

**MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN CENTER PARK COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 20, 2014  
10:00 AM  
MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT**

**Commissioners in attendance:** Matt Fitch, Chairman  
Meg Nowacki  
Jessica Hazen

**Others in attendance:** Julie Smith, Deputy CAO  
Mimsie Coleman, Director of Arts, Recreation and Culture  
Ashley Alcott, Information Officer  
Liz Frias, TCP Events Coordinator  
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM

Mr. Fitch discussed the Food Truck Festival held on Friday, October 17, 2014. There was a discussion regarding Gumby. Mr. Fitch said he felt the event went well. He added that most of the attendees were happy, but some of the vendors were not. There was a discussion regarding how well the vendors did. It was felt that the truck vendors did much better than the tent vendors. Mr. Fitch said the crowd was bigger than the June event. He said next year we need to grow the event... He felt that perhaps the "Bad Press" from the North Haven event could have hurt our event. It was noted by both Mr. Fitch and Ms. Coleman that a large part of the success of the Hamden event is that it is a community event. Mr. Fitch noted that for most of the vendors there was less than a ten to fifteen minute wait in line. It was noted that the people who attended were very happy.

Ms. Frias will send out an e-mail today thanking the vendors. She will let them know that the people attending were very happy, and will come back to future events.

Ms. Nowacki discussed the handicapped parking. Ms. Nowacki said the CERT people would not let anyone into the Handicapped Parking area until the Fire Truck went thru. She said the Dunbar Volunteer Fire Truck did not arrive until 5:30 PM and the area was empty until then. There was a discussion regarding this problem, Mr. Fitch thanked Ms. Nowacki for bringing this to the Commission's attention, and said this problem will be worked out for the next event.

Mr. Fitch said one of the nice things was the compliments received that the Port-a-Potties were clean and well lit.

Mr. Fitch said going forward there will probably be some vendors that drop out, or change their menu.

There was a discussion regarding how some of the vendors helped each other out with problems they ran into.

It was noted by Mr. Fitch, Ms. Nowacki, Ms. Hazen and Ms. Smith that the volunteers from Quinnipiac University were wonderful.

There was a discussion regarding having the Food Truck Festival as a day time event.

Ms. Alcott discussed having smaller less expensive offerings.

It was noted that Assistant Town Engineer Elliott Fuller did an excellent job on the layout for the trucks.

Mr. Fitch said for the next event we should have an extra cooler for hand washing.

Mr. Fitch said that the October event should be on a Saturday in the future.

There was a discussion regarding the last three weeks of the Farmers Market. Ms. Smith suggested ending the Market at the end of September, and then having an abbreviated Market for the next three weeks with only one produce vender each week. There was further discussion regarding this topic. There was also a discussion regarding vendors who would like to set up businesses in Town. It was noted by Ms. Coleman that when Sugar had previously applied to have their truck in the Library parking lot they were turned down by Planning and Zoning because it was felt the location was dangerous.

Ms. Coleman suggested putting together a VIP parking list. There was a discussion regarding this subject.

There was a discussion regarding the contest that was held. Mr. Fitch suggested opening this up to other organizations. Ms. Smith said this might get out of hand with too many groups wanting to participate. Mr. Fitch said this could be done on a rotating basis. There was further discussion regarding this topic.

Mr. Fitch discussed vendors who promote themselves on social media. He said these vendors do very well at the events.

Mr. Fitch noted three suggestions that were brought to his attention that could improve the event:

- A map showing where each vender is located.
- More lighting.
- Trucks placed in a gigantic square facing in.

There was a brief discussion regarding these suggestions.

It was noted that having the pavilion as a stage worked well. It was also noted that the beautiful weather added to the success of the event.

Mr. Fitch said this was the first time the Kids Zone was set up. He said he felt it went very well. He said the videos weren't a large "bang for the buck". Ms. Smith said the second DJ worked well. She also said the Mobile Weather Lab was a big hit.

There was a discussion regarding holding the June Food Truck Festival on a Saturday. Mr. Fitch said perhaps this should be done for consistency. Ms. Smith noted that Saturdays are a busy day for Food Truck Vendors, but Fridays are good for vendors. There was also a discussion regarding having a Food Truck Event in May.

Ms. Coleman discussed the Silverbells event that will be held the first week in December. Mr. Fitch told Ms. Coleman to let the Commissioners know if they could help with this event.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Nowacki motioned to adjourn Ms. Hazen seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Mr. Fitch adjourned the meeting at 11:26 AM.

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