

# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

APRIL 8, 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  
Christine Huber  
Arnie Mann  
Sarah Morrill

**Others in attendance:** Mimsie Coleman, Director of Arts, Recreation and Culture  
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk  
Tom Hammerberg, Landscape Architect – Peter Villano Park/Rochford Field

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Watson called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM

### MINUTES

Mr. Watson asked if there were any changes to the Minutes of the March 11, 2014 Meeting. Hearing none he called for a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. **Commissioner Leonardo motioned to accept the Minutes of the March 11, 2014 Meeting as presented. Commissioner Morrill seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER – CHRISTINE HUBER

Mr. Watson welcomed Ms. Huber to the Commission, and explained that the Commission was formerly a five member commission, there is now seven Commissioners.

Mr. Watson invited Ms. Huber to talk about her background. Ms. Huber provided a short history of her schooling, and the positions she had held during her career.

Mr. Watson next invited the Commissioners as well as Ms. Coleman and Ms. Craft to introduce themselves.

### SPEAKER – TOM HAMMERBERG, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT – ROCHFORD PARK

Mr. Hammerberg distributed an updated drawing of the Peter Villano Park (formerly Mill Rock Park) & Rochford Field. Mr. Hammerberg explained the history of this project and the time line. He also discussed the Public Meetings that were held regarding this project with neighborhood residents that were involved with the mediation process. He also listed the Town staff members involved in these meetings. There will be future meetings for residents that were not involved with the mediation process but are part of the neighborhood.

Mr. Hammerberg noted that the area residents want the field to be turf. Mr. Mann asked if there will be an irrigation system installed. Mr. Hammerberg said there would be. He explained how this will be accomplished.

Mr. Hammerberg displayed drawings regarding the grade. He explained the plans for this part of the project. He also explained where the press box, concession stand, and grandstands would be placed. Mr. Hammerberg said it would be a 4 to 1 slope.

Mr. Leonardo asked about the type of trees that would be planted. Mr. Hammerberg said they would be trees with shallow root systems such as Red Maples and/or Sugar Maples.

Mr. Hammerberg next was asked by Mr. Mann about the dugouts. He explained how the dugouts would be constructed. Mr. Mann next asked how many entrances there would be. Mr. Hammerberg said there will be four. He pointed out on the drawing where these entrances would be located.

Mr. Mann asked if there would be water fountains. Mr. Hammerberg said there would. Mr. Mann also asked if there would be lights. Mr. Hammerberg said there would. He added that the neighbors are agreeable to lighting as long as the lights don't shine in their windows. Mr. Hammerberg pointed out where the light stantions would be located. There was a short discussion regarding the lighting.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the infield. Mr. Hammerberg was asked if it would be a dirt infield. He said the infield would be turf.

There was a discussion regarding the nets that would be used to prevent balls from hitting houses. There was also a discussion regarding backstops.

Mr. Hammerberg pointed out where the pedestrian walkway would be, as well as where the horseshoe pits would be located. He was asked by Mr. Watson if there would be chess tables, he said there would be.

Ms. Morrill asked if there would be a bull pen for pitchers to warm up. He said there would be. There a short discussion regarding this. Mr. Mann asked if this bull pen would be for both teams. Mr. Hammerberg said it would.

Mr. Hammerberg explained the size of the dugouts. Mr. Mann asked if they could accommodate a wheel chair. Mr. Hammerberg said they could.

Mr. Watson asked if there would be benches at the basketball courts and tennis courts. He also asked if there would be picnic tables. Mr. Hammerberg pointed out on the drawing where these items would be located.

Mr. Hammerberg was asked if there would be a splash pad. He said there would. He also pointed out the performance area, the children's stage, the music area, and the various areas for different age children. He further described the many amenities that will be at the park.

Mr. Hammerberg said there will not be restrooms, but there will be screened port-o-potties. Mr. Hammerberg said these will be locked down so they could not be knocked over. Mr. Hammerberg explained the reasons for not having permanent restrooms.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the suggestion by the Commission for flip-flopping the tennis courts and the basketball courts. There was a discussion regarding this suggestion. Ms. Coleman said she has spoken with Dale Kroop who informed her that the present design has been approved by the State, and it cannot be changed.

Mr. Hammerberg said that there is a possibility that the change could be made. There were questions regarding the distances between the two courts. Mr. Hammerberg explained the distances. There was further discussion regarding this possibility.

There was a discussion regarding parking spaces.

Mr. Watson said he feels people using the horseshoe pits would “police” the area, and notify the Hamden Police Department if there were unwanted activities.

Mr. Hammerberg explained where the water fountains would be. He also explained where the trash and recycling receptacles, solar recycling containers, and dog waste bag dispensers would be located.

There was also a discussion regarding how vehicles would be prevented from entering the field. There will be bollards and collapsible bollards.

Construction will start at the end of baseball season 2014. The fields will be out of commission for the 2015 baseball and soccer seasons.

Mr. Mann asked about the cost of these projects. Mr. Hammerberg said each side will cost approximately \$4,000,000. Mr. Hammerberg explained that most of the funding is in place. Mr. Mann asked if full funding is not available would one park be done at a time. Mr. Hammerberg said they would, but pointed out that it is more beneficial to do both at the same time.

Mr. Hammerberg said 80% of the entrances are handicapped accessible. He pointed out the entrances that will be accessible to the handicapped. He also pointed out where the handicapped parking will be located.

Ms. Huber asked about the size of the soccer fields. Mr. Hammerberg said these fields would be full size.

Mr. Mann said he wanted to thank Ms. Coleman for inviting Mr. Hammerberg to the meeting. He added that Mr. Hammerberg's presentation put the Commission's previous questions and concerns to rest. Ms. Coleman noted that Mr. Hammerberg also felt that it would be beneficial for him to come to the meeting.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Coleman distributed the Public Works/Parks Division Monthly Reports, and briefly described the work that the Parks crew has been doing. This included snow removal, trash cleanup/removal (ongoing) and branch debris removal as needed at all parks, soccer net set ups at Carusone Park, and a rusty fence that was taken down along the parking lot at Legion Field. There was also ongoing snow duty for parking lots/sidewalks and leaf clean up at most of the fields. There is also ongoing work on the Farmington Canal Trail, including cutting up fallen trees, repairing broken fences, etc.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to come before the Commission.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair**

It was agreed that elections for these positions would be held at the next meeting.

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### **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 7:05 PM.

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