

TOWN OF HAMDEN

TOWN CENTER PARK COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 18, 2012

1:00 PM

MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER

2750 DIXWELL AVENUE

HAMDEN

Commissioners in attendance: Matt Fitch, Chairman
Ann Bell
Ed Grant
Ernie Reed

Others in attendance: Mimsie Coleman, Director of Arts, Recreation and Culture
Julie Smith, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Bo Kicak, Deputy Chief of Police
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk
Evan Milas, Quinnipiac Student, Presidential Public Service Fellow
Jenna Pederson, Quinnipiac Student, Presidential Public Service Fellow

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fitch called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken as noted above.

APPROVAL OF MAY 2012 MEETING MINUTES

Approval of the May 2012 Meeting Minutes was tabled to the next meeting.

COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Fitch presented an update on the proposed New York Yankee/Boston Red Sox game on August 19th. Ms. Coleman did a walk through at the park with Comcast to determine if there is a signal available in the park. Ms. Coleman said 300 feet of cable might need to be run to the stage. She said that originally it was thought that we would need to borrow rubber mats from Comcast. However, Comcast doesn't want the liability of an injury due to the mats. The other possibility is that a trench could be dug. Mr. Fitch said he has checked with Mr. Leng regarding this. Mr. Leng said the Public Works Department has the equipment to do this. It was noted that after the summer concerts have been completed, the trench would be dug. We will then have a permanent cable to the park.

Mr. Fitch said that Comcast has two new ventures that they would like to promote. There will be a booth set up promoting this at the event.

Miss Coleman asked if the event is a definitely a go. Mr. Fitch said it is, and we can begin promoting it next week. The formal commitment from ESPN should be received by next week.

It was noted that if it rains, the event would go on unless the game is called off.

Mr. Grant asked who would schedule the installation for the cable. Ms. Coleman, and she will meet with them at the site.

Deputy Chief Kicak asked how many people are estimated to be in attendance. Mr. Fitch said he expect one to three thousand. Ms. Coleman said it is possible that there would be an event earlier in the day, possibly an award ceremony for present and former Hamden coaches.

Mr. Grant asked if alcohol would be served. Mr. Fitch said it would not be served. Deputy Chief Kicak said people are allowed to bring alcohol with them. It is hoped that since this would be billed as a family event, there will not be much drinking.

Ms. Coleman said there would not be golf carts, but the CERT team will be there to help. Mr. Fitch said that if ESPN decides to do a cut away to the game that could change the scope of things.

Deputy Chief Kicak asked about vendors. Ms. Coleman said a minimal amount of vendors would be allowed. She added that the Legislative Council approved a \$50.00 fee for vendors. She also said there will be pizza, kettle corn, hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream vendors.

Ms. Coleman will contact Fun Flicks regarding the screen. She added that the details for the daytime event have not been worked out yet. She also needs to touch base with the Public Works Department to determine if they are able to do the trench work. Mr. Fitch suggested that CAO Leng handle this.

Mr. Reed asked if Comcast would come on the day the trench is dug, or the day after. He said if it is the day after, it could create a liability. Deputy Chief Kicak said that it could be roped off. He also said that Public Works would not leave it in a manner that would create a liability. There was a discussion regarding the route over which the cable will be laid.

Ms. Bell asked if any trees would be removed. She was assured that they would not.

Next, Ms. Coleman discussed a proposal from the Greater New Haven Baseball League. They would like to do a "Baseball Day" on the day of the Yankee/Red Sox game. Ms. Smith asked about involving Hamden Fathers Baseball. There was a discussion regarding this topic. Ms. Coleman said she hasn't received any plans from the Greater New Haven Baseball League.

Next, it was asked if Mr. Gentile is looking into having former Hamden resident and Los Angeles Kings Goalie Jonathan Quick, whose team won the Stanley Cup and who was named MVP of the Series attend the Yankee/Red Sox game? It was noted that the Commission would very much like to have him attend this event. Ms. Coleman said she thinks the Mayor should speak to him. There was a discussion. It was noted that it is important to contact the Quick family regarding this as soon as possible quickly.

Everyone was encouraged to work hard during the next month to promote this event.

AUGUST MOVIE NIGHTS

Mr. Fitch reported that all the votes are in, and the winners are:

Musical - Grease

Academy Award Winners - Casablanca

Eighties - Raiders of the Lost Ark

Family – Princess Bride

There was a discussion regarding rain dates. It was felt the Casablanca could be moved inside. Fun Flicks will allow rescheduling on another weekend in the event of rain. Mr. Fitch suggested that September 7th or 14th be the rain dates.

Chairman Fitch asked if anyone had suggestions on how to enhance the movie experience. There was a discussion regarding vintage cars for the Grease Movie Night. Ms. Coleman has spoken with George Civitelli. Mr. Civitelli is concerned with the safety of the cars. Ms. Coleman said the CERT team would be there, and they could keep an eye on the chars.

Ms. Coleman listed the time of sunset for each of the movie nights. It was decided that all the movies would start at 8:00 PM.

Discussion continued regarding themes for the movie nights. There was also a discussion regarding music. Mr. Fitch has talked to Franz Duskey regarding Casablanca and the possibility of having some big band music. Ms. Coleman noted that she has a sound system. June 13 post chronicle invited people to vote.

FARMERS MARKET

Ms Smith said thing are looking up, She said the Presidential Fellows did a good job and had a great meeting with Commissioner Reed.. She further reported that Facebook is up and running, and we are now tweeting. Ms. Pederson had an idea regarding a raffle as a way to jump start social media participation. She said perhaps people could put tickets in a bowl to win a prize.

Mr. Grant asked how many people visit the Farmers Market on a good Friday. Ms. Smith said about 300 people.

It was noted that the hot dog vendor would start on June 29th. Other vendors are Bread & Chocolate, brought in by Ms. Pederson, and Whitney Donut, suggested by Connie Vitale. Schultz Farm will be back, Hindingers won't be returning. Glenwood will be at the movie nights.

Mr. Grant said he has heard complaints regarding the amount of time that the Market is open. He said many people work, and the 3:00 PM closing is too early for them. Ms. Smith explained that previously there was a grant from the State to hire a Market Manager. That made it possible to keep the Market open longer. We no longer have this grant.

Next, Mr. Fitch said he asked a graphic designer to do a print depicting the Town Center Park. He displayed the designs. There was a discussion among the Commissioners regarding which design they would chose. It was suggested that a tee shirt with the logo on front and the event dates listing on the back would be a good idea. There was a discussion regarding the changes that could be made to improve the logo.

Ms. Coleman reminded all present that the Farmers Market will open on Friday, June 22nd at 11:00 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission, and Chairman Fitch called for a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Bell motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reed and passed unanimously. Chairman Fitch adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk