



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## **P**                      **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES:** The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regularly scheduled meeting on August 11, 2009, at 5:30 P.M. in the Parks and Recreation Conference Room, Hamden Government Center, 2750 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden. The following issues were discussed:

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Tad Watson, Chairman  
Rich Leonardo  
Tony Mentone  
Rich Shultz  
Ron Treanor

**Staff in Attendance:** Frank Rizzuti, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Watson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Commissioner Shultz made a motion to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting. Commissioner Mentone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.**

### **COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no communications/correspondence to report.

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORT**

Director Rizzuti presented the following information to the Commissioners:

Mr. Rizzuti reported that former Parks & Recreation Commissioner Cosino (Gus) Melillo has passed away. Mr. Rizzuti made note of all the years Mr. Melillo served on this Commission, and his dedication to the Town of Hamden, especially to the sports programs sponsored by the Town. Mr. Rizzuti further noted Mr. Melillo's work for the Veterans of Hamden. All present agreed that Mr. Melillo was an asset to both the Town of Hamden and the Parks & Recreation Commission.

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The Summer Bash was held on August 1<sup>st</sup> with 90 attendees. This is a program for children with disabilities. Mr. Rizzuti said that Recreation Supervisor Dave DeMartino does a great job with this program. All present agreed.

The summer concert series at Larry's Playground has ended. Former Recreation Supervisor Carrie Gazda handled this in the past. Dave DeMartino ran this program this year and did a good job.

Summer Camps ended on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

National Night Out was held at Rochford Field. Parks & Rec helped with this event. Mr. Rizzuti reported that it went very well.

There was a discussion regarding the Farmington Canal. The discussion included the need for stone dust, and the problem of graffiti on the Canal.

Hamden Fathers Baseball 11 & 12 year olds made it to Bridgeport, and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State.

Next Mr. Rizzuti discussed the Park & Rec Summer Sports Camps. Recreation Supervisor Laura Luzzi was in charge of these camps, and Mr. Rizzuti said she did a very good job. Commissioner Mentone said that these camps benefit the high school. A discussion followed regarding the possibility of a pitching clinic to develop younger players in middle school. Commissioner Mentone will e-mail Mr. DeMartino regarding names of possible coaches for this program.

There was a discussion of skate parks such as the one in West Haven. Mr. Rizzuti will look into this.

There was also a discussion of the bike jump park behind the dog park.

There was a walk thru at the Rectory Barn. The Town will be going out to bid for the foundation. The building is not square and this project will need someone with expert knowledge in this field.

Football and lacrosse will be starting up.

Fall Ball will be starting. Sign up was in the paper this past weekend. Commissioner Schultz explained the groupings. Commissioner Schultz has sent a schedule to Mr. DeMartino. There was a discussion regarding the effect of the weather on scheduling during the spring and summer months.

The Department is trying to go out for prices on the compressors at the ice rink. The compressors are 10 years old and are running all year. They may have to go out to bid for repairs and upgrades.

The window that was broken at the Bassett Field clubhouse will be repaired.

There are problems with the mowers. Mr. Rizzuti said that we need to update the equipment.

Commissioner Shultz said that new rakes, shovels and brooms are needed at Legion Field. Mr. Shultz will e-mail Mr. DeMartino regarding this.

The dugouts at Legion Field have been painted, but now there is more graffiti.

There was a discussion regarding vandalism at Legion Field. There have been broken urinals, graffiti, etc.

There was a discussion regarding Town Center Park. The discussion included creating an Ordinance Committee for the park. Mr. Mentone would be willing to serve on this committee. The Commissioners discussed this ordinance and who would be in charge of this park. Mr. Mentone feels this should come under the authority of the Parks and Recreation Department. A lengthy discussion followed.

Commissioner Shultz reported that Hamden sent two teams to the Nutmeg State Games in Danbury. Ron Perrelli and Commissioner Shultz are the coaches of these teams.

Commissioners Shultz is now the President of the Hamden Fathers Basketball League.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Mentone reported that he has sent two letters (both by e-mail and hard copy) to the Police Chief regarding vandalism at Hamden Plains Field. He has not yet received an answer.

Mr. Shultz reports a Police presence at his home games at Hamden Plains. He added that the language has been cleaned up at the basketball field.

Commissioner Mentone also wrote a letter to the Mayor regarding charges for booths at the Farmers Market. Mr. Mentone said he was advised that this is a Town activity and does not have anything to do with Parks & Recreation. A discussion followed.

The Lightening Meters will cost \$170.00. It is possible to get a better price if purchased in bulk. There was a discussion regarding how the money for this could be obtained and who would monitor and handle it. Mr. Rizzuti will discuss this with Mike Reilly regarding the price and funding.

Next, Mr. Shultz discussed the mats for home plate. He reported that there is a wide range of prices for these mats. He asked that if the league purchases the mats, would Parks & Rec install them. Mr. Rizzuti said they would. Mr. Rizzuti suggested buying one set of mats and testing them to see if they work. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this subject.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Shultz reported that the tree branches at the DeNicola Park basketball courts need to be cut back. He said the nets and hoops are OK. Mr. Rizzuti will take care of having the branches cut.

Next, there was a discussion regarding Camp rates for next year. **Commissioner Mentone motioned to table this discussion to the next meeting. Commissioner Leonardo seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to come before the Commission, and Chairman Watson called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Shultz motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leonardo and passed unanimously.** Chairman Watson adjourned the meeting at 6:40 P.M.

Submitted by:

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Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission