

MINUTES: The Town Center Park Commission held an informal session on Monday, August 18, 2014 at 10:00 p.m. in the main floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. This was an informal session because an agenda was not posted.

Commissioners in attendance: Matt Fitch, Jessica Hazan, Meg Nowacki, Gerry Tobin

Commissioners Absent: Matt Corcoran

Others in Attendance: Liz Frias, Mimsie Coleman, Ashley Alcott

Ms. Coleman announced that she has to submit the parks and playground rules and regulations immediately, and has written up rules for Town Center Park and Josh's Jungle. These have to be approved by the Parks Commission and then the Legislative Council.

In response to a question, Ms. Coleman said grilling is allowed by application in certain areas if requested.

Ms. Coleman was at Town Center Park immediately after the problem at the Habitat event on Sunday. A circuit was blown and the dj's equipment was damaged, but our system went back on. There was also a problem on Saturday. The electricity that went to the columns had been turned off after the Friday night movie, and this should not be done in the future.

Ms. Coleman said our risk manager Mr. Giuliatti has our back and these rules cover all of the bases. Commissioners were asked to review the rules that were distributed.

The Police and Fire Departments have said that they are not going to be responsible for keeping kids off the playground at night. Last week Mr. Fitch asked the Police if they could send a CERT person over to monitor the playground. The Fire Chief does not want CERT people there either.

Ms. Coleman said demands for Town Center Park have exploded this year. Many of the groups have disc jockeys or bands and we are getting complaints about loud music. She has asked people holding events to keep the speakers facing the hill and keep the music down.

It has been reported that there were kids climbing the scaffolding and kids skate boarding on the stage. There was discussion on use of TCP being limited between the food truck festival and the last event of the season. Ms. Coleman said people at one event were taking down the sides of the large 20 by 30 tent. A Hamden resident's name was on the registration form, but she really didn't know most of the people at the event. Mr. Fitch suggested perhaps a security deposit should be required. He also suggested a moratorium on events for next year until we figure it out. Ms. Coleman already has requests for next year, but maybe they will have to wait until this commission suggests rules and the Parks Commission and the Legislative Council approve them before responding to those requests. It was decided that the commission will hold this thought and tell people that we are not accepting requests for next year at this time. Ms. Coleman said based on the discussions today that once the music stacks go up we can't let groups use Town Center Park.

The dog group's event is okay.

Mr. Fitch changed the cover photo on our Facebook page for Frozen and 65 people have shared it. That usually doesn't happen, so we expect a large crowd.

There was discussion on vendors and permits. Vendors get permits to sell in Hamden, but that does not include special events. Ten vendors have signed up for Frozen but a few more might be asked in order to provide food other than desserts. A 40' screen will be used for Frozen because of the large crowd expected. It is expected to accommodate 1000 to 1500 viewers, but we might end up with many more people than that. There was discussion on a possible robo call for Frozen. Mr. Fitch mentioned that the viewing window for Disney movies is August 19th to the 31st. If we have to move Frozen to the 29th, Field of Dreams will be moved to September 12th.

There was discussion on the fashion show of trusted community members in uniform. This was brought to Hamden by People's United Bank. The event will be filmed and it will be shown at schools and senior centers to enable viewers to identify the wearers of these uniforms. The Police Chief will serve as the emcee.

The Friday Farmer's Market is scheduled to run from 11:00 a.m. To 5:00 p.m. There will be a donation table for the collection of school supplies at this event.

Ms. Coleman asked commissioners to review the rules and regulations. A few wording changes were made.

Ms. Nowacki spoke to Public Works Director Craig Cesare regarding trees. He said the new Tree Commission will determine where trees will be planted. There have been a number of complaints regarding playground equipment being too hot so some type of shade is being discussed, either trees or some type of awning type structures. Julie Smith is looking into the awning type structures with the company that built Josh's Jungle.

The meeting ended at 11:06 a.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin