



TOWN OF HAMDEN

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES: The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regularly scheduled meeting on April 13, 2010, 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, Vice Chairman
Michael McGarry
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 5:33 PM.

Chairman Watson welcomed recently appointed Commissioner Michael McGarry to the Commission, and explained the mission and goals of the Commission

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Treanor made a motion to accept the Minutes of the February 9, 2010 meeting. Commissioner Leonardo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS

Director Rizzuti presented the following communications to the Commissioners:

Mr. Rizzuti distributed copies of the summer camp rates. Mr. Rizzuti added that registration is going well. Two new camps have been added. These are a Performing Arts Camp and a Farm Camp.

Commissioner Treanor asked who is in charge of the Performing Arts Camp. Mr. Rizzuti informed him that Recreation Supervisor Laura Luzzi is in charge of this camp.

Next Mr. Rizzuti reported that the MADD event, Skate For Leah, that had been approved by this Commission was very successful.

Mr. Rizzuti presented a letter from Gloria Hanks regarding the Farmington Canal Greenway. Ms. Hanks feels that the poles at the entrances of the Trail are too high for senior citizens on bicycles. She asks if there is a way to lower these poles. She was involved in an accident when the handlebars on her bike hit a pole. Mr. Rizzuti said this would be very difficult and very expensive to change.

DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORT

Hamden Fathers Baseball will hold Opening Day at 10:00 AM on April 24th at Bassett Field.

The Ice Rink will close down on May 16th for six weeks. The plans are to paint the outside of the building. This will be done internally.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the reorganization of the Department. At the Legislative Council meeting on April 6th, the Council accepted the Mayor's recommended budget as presented. Mr. Rizzuti added that an RFP is being put together regarding this. Mr. Rizzuti said several parties have shown an interest in taking over this facility.

Mr. Treanor asked what effect this would have on the Department. Mr. Rizzuti said Parks and Recreation would then be only involved with programs.

Next, there was a discussion regarding programs at the rink, and how those that are for donated time would be handled. It was also noted that the girls and boys hockey teams would have to be considered.

Commissioner Leonardo asked if the Parks & Recreation crew maintains the tennis courts at the rink. Mr. Rizzuti said they do. Mr. Leonardo next asked if the private organization would take this over. Mr. Rizzuti said they probably would.

Next, Commissioner Leonardo asked if Mr. Rizzuti would be in charge of the soccer fields and the baseball fields. Mr. Rizzuti said he doesn't know yet.

There was a discussion of the soccer fields at West Woods School that are under Park & Rec's jurisdiction. St Ann's Field was also discussed. Mr. Rizzuti said that one of the problems at this location is the adult teams from New Haven that play there.

Mr. Rizzuti discussed the maintenance of the Town parks and the responsibility of the Department. He added that he feels the crew does a very good job considering their size and the amount of work.

Further discussion regarding the reorganization of the department continued.

The Hamden Fathers Basketball Banquet was held on April 9th at Hamden High School. Commissioner Leonardo said it was very successful.

There was a discussion regarding the Town Center Park. Mr. Rizzuti said the intent of this park has been to keep it as a passive area with no sports.

Last Saturday Quinnipiac University students cleaned the Farmington Canal. Boy Scout Troops cleaned the Canal the week before. There was a discussion regarding the problems with trash on the Trail.

There was a discussion of the Gate Keepers house. Mr. Rizzuti said he has visited the Cheshire Gate Keepers House, and it is very impressive.

The Department is working to replace the bridge at Brooksvale Park. The grant is in place and now they are deciding whether to do it in house or use an outside vendor.

The Department has gone out to bid for camp tee shirts. The closing date for the bids was April 10th.

The maintenance crew is on stand-by from December 1st until April 1st. Stand-by has now ended, and the crew has been very busy since then due to the warm weather.

Nets and rims are being put up on the basketball courts.

Financial assistance requests for the summer camps must go through Community Services at Keefe Community Center.

There is an adult drop-in volleyball program at the High School. This program was started in March and is going well. There are no set teams, they are pickup games.

Adult Basketball has just started playoffs.

Senior Hockey is coming to a close.

The Department will still be doing ice rentals until May 15th.

Hamden High School Physical Education classes are scheduled for spring at the Ice Rink.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Treanor asked Mr. Rizzuti if he had spoken with the Beautification Committee regarding graffiti removal. Mr. Rizzuti reported that he has spoken with this committee, and they do not do graffiti removal. Parks & Recreation has a graffiti removal machine that was purchased by a grant that Economic Director Dale Kroop arranged. There was a discussion regarding the use of this machine.

A Boy Scout Troop will be coming in to repaint the dugouts at Legion Field.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Watson discussed a letter he received from Frankson Fence. Frankson Fence is on the State Bid List.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission, and Chairman Watson called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Treanor motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leonardo and passed unanimously.** Chairman Watson adjourned the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Submitted by:

Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission