

## TOWN OF HAMDEN

### PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MARCH 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  
Chris DeMatteo  
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 5:37 PM

#### MINUTES

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

Mr. Watson welcomed Mr. DeMatteo to the Commission, and invited him to discuss his interest in serving on the Commission. Mr. DeMatteo said he is a life long resident of Hamden. He has umpired with Hamden Fathers Baseball and is currently involved with the Hamden Fathers Basketball League. He is interested in the various programs that are offered by the Recreation Department. He is also interested in the playing fields in Town.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Coleman distributed copies of the Town Charter dealing with the duties of the Commission. Ms. Coleman explained the various items listed in the Charter. She explained that this Commission is responsible for setting fees for the use of Town parks. She added that the Commissioners are advisers and observers.

Mr. Watson discussed the duties of the department, and explained the separation of the Parks and Recreation divisions.

There was a short discussion regarding the Laurel View Golf Course and the Louis Astorino Ice Rink which have both been privatized.

There was also a discussion regarding future Commissioners. Commissioners Mann and Morrill discussed the qualifications of two Commissioners they have recommended to serve on the Commission.

Ms. Coleman distributed copies of the Public Works /Parks Division Monthly Report for February 2014. She said that most of their work has been snow removal duty.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Coleman displayed a drawing of the proposed renovations to Rochford/Mill Rock Park. There was a discussion regarding these plans. Mr. Mann discussed a conversation he has had with former Mayor John Carusone concerning the planned renovations. Ms. Coleman said she would like to invite the architect who created the design to attend the next meeting. Mr. Watson suggested that Mr. Carusone also attend a meeting.

There was a discussion regarding lighting in the park. Ms. Coleman said there will be electricity provided for possible future use, but there will not be lighting immediately. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this topic. Ms. Coleman distributed literature further describing the work that will be done on this field.

Ms. Coleman explained the time line for the renovation of Rochford Park. The park will be closed from the fall of 2014 and all of 2015. The park will be open to play in 2016. Ms. Coleman said the State has approved the current design for this project.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the funding for both Rochford/Mill Rock Parks.

It was suggested that Economic Development Director Dale Kroop, who is serving as Project Manager, be invited to attend a future meeting.

There was a discussion regarding who should be invited to the next meeting. Mr. Watson felt that Mr. Kroop, Mr. Carusone and the project architect should be invited. Mr. Mann, Mr. Leonardo and Ms. Morrill felt that Mr. Kroop, as Project Manager would be the best source of information regarding the renovations of the parks.

It was decided that Mr. Kroop will be invited to the next meeting.

Mr. Watson met with Judy Oppenheim regarding Badminton. She informed him that her group is no longer playing in Orange, they are now playing in Milford. Mr. Mann asked how many of the members of this group are Hamden residents. Mr. Watson said not many. Mr. Watson added that this issue is now off the table because many of the members of the group are away.

There was a short discussion regarding camping at Brooksvale Park. Ms. Coleman explained that Boy Scout, Cub Scout, Girl Scout and Brownie Troops are the only group allowed to camp in the park, and explained the area where camping is allowed. Mr. Mann voiced concerns regarding wild animals in the park. Ms. Coleman said that is why camping is limited to Scouting Groups, since they have the knowledge and experience with camping.

Ms. Morrill asked if Park Ranger Vinnie LaVorgna has been given more control over his budget and park finances. Ms. Coleman said he has.

Mr. Watson said that he has spoken with Recreation Supervisor Dave DeMartino regarding the Cancellation Policy. Mr. DeMartino said he has been communicating with Public Works and is pleased with the results.

Mr. Mann suggested the Commission look into creating a park for senior citizens. He also suggested various amenities that could be included at this proposed park that would benefit seniors.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Coleman distributed copies of the proposed Town of Hamden Fees Charged at Brooksvale Park. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed fees. After the discussion, Chairman Watson called for a motion to approve the proposed increased fees at Brooksvale Park as presented. **Commissioner Leonardo motioned to approve the fees as proposed. The fees would be Non-Hamden Schools, and general public programs - \$5.00 per attendee. Teachers and chaperones free. Special Use Permit Fee - \$150.00 per day for Hamden Residents. Fees for Non-Hamden residents would be \$200.00 pending review and agreement by the Park Ranger. The motion was seconded by Commissioner DeMatteo and passed unanimously.**

### **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 DeMatteo seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Watson adjourned the meeting at 6:49 PM.

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