

**TOWN OF HAMDEN**  
**TOWN CENTER PARK COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 25, 2013**  
**10:00 AM**  
**MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
**2750 DIXWELL AVENUE**  
**HAMDEN**

**COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Matt Fitch, Chairman  
Meg Nowacki  
Gerry Tobin

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Fitch called the meeting to order at 10:13 AM.

**APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 25, 2013 MINUTES**

The approval of the November 25, 2013 Minutes was tabled to the January Meeting.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Fitch reported that the Commission had a great time hosting the Silver Bells Festival.

Ms. Coleman discussed the history of the hayrides. She said that at the first hayride there were approximately 600 people lined up for rides. She said there were more "hayriders" this year.

Mr. Fitch said it was a very interesting event. He said the activities picked up after the Puppet Show that was held in the Thornton Wilder Auditorium. Mr. Fitch asked Ms. Coleman what happened after Santa came. Ms. Coleman said the children could go back and do the activities. She added that they didn't leave until about 6:00 PM.

Mr. Fitch discussed the vendors that were present and noted that the lines were not very long.

Mr. Fitch also said that Public Works Director Craig Cesare would like to look into a tree (Christmas) update.

Mr. Fitch said it was nice to see Town Center Park in use during the winter.

Next, Mr. Fitch asked Ms. Frias about future plans. Ms. Frias said they are thinking of doing an ice rink, and having a bon fire. Ms. Smith noted that the Mayor would like to weight in further on this event.

Mr. Cesare would supervise the construction of the ice rink. There was a discussion regarding where the rink would be located, parking, etc. Ms. Frias described where the rink would be tentatively located.

Regarding the bonfire, Ms. Smith said this would be held in the area of the scrub brush.

Mr. Fitch said it was very helpful talking to the Parks Department Personnel regarding lighting for the Park in the area of the Playground. Mr. Fitch said he would like to see lighting on the bushes closer to Dixwell Avenue. Ms. Smith said Mr. Cesare is interested in creating a cohesive holiday lighting system from Whitney Avenue up Dixwell Avenue to the area of Town Center Park.

Ms. Nowacki said the school system has an idea for students to plant seeds on Town property. There is a suggestion to use the triangle across from Bruggers Bagels. Ms. Nowacki said she has suggested the Clock Tower area. Ms. Tobin said that there was also a plan for Hamden Middle School students to plant bulbs in Freedom Park. There was a discussion regarding this suggestion.

Ms. Coleman distributed the Town Center Park Schedule for 2014

Ms. Smith discussed the Road Race that will be held on June 7, 2014. She said she hopes the Race Director from last year will also serve in that capacity this year. They are also interested in doing a half marathon. Ms. Smith said there are already some routes mapped out for this event. She also reported that the Police Chief is on board with this idea. There was also a discussion regarding the Health & Wellness Fair that was held on the day of the Road Race last year. Clay (2013 Road Race Director) will be invited to the January meeting to discuss the Road Race.

#### **FOOD TRUCKS - JUNE 2014**

Ms. Frias said she would like to get more vendors. Mr. Fitch said there needs to be at least 30 vendors. It was also suggested that there be at least two people in each truck.

Mr. Fitch said there needs to be vendor personnel with I-Pads that can walk down the line to take orders.

Mr. Fitch pointed out that it is necessary for people to have more to do while waiting for their food. Ms. Frias said we would also need more tables. There was also a discussion regarding the hours for this event.

There was a discussion regarding having two rows of vendors. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the vendor setup for this event.

There was a discussion regarding the rain date for the June 20<sup>th</sup> Food Truck Event. The rain date is schedule for June 21<sup>st</sup>. The Park has been reserved for a graduation party on June 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a discussion regarding how to handle this conflict. Ms. Coleman will contact the applicant for the graduation party to see if they will reschedule to the 22nd. Ms. Coleman and Mr. Fitch agreed that they would consult in the future regarding scheduling events in the Park.

Next, there was a discussion regarding port-a-potties. Ms. Coleman described the problems that the Town has had with the present company. There was a discussion regarding where port-a-potties should remain. It was decided that there would be one left by Josh's Jungle. If the Ice Rink Event is held later in the season one more will be brought back.

Debbie Chavoya and the P.L.A.C.E Board would like to turn to the TCP Commission to help move their project along. Ms. Chovoya will be invited to the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Fitch called for a motion to adjourn. **Ms. Nowacki motioned to adjourn. Mr. Fitch seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Mr. Fitch adjourned the meeting at 11:06 AM.

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