

TOWN OF HAMDEN
TOWN CENTER PARK COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 19, 2014
10:00 AM
MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE
HAMDEN

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

Others in attendance: Mimsie Coleman, Director of Arts, Recreation and Culture
Liz Frias, Park Event Coordinator
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fitch called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 18, 2014 MINUTES

Ms. Nowacki motioned to accept the Minutes of the March 18, 2014 Meeting as presented. Ms. Tobin seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 21, 2014 MINUTES

Ms. Nowacki motioned to accept the Minutes of the April 21, 2014 Meeting as presented. Ms. Tobin seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Fitch said the next event in the Park will be the Road Race June 7th. He asked Ms. Frias if Ms. Smith needed help with the Road Race. Mr. Frias said she would check with her to see if she needed help. Mr. Fitch asked the Commissioners to block out some hours for the Road Race in case help is needed.

Ms. Frias was at the meeting with Robin. Mr. Fitch said sign-ups are less than last year but not he is worried. Ms. Frias said she is pushing a little harder on facebook. The school flyers have gone out.

Ms. Frias explained how the Health and Wellness tents and tables will be set up. She also explained what type of vendors will be there.

Mr. Fitch asked if there would be bouncy houses and a slide. Ms. Frias said there will be. She said there will also be a DJ.

Ms. Nowacki asked if the Partnership for Young Children could have a table at the Health and Wellness Fair. Ms. Frias explained the procedure for being a sponsor. There was a short discussion regarding this request.

Ms. Coleman and Ms. Nowacki explained the purpose of this group. It was agreed that Partnership for Young Children would be allowed to have a table.

Ms. Frias said there would be a couple of food vendors at this event.

Mr. Fitch asked how much it would cost to be a sponsor. Ms. Frias said it is between \$200 and \$300. She added that there is a \$75.00 charge for vendors.

Frontline Christian Community Church had previously offered to give out water at the Summer Concerts. This could not be done, but Ms. Coleman will give the information to Ms. Frias. Mr. Fitch noted that this may be a problem, and suggested it be discussed with Ms. Smith.

Farmers Markets

The Farmers Market at Town Center Park will open for the season on June 20th. The Southern Hamden Market will open for the season on June 23rd. Ms. Frias reported that there will be 20 vendors at each market. The Southern Hamden Market will be geared toward arts and music. Town Center Park Market will be geared more toward children. She added that most of the vendors are doing both markets.

There will be a vendors meeting on June 6th at 11:00 AM at Miller Library for both markets. The Commissioners were invited to attend. There will be a walk thru at both markets.

Food Truck Festival

The Food Truck Festival will be held on June 20th from 4:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Ms. Frias reported that 31 vendors have gotten back to her so far.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Nowacki discussed a meeting she attended two weeks ago regarding P.L.A.C.E. and the Rectory Barn. She said the discussion at the meeting included the information that the Mayor is committed to having the exterior work done by the fall - only the exterior. The Mayor will match the grant that P.L.A.C.E. has received. They will then talk about drainage, sump pumps, and dehumidifiers. After the exterior is done work will start on the interior. The exterior work should be done by fall.

Ms. Tobin asked what the Town's response is to bringing the building up to code regarding elevators, HVAC and bathrooms. It was noted that the bathrooms will be public access once they are put in. A ramp has to be put in also. There was a discussion regarding where the ramp would be. The proposed second floor ramp dropped.

There was a walk thru for the proposed Spur Trail extension. State Representative Mike D'Agostino is working to secure grant money to finish the job. He is confident that we will be able to receive State grant money.

Mr. Fitch discussed the former plan for the Spur Trail and explained the new plan. Assistant Town Planner Dan Kops has talked informally to the Wetlands and Farmington Canal Commissions regarding the plan. Adam Sendroff of the BOE has also reviewed the plan and had no problems with it. Mr. Fitch said pending funding we are full steam ahead on this.

Ms. Coleman distributed a list of events scheduled at Town Center Park. This list included the Summer Concerts. Ms. Coleman said the Arts Commission does some clean-up on the Saturday after the Concerts. The Clean and Green Commission has also agreed to assist with clean-up on Saturdays.

Ms. Coleman asked if Mr. Fitch wanted to schedule a rain date for the October Food Truck Festival. Mr. Leng has scheduled an event for September 19th.

There was a discussion regarding the Public Works concept for a rain garden. Mr. Fitch explained the idea of creating a water feature in the Park.

Ms. Nowacki discussed the trees around the playground that are supposed to be at Public Works. She spoke with Public Works employees who were unsure of what trees are supposed to be planted there. She noted that there are many parents who would like trees planted to provide shade. Ms. Nowacki will follow up.

Mr. Fitch thanked Ms. Nowacki for her efforts with P.L.A.C.E. and the trees for the playground area.

NEW BUSINESS

Regarding the Community Garden at Hamden Middle School, Mr. Sendroff of the BOE had a meeting with the HMS Science Department. There was a short discussion regarding where this garden could be placed.

Ms. Coleman asked about establishing fees for the use of TCP. Ms. Coleman said that PW has to approve all fees for the use of Town Parks, but she felt that this Commission should set the fees. There was a short discussion regarding this suggestion. All agreed that it would be a good idea. Ms. Coleman will share the schedule of fees that are currently charged for Brooksvale and the Veterans Memorial Building.

Solar Lighting for Town Center Park will be donated from The Energy Use & Climate Change Commission through an award they received from UI. There was a discussion regarding where these lights will be placed. Ms. Coleman said that the Police Chief is in favor of this. There was a discussion

Mr. Fitch discussed the various things that are being asked for through the Grant for the Spur Trail. This included benches, lighting, etc. There was a discussion regarding the types of benches that are acceptable by the Farmington Canal.

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 10:56 AM.

Submitted by:

Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk