Rochford Field are hitting cars and houses on nearby streets. It was suggested by Mr. Watson that nets be put up to prevent this.

Ms. Coleman was asked if Rochford Field would be multi-use. She will check on this.

Ms. Morrill asked if there would be any speed control on Winchester Avenue. Ms. Coleman said this would fall under the authority of the Police/Traffic Department. Ms. Morrill also asked if there would be benches. Ms. Coleman said there would.

Mr. Watson suggested that the grandstands on the third base side be turned slightly for more comfortable viewing of the games.

Ms. Coleman said that there is some worry by parents that due to the proximity of the playground to the basketball courts, there may be some inappropriate language coming from the basketball courts and being heard by the children on the playground. Mr. Mann suggested "flip-flopping" the tennis courts and the basketball courts. Mr. Watson said this would depend on spacing.

Mr. Mann also suggested that there be some sort of protective covering around the dugouts. He also made several suggestions regarding the gates.

Ms. Coleman discussed the possibility of horseshoe pits being installed.

Both Mr. Watson and Mr. Mann suggested cement chess tables be installed.

Ms. Coleman said Rochford Field would be natural turf.

Mr. Mann said that artificial turf would be less expensive. He also said the he thought the grant included artificial turf.

Ms. Coleman made note of all the Commissioner's suggestions and will bring them to the attention of the Landscape Architects.

Next, Ms. Coleman said there would be a problem when Rochford Field cannot be used. There was a discussion regarding the possible use of the WELI Field. Ms. Coleman said the Town had a contract for this field for \$1.00 per year, on the condition that the Town maintains the field, which they have not done. Mr. Mann suggested that the resources used to maintain Rochford Field be used to maintain the WELI Field. There was a discussion regarding other fields that may be available for Parks and Recreation activities.

Mr. Watson said it is important that this issue be focused on at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Mann asked if Ms. Coleman had looked into his suggestion at the last meeting regarding sign language. She has not looked into this yet, but noted that it is offered by Adult Education.

Mr. Watson discussed having Park Supervisor Laura Luzzi attend a meeting. Ms. Coleman has discussed this with Ms. Luzzi, and will plan something for the future.

There was a short discussion regarding Badminton.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Watson said he met with a resident that inquired about Cub Scout camping at Brookvale Park. He also asked about the Archery Range. Ms. Coleman said that the Archery Range has been closed. She also said that

the only groups allowed to camp at Brooksvale Park are Scouting Groups. She will look into exactly what scouting groups this includes.

Mr. Mann asked who is responsible for the Golf Course. Ms. Coleman said it is the Manchetti's. He also asked if the Commission has any say regarding the Golf Course. Mr. Watson and Ms. Coleman said the Commission does not. There was a discussion regarding this issue.

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. Commissioner Leonardo seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Watson adjourned the meeting at 6:34 PM.

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk