

TOWN OF HAMDEN
TOWN CENTER PARK COMMISSION MEETING
April 9, 2012
1:00 PM
MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE
HAMDEN

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Matt Fitch
Jay Matthews
Ann Bell

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Julie Smith, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Fitch called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken as noted above.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Fitch said there are now four members of the Commission with the addition of newly appointed Commissioner Ernie Reed. The Commission will add a fifth member when Ed Grant's appointment is approved by the Council.

Mr. Fitch noted that at the last meeting, he was elected Chairman of the Commission to replace former Chairwoman Berita Rowe. Ms. Rowe was recently elected to the Legislative Council as Councilperson-at-Large. Commissioner Jay Matthews was elected as Vice-Chair.

There was a discussion regarding the Family Movie Night held in September 2011. It was reported that this was very successful. Ms. Smith reported that the vendors did very well. It was estimated that there were approximately 1,000 in attendance.

There was a discussion regarding advertising for this type of event. Flyers were distributed in the schools, and it was advertised on the website.

Mr. Fitch explained the problems with the vendor WHO provided the movie and equipment. As compensation the vendor will be providing a free movie for one night this summer.

Mr. Fitch said it is his understanding that there is money in the budget for Movie Night. He added that if this passes in the budget, we would be able to provide movies every night in August. He added that there is a limitation due to the fact that it gets dark later in the summer. It was noted that the movies have to be appropriate for a starting time of 8:00 PM. Ms. Bell noted that this also allows time for the vendors.

Mr. Fitch said that when this was done in the summer, five or six movies were picked, and an ad was placed in the newspaper encouraging residents to vote for the movie they would like to see. There were 500 votes. It was decided that this would be done again. It was also suggested that there be theme nights. The Commissioners will discuss what each night's theme will be, and will place them on the web site for resident to vote on.

Ms. Smith said they are gearing up for the start of the Farmers Market. This will begin on June 22nd. She said this will follow the end of school, and feels it will be a good time to start. The 4th of July Fireworks will be the following week. The Farmers Market will be open from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM every Friday thru October 5th. Ms. Smith said she will be stepping down as the market master, but will still be there. Rick Gentile of Parks & Recreation will be taking over responsibility for the Farmers Market. The vendors from last year will be back except for the barbeque vendor. It was noted that there was a nice variety at last year's market. Mr. Fitch felt that we could use more vendors. Intern Jeremy Stull will be working on more social media and getting the word out.

Mr. Matthews asked if there are a lot of lunch vendors. Ms. Smith said there are not and that we could use more. Mr. Fitch noted that the market is lacking enough fruit and veggies vendors. There was a discussion regarding this topic, and what other vendors would be appropriate for the market.

Ms. Page said that at Common Ground High School they have extra produce in the summer and may be willing to set up a booth. She added that this is located along Wintergreen Avenue on the New Haven/Hamden Line.

There was a discussion regarding looking for new vendors. It was noted by the Commissioners that they would like to see vendor who sell meat, chicken, and fish. It was also noted that there is an egg vendor. The Commissioners would also like to see organic fruit and veggies.

Mr. Fitch said the Commission is off to a good start. Next month Ms. Smith will ask Rick Gentile to attend the meeting. She will also send a letter to Schultz Flowers From the Farm letting them know that we want them to come back to the Farmers Market. She will also let them know that they will be honored on opening day.

There was a discussion regarding the Spring Glen Farmers Market compared to the Town Market. It was noted that interest in both markets dies off in September when school begins.

Mr. Fitch motioned to table the discussion regarding the bridge behind the Middle School to the next meeting. Commissioner Matthews seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Movie Night

Mr. Fitch said as of now the money is in the budget for Movie Night. He said the Commission would not announce the event or schedule until the budget is approved.

Next, Mr. Fitch asked for suggestion and ideas for the theme for each of the movie night. The following themes were suggested by those present:

Musical Night
80's Night
Hitchcock Night
Academy Awards Winners
Science Fiction Night
Comedy Night
Action Film Night
Sports Night
New Releases

It was suggested that five movies be chosen from each category for the public to vote on.

Mr. Fitch said on August 17th the New York Yankees would be playing the Boston Red Sox. He discussed the possibility of showing that game in the park. He said in the past Showcase Cinema had the rights to broadcast the games. He will start the research to find out if this can be done.

The Commissioners discussed having an activity prior to the showing of the movie. Mr. Fitch suggested that this be tried on Sports Night to see how it works.

The Hamden 4th of July Fireworks will be held on Friday, June 29th. There will be a summer concert on each of the following Fridays thru July. The dates for Movie Night would be August 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st.

Mr. Fitch asked the clerk to forward the Minutes and Commission Meeting schedule to Mr. Read and Mr. Grant.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission, and Mr. Fitch called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Mr. Matthews motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bell seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Fitch adjourned the meeting at 1:49 PM.

Submitted by _____
Peggy Craft Commission Clerk

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MAY 21, 2012
AT 1:00 PM
IN THE MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE**