

**Town of Hamden
Parks and Recreation Commission
Agenda of a Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 14th, 2023
5:30 PM
Hybrid Meeting
Zoom/Telephonically & Parks and Recreation Conference Room**

To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:

https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/uf_QfhtFAMqjiYtsZBypKTnPZtfLKOns4uBfn8BZWvzMQmn6JAHMsuqLSeYEme7.dnypmnarVgVJrl7e

If prompted for a password, enter: 9T=!pJ=J

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Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairwoman Morrill called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM
- 2. Attendance**
 - a. In Attendance:** Sarah Morrill, Chairwoman; Deborah Smith; Ken Sweeten; Arnie Mann; Rich Leonardo;
 - b. Absent:** Chris Ruggiero
 - c. Also:** Pete Bonadies, President of the Hamden Education Foundation; Karen Bivens, Director of Arts, Culture, Recreation & Wellness; Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk
- 3. Approval of Past Minutes:** January 17th, 2023
 - a.** Mr. Sweeten made a motion to approve the January 17th, 2023 minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Leonardo. All were in favor.
- 4. Parks and Recreation Director's Report**
 - a.** Commission Chairs & Clerks Meeting
 - i.** Chairwoman Morrill and the clerk, Ms. Paglia, recently attended a meeting to address changes to rules and regulations to commission procedures, per the charter revision, along with clarification of the role and responsibility of commission chairs and clerks. There was a brief discussion regarding the newly required addition of "Public Comment" to the agenda. Ms. Smith noted that engaging with the public would give the commission more power and insight into how to fight for and help Hamden residents. As this initial meeting was simply a starting point, Chairwoman Morrill acknowledged that there is more to come, such as clarification regarding the role of advisory vs. regulatory commissions.
- 5. Old Business**
 - a.** Chairwoman Morrill asked if anyone had recently updated the code of conduct for leagues and field usage. Ms. Bivens noted that she had passed the document along to Town Attorney Sue Guren, who has read it over and has several suggestions/comments.

Chairwoman Morrill asked commissioners to look over the document within the next two weeks, and make final edits/comments within the month.

Mr. Leonardo inquired about the vacant supervisor position, and the status on filling it. Ms. Bivens was happy to note that the position has recently been filled by Ms. Nicole Brown- Johnson. She also updated the commission that Mr. David DeMartino will be retiring at the end of February.

b. Youth Leagues

- i.** There was a discussion regarding the topic of the effectiveness/ ineffectiveness of distributing digital flyers via the virtual board. There was a general consensus that the virtual board is not well advertised or publicized, and parents need to be reminded to check the virtual board for distribution of key information, especially youth league sign-ups and try outs. As Ms. Morrill has only heard feedback from one league representative, she is waiting to hear back from more. She expressed an interest in inviting the league representatives to a future meeting to discuss the topic more openly.

Chairwoman Morrill updated the commission of her attendance to the Public Safety Hearing Forum. Ms. Bivens is in the progress of reaching out to both Mr. Adrian Weber, of the 7th District, and Sen. Jorge Cabrera, who can serve as potential allies to the commission/ Hamden Parks and Recreation efforts.

6. New Business

- a.** Guest Speaker: Pete Bonadies, President of the Hamden Education Foundation
 - i.** Chairwoman Morrill introduced Mr. Pete Bonadies, who also oversees the Hamden Alumni Association. He spoke of the importance of creating a virtual network of Hamden alumni, which would be tapped as a potential source of sponsorship/scholarship/grants/funds/etc. He spoke of his vision of an “activity hub”- essentially a streamlined system in which Hamden residents could access all recreational information easily and efficiently. There was a discussion regarding equity, and how to help bridge the gaps between students of all socioeconomic backgrounds. There was also a discussion about fleshing out the existing relationship with Quinnipiac University to help achieve these goals. Lastly, there was a brief discussion regarding a potential event at the end of June, in which the leagues could bring allow kids to “try out” different sports, and learn more about the different sport options.

7. General Comments/ Suggestions- N/A

- 8. Adjournment:** Mr. Sweeten made a motion to adjourn at 6:59 PM, which was seconded by Mr. Leonardo. All were in favor.

Submitted by: Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk

