

TOWN OF HAMDEN

TOWN CENTER PARK COMMISSION MEETING

JULY 16, 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
Rick Gentile, Coordinator, Arts, Recreation and Culture Department
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 1:04 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken as noted above.

APPROVAL OF MAY 2012 AND JUNE MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Fitch motioned to approve the Minutes of the May and June 2012 Meetings. Mr. Reed seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Fitch said that he has been out of town since the last meeting, and is looking forward to attending the Farmer Market. He added that Ms. Coleman, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Milas and Ms. Pederson have done a great job. He has heard thru e-mails how well it's going. Ms. Coleman noted that the past Friday (July 13th) was the busiest day this season. Mr. Fitch added that the New Haven Register has been running articles/pictures about the Market.

An e-mail was received from someone who was chagrined about the movies that will be shown on the Movie Nights in August. Ms. Coleman thinks this person mistakenly thought the movies were "R" rated. Both Mr. Fitch and Ms. Coleman replied to this e-mail, assuring the person that none of the movies being shown have an "R" rating. Three of the movies are rated "PG" and one is rated "PG13". Mr. Fitch added that all the movies being shown were chosen by the public.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Coleman reported that three representatives from Comcast were at the park on Friday (July 13th) to determine how they will bring the cable to the pavilion. Ms. Coleman explained that Comcast would provide the cable under the sidewalk to the opening in the field free of charge. It will still be necessary to go another

300 feet to the pavilion. The trenching will not be done free of charge; the Public Works Department will be involved with this phase of the work. Comcast will charge \$500.00 a day for their personnel to lay the cable on the field. Ms. Coleman hopes that Comcast and Public Works can do the work on the same day to avoid having an open trench. Ms. Coleman also reported that CAO Curt Leng said we should install the cable permanently. There was a discussion regarding how this installation would be paid for. Ms. Smith said there is a Town Center Park Utility Account with a balance of \$21,000, and we should be able to use that account for this installation. There was a brief discussion regarding how deep the trench should be, and what type of equipment would be needed.

Ms. Coleman said the Movie Nights and the Yankee/Red Sox Game would be announced at the Friday Night Concerts.

There was a discussion regarding the Town Center Park tee shirts that are for sale at the Farmers Market and the Friday Night Concerts. It was noted that sales are slow, but Mr. Fitch expects that all the shirts will be sold.

Ms. Coleman said she is expecting the contract from Fun Flicks for the Yankee/Red Sox game today.

Mr. Fitch said he hasn't spoken with ESPN but we do have approvals from them and Major League Baseball. He will discuss details with Comcast and ESPN.

Mr. Reed asked about Public Service Announcements during the broadcast. Mr. Fitch said this is a real possibility. There was a brief discussion regarding this subject.

Next, Ms. Coleman discussed the event honoring Hamden coaches that she had previously proposed to hold before the game. She said the Parks & Recreation Commission had decided to hold off on honoring the coaches to a later date. Peter Braun the President of Greater New Haven Baseball is looking into planning an event prior to the game. Mr. Braun is presently on vacation, but Ms. Coleman will discuss this with him when he returns.

Mr. Fitch suggested that the Commission hold a Special Meeting on July 31st to further discuss the events planned for August. All present agreed that the meeting should be held. The Clerk will make arrangements for the meeting.

Mr. Fitch asked if Mr. Milas or Ms. Pederson had any comments regarding the Farmers Market. Both said the Market was doing well. They added that there are new vendors every week. They have tried to add more farm stands but have been unable to do so. This is due to the lack of workers and a poor growing season. The present vendors are Flowers From the Farm and Mary Borelli. A third farmer has been suspended by the State. This was due to the guidelines on products grown on the farmer's property and those brought in from other locations. There is a ratio that must be met. The vendor is presently trying to comply so she can again participate. Mr. Gentile asked the State if they could supply the name of another vendor, but they were unable to help.

There was a short discussion regarding the vendors at the Spring Glen Farmers Market. Ms. Smith said she has been in contact with them but are unable to secure any more vendors for the Town Farmers Market.

There are three more vendors coming to the Market but not farmers. One of new vendors, Three Chicks, will offer hamburgers, hotdogs, etc. This will bring the number of vendors to 25.

Ms. Smith had a walk thru with potential contractors and designers for the All Abilities playground. The final designs are due next Friday. This will allow three weeks to look at the designs and decide whom to bring in for further interviews. Ms. Smith added that we should have the final plans by the end of August. Ms. Page asked if the plans would be available for the Commissioners to review at the Special Meeting on July 31st. Ms. Smith will try to have the plans available at that time.

Ms. Coleman said she went to the Legislative Council to establish fees for the vendors at the Movie Nights. The fee has been set at \$50.00 per event. The money will not be returned if an event is rained out. This will also include the Baseball Game. All the movies will have rain dates which will be the two following Fridays.

Ms. Coleman listed the vendors that will be at the August events. These include DeSorbo's Fried Dough and Firedog. Ms. Pederson said the Empanada vendor has also voiced interest. Ms. Coleman said Glenwood Drive-In is interested as well. Ms. Coleman added that we need an ice cream vendor. She will contact the Giovanni Brothers regarding having their truck at some or all of the events.

Next, Ms. Coleman reported that she and Mr. Fitch would be meeting with Mr. Civitelli the classic car person at 6:30 PM tomorrow night (July 17th). This meeting is in regard to having classic cars on the field for the showing of Grease. She said the CERT team would be at that event to protect the cars. The CERT team will also be at the baseball game. The CERT team could also be available for other movies if requested.

Next, there was a discussion regarding lighting on the field. Ms. Coleman has requested a portable lighting system and is waiting for delivery.

Mr. Reed asked how many facebook followers the Farmers Market has. Ms. Pederson said there are 117. Mr. Reed discussed the possibility of have a facebook sheet at the vendor stations saying "like us on facebook and receive updates." Ms. Smith said she would take care of this.

Mr. Grant asked what vendors Ms. Coleman will be looking for at the baseball game. Ms. Coleman said this is up to the Commissioners. There was a brief discussion regarding Wayback Burgers coming to the Movie Nights and baseball game.

Next, there was a discussion regarding holding a hotdog eating contest.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Reed discussed the idea of holding a community tag sale. He said this could be held once a year, and there could be a charge for tables. He added that this would bring many people into the park, and it would be an excellent way to showcase the park. Mr. Fitch said the only problem would be transporting the merchandise. It was felt that late September or early October would be a good time to hold this event. It was pointed out that the Brooksvale Fall Festival is held in October and the tag sale should be scheduled on a different weekend. Ms. Coleman said this was tried once before by Community Services and was not very successful. Ms. Coleman also said it is a good idea to have this event in the fall, because it is better for the fields. She added that if there were a number of participants there would be a need for a layout. She said the CERT team could provide this. Mr. Reed said it would take about three months to pull this together. He added that there would also be a need for a media outlet. He suggested using the Post Chronicle and/or WQUN. October 29th was suggested as a possible date for this event with a rain date of the following Saturday.

Next, Mr. Fitch discussed the idea of having a community karaoke contest in the spring. There was a lengthy discussion regarding how this could be conducted. Among the suggestions were an "Open Mike Night", choosing ten finalists who could choose their songs in advance and sing in front of a live band, taping the performances and putting them on line for citizens to vote for a winner, and also involving local businesses. Ms. Coleman said Branford had recently held a similar event.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Fitch adjourned the meeting at 1:59 PM.

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk