

**TOWN OF HAMDEN  
TOWN CENTER PARK COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 14, 2013  
1:00 PM  
MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE  
HAMDEN**

**COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Matt Fitch, Chairman  
Ed Grant  
Gerry Tobin

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Julie Smith, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Mimsie Coleman, Director of Arts, Recreation and Culture  
Peggy Craft, Commissioner Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Fitch called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance was taken as noted above.

**APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2012 MINUTES**

**Mr. Grant motioned to accept the Minutes of the November 19, 2012 Meeting. Mr. Fitch seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Fitch welcomed Ms. Tobin to the Commission. He also said he was sorry to say goodbye to Commissioner Ernie Reed who has moved to Pennsylvania. He added that Mr. Reed's service to the Commission was very much appreciated.

It was noted that Mr. Reed's departure creates a vacancy on the Commission. There was a discussion regarding a replacement. Mr. Fitch encouraged the Commissioners to submit names of possible candidates to be considered.

Next, Mr. Fitch said Ms. Coleman and Ms. Smith had very exciting things to share with the Commission. He suggested that we skip to New Business, and he would continue his report later in the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Fitch asked Ms. Coleman when the concerts acts are announced. He also discussed the possibility of a Media Day to announce both the Concerts and the Movies.

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Ms. Coleman said a tentative schedule is put together, but is not announced until all the sponsors are in place and the contracts are signed. Mr. Fitch asked for a “ballpark date”. Ms. Coleman said some time in April. Mr. Fitch asked if a Media Day could be done in May. Ms. Coleman said that is a possibility.

Ms. Smith said she likes the idea of announcing the events together. She felt that this would create a positive reaction regarding the amount of programming being done for Town Center Park. Mr. Fitch said we should also reiterate the movie release at the end of July. Ms. Smith agreed, adding that it would not be “one and done.” Mr. Fitch said people are familiar with the Friday Night Concert Series; he would like to see them similarly familiar with the Friday Night Movie Series.

There was a discussion regarding the press releases and if they should be separate or together and when they should be done? Mr. Fitch said he felt they should be announced the day after the Academy Awards are presented, adding that this would be a natural tie in. All present agreed.

There was a discussion regarding when voting should begin. Mr. Fitch suggested the end of January. This would allow three weeks for voting, and the winners would be announced on February 25<sup>th</sup>. All present agreed that this time frame would work well.

Next, Ms. Coleman and Ms. Smith discussed the All Abilities Playground. They said this is a two level structure, and is like two playgrounds in one. There were four bidder and five proposals submitted for this project.. The field was narrowed to two. Interviews were held, and a vender was chosen. Some revisions were asked for, and these were received last week. Ms. Smith said they are waiting to receive the final revisions.

Ms. Smith and Ms. Coleman said the ground surface is a very key element. They explained that the surface would be “Poured in Place” rubber. This will not extend to the outer edges. Ms. Smith said they do not want to use mulch on this area. To extend the Poured in Place surface would be very expensive. She explained that synthetic turf would work well; it is pervious and can be hosed off. Ms. Coleman said the Poured in Place is a fifty-fifty blend of two colors – one always being black. It was suggested that a neutral color such as blue or a sandy color be chosen. Ms. Smith said to bear in mind that the darker the color the hotter the surface gets.

Ms. Smith said they are ready to move forward with the contract, and are working with Town Attorney Gruen.

Next the colors of the playground were discussed. In the original design the color of the wood was very dark brown. It is now going to be a lighter brown. Also the original colors of the playground were purple, yellow and green. Different colors were discussed. Mr. Fitch suggested green, gold and blue. He showed an example of these colors.

Next, Ms. Smith discussed the timeline for this project and the permitting and approvals that are necessary.

Ms. Coleman noted that Ms. Smith is doing a fantastic job on the Josh’s Jungle Project. All present agreed. Ms. Smith thanked Ms. Coleman and the Commissioners for their kind words.

Mr. Fitch said the proposed road race and Fitness Fair to be held on June 8<sup>th</sup> would be discussed next month.

**MOVIE NIGHTS**

Ms. Coleman asked about the five Fridays in August, and if there will be a simulcast on a Sunday in August. Mr. Fitch said there would be five movies as well as a simulcast Yankee/Red Sox game on a Sunday evening.

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Mr. Fitch said having a movie on the Friday after Labor Day was very popular last year. He would like to see that done again this year, for a total of six movies and one simulcast. There was a short discussion regarding the budget for the movies/simulcast. Mr. Fitch explained that the simulcast is free. The productions cost have to be paid. He added that the simulcast was not as successful last year as it was thought to be. He said it might be the same again this year. He said this could be due to the length of the game and it being held on a Sunday when people have to go to work/school the next day.

Regarding the movies, Mr. Fitch said it seemed that the same people were there every week. He described it as a "destination thing". There was a discussion about last year's movies and attendance at each of the movies. It was noted that the movie season started slow. Grease, the first movie shown, was not well attended. It was felt that the reason for this could have been that it wasn't well promoted. The group also discussed whether there should be a movie scheduled on the Friday before the simulcast ball game. Those present agreed there should be. Regarding a rain date, Mr. Fitch said the Friday after Labor Day could be scheduled as a rain date and could possibly be used to schedule an additional movie.

The next item to be discussed was movie themes. Suggestions included:

- George Clooney Movie Night
- Cult Classic Movie Night
- Millennium Action Movie Night
- Action Movie Night
- Musical Movie Night
- Family Movie Night
- Set in Europe Movie Night
- Pixar Movie Night
- Alfred Hitchcock Movie Night
- Mel Brooks Movie Night
- Johnny Depp Movie Night

Ms. Coleman said there should definitely be a Family Movie Night, adding that the movie rental companies say the biggest draws are family/kids movie nights.

The themes decided on are:

- Musical Movie Night
- Pixar Movie Night
- Family Movie Night
- Set in Europe Movie Night
- Action Movie Night

It was felt that a Cult Classic Movie Night might be an idea for another year. If it were held the movie would have to start at a later time.

Several movies were mentioned for the five themes.

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It was decided that the Pixar candidates would be:

Brave  
Monster Inc.  
Incredibles  
Ratatouille  
Cars

The Musical candidates would be:

Producers  
Chicago  
Phantom of the Opera  
Sound of Music  
Almost Famous

The Set in Europe candidates would be:

Waking Ned Devine  
Roman Holiday  
Midnight in Paris  
Julie and Julia  
Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

The members of the group will decide on the Family Movie and the Action Movie candidates by through e-mail.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to come before the Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to come before the Commission, and Chairman Fitch called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Tobin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Grant seconded the motion that passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 PM.**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk**