

TOWN OF HAMDEN
TOWN CENTER PARK COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 21, 2014
10:00 AM
MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE
HAMDEN

Commissioner in attendance: Matt Fitch, Chairman
Meg Nowacki
Gerry Tobin

Others in attendance: Julie Smith, Deputy CAO
Liz Frias, Park Event Coordinator
Ashley Alcott, QU Presidential Fellow
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fitch called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 2014 MINUTES

Approval of the March 2014 Minutes was tabled to the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Fitch reported that there is a lot of fun stuff going on.

John Torgeson will be meeting with the Commission to discuss the Rain Garden. Members of the Commission and Ms. Smith will meet with Mr. Torgeson at Town Center Park following adjournment of this meeting regarding the Rain Garden and the proposed Spur Trail.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the Tag Sale/Freecycling event to be held at Town Center Park on Saturday, April 26th.

Ms. Frias said they have started to sign up people in advance of the event. There have been 22 people who have signed up. Ms. Smith has received six or seven checks. Ms. Frias also said some people have signed up for two tables. Also, some applicants have asked to bring their own tables. Ms. Frias feels that this could cause a problem with people adding tables they have not paid for.

Ms. Nowacki asked if this will interfere with soccer. Mr. Fitch said it would not, since the Tag Sale will be in the Farmers Market area.

There are already 29 Food Trucks signed up for the June Food Truck Festival. Ms. Smith has already contacted Assistant Town Engineer Elliott Fuller to discuss the lay out for the trucks.

Ms. Smith introduced Ashley Alcott, who is currently a volunteer in the Mayor's Office. Ms. Alcott is a QU Presidential Public Service Fellow and will be working for the Town this summer. Ms. Smith explained what Ms. Alcott's duties will be.

Ms. Coleman could not be here today, but supplied a list of Town Center Park events.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the South Hamden (SOHA) Farmers Market. Mr. Fitch said there has been great press coverage, and there is much excitement regarding this planned market.

The Road Race will be the second event of the year. Ms. Smith reported that approval has already been received from the Hamden Traffic Authority for the route. She added that the Race Directors are working on the website.

There was a discussion regarding which website the Public Service Advertisement video would be on. Ms. Smith said it would be on the Director's website, and there will be links for the Town website, the Town Center Park website and facebook.

Next, Ms. Smith discussed the 1K Kid's Fun Run. She described the route this will follow. She also discussed the Police Explorers group that will be there for anyone who would be interested in a career in Law Enforcement.

There was a discussion regarding whether to have a Health Fair. Ms. Smith reported that the Race Directors would like to have the Health Fair.

There was also a discussion regarding what the food truck and the sponsor fees would be for the Road Race event.

Ms. Smith reported that the fees for the Tag Sale, the Farmers Market, the Food Truck Festivals and the Movie Nights have been approved by the Legislative Council.

There was a discussion regarding a Fit Fest that Ms. Frias has been organizing in Bethany. The discussion included the possibility of having a Fit Fest in Hamden.

Mr. Fitch said there is a lot of great stuff coming up. He added that Ms. Frias is doing a great job.

Mr. Fitch said Ms. Coleman has been providing a great service by coordinating Park bookings. He said now that there is a Park Events Person, she should coordinate with Ms. Coleman. He also said there should be guidelines regarding how these bookings are done. He added that there is a need for a policy regarding this. Mr. Fitch said we should discuss this with Ms. Coleman at the next meeting.

There was a short discussion regarding the Rectory Barn. The renovations for this building have been included in the Mayor's Capital Budget, but have not been approved yet by the Council. Mr. Fitch suggested that there be a liaison to the Town from this Commission regarding the progress on the Barn Project. There was further discussion regarding this topic. There was also a discussion regarding the contract that the Town has with P.L.A.C.E. Mr. Fitch described the details of this contract. Ms. Nowacki volunteered to be the liaison for this project.

John Torgeson addressed the Commission regarding the proposed Rain Garden. Mr. Torgeson described the work that will be done on this project.

There was a discussion regarding the trash barrels at the playground. Mr. Torgeson said the barrels are emptied twice a week on Monday and Friday.

Ms. Smith discussed a person who came to her with a proposal for school gardens. Ms. Alcott has researched these projects. She has contacted other schools that have done this. She said there are some spring gardens that provide early vegetables. There are also summer gardens that are tended by volunteer families. There was further discussion regarding this subject.

Next, there was a discussion regarding camps. Mr. Fitch discussed the camps that are held at Brooksvale Park. He said these camps are held for one week. At the end of the week Ranger Vin Lavorgna takes the kids to the Farmers Market for lunch. Mr. Fitch said he and Ms. Smith have been exploring the idea of having a Town Center Park Camp. Ms. Smith discussed the many attributes that the Park provides for this type of activity, including the playground, the Farmers Market and the Rain Garden.

Mr. Fitch said there are many things that can be pursued during the next few years. He added that this year we have added the Tag Sale, expanded the Food Truck Festival, and added a second Farmers Market.

There was a discussion regarding adding a bike rack to the park.

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. Ms. Tobin seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Fitch adjourned the meeting at 11:01 AM.

Submitted by:

Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk