

MEETING MINUTES

TOWN CENTER PARK COMMISSION

June 16, 2014

Commissioners in Attendance: Matt Fitch, Matt Corcoran, Meg Nowacki, Jessica Hazen, Gerry Tobin

Others in Attendance: Julie Smith, Ashley Alcott, Liz Frias

Mr. Fitch called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Road Race

Mr. Fitch mentioned that the Hamden Road Race went very well. Ms. Smith said we had approximately 150 more runners this year than we did last year, mainly for the kids race, but also for the 5K. Ms. Nowacki said the pressure is on for a longer race next year. Ms. Smith said we might add a 1/2 marathon. The sponsors are eager to do it. The road race will be in the school calendar as part of the physical education curriculum. The police chief ran the race with a camera attached to his head, so we have a video of the race which includes the pre-race commentary. The video is being pared down from approximately 45 minutes.

Mr. Fitch said we have a great lineup of vendors for the Food Truck Festival and for the Farmer's Markets. We have to triple check to make sure the vendors have all of their permits and licenses.

Farmer's Markets

Ms. Frias said lots of vendors have signed up and the vendor fees have started to come in. Most vendors have their permits/licenses. Mr. Fitch mentioned the vendors for Friday's market. We have two vendors that signed up for a half season each, one for Fridays only and several others for the Monday market only. Ms. Frias said there is a Hamden business that sells fish out of the Treadwell Street Industrial Park that is a maybe.

Mr. Fitch said since the commission last met, we have signed up Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. They are capable of serving 2,200.

Mr. Fitch pointed out that Jessica's (Soup Girl) note pad is an order sheet!

Mr. Corcoran asked if there have been any comments on the fees for the Farmer's Markets or for the Food Truck Festival. Ms. Frias reported there have been no comments. She mentioned that the permitting is complicated.

Food Truck Event

There was discussion on several vendors that still have missing parts – QVHD approval, Police permits or fees. Assuming they all come through, we will have 33 vendors.

Ms. Smith distributed a map of Town Center Park showing an outer row of 21 food trucks and an inner row of nine. All trucks will be facing out away from the picnic tables in order to keep the lines on the outer rim. In case of duplicate vendors, they will be placed in separate rows. We currently have two ice cream vendors and two cupcake vendors. There will be three tents near the pavillion. Soup Girl, Six Pence and Smoke Box will have tables.

Mr. Fitch said in addition to the vendors the Police, CERT Team and Volunteer Firemen will be there. We might have a Town kiosk as a service. We would like to sell water and soda with the proceeds going to TCP Fund.

Ms. Smith said there is space designated for vendor only parking across the access road from the pavillion. Mr. Fitch added that handicapped parking will be available near the Farmer's Market. The new cart will be available to help get individuals into the park.

We expect all of the vendors to sell out. Last year a few vendors sold out before 5:00, which shouldn't happen this year. We have reminded vendors that they need additional help in their trucks. Everyone should be rady to go at 4:00 p.m. although it is advertised for 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m..

The Food Truck Festival has been promoted in the New Haven Daily Nutmeg, through the schools (Farmer's Markets too) and other media.

Ms. Smith said next Monday is the first SOHA market. She said one nice thing about food truck event is we can piggy back with PR on the Farmer's Markets. Mr. Fitch said it took about six years for the Hamden market to take off. The food trucks help at both markets.

Mr. Fitch said we are trying to creat a cycle of sustainability.

Ms. Ashcroft said we have a disc jockey and possible face painters.

Ms. Smith and Mr. Fitch met with the Police Department. Commissioners working at the festival should park in the area set aside for the vendors.

Mr. Fitch said due to the rain last week the closure of the Whitney and Dixwell intersection for paving was postponed to this coming weekend. The DOT has agreed to start work after the close of the Food Truck Festival, but traffic will be funneled out the other way to avoid any issues.

Ms. Nowacki made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Corcoran seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Acting Clerk