

Town of East Haven, CT
Recreation and Athletic Complex Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2014
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Members Present:

Chairman Angelo Santomassimo
Vice-Chair Joan Adamczyk
Commissioner Lou Anastasio
Commissioner William Porto

Public Present:

Ray Marsico
John Mancinelli-CT Chiefs Football

Chairman Santomassimo called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION to approve the minutes of the January 13th, 2014 meeting was made by Vice-Chair Adamczyk and seconded by Chairman Santomassimo. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Correspondence Received

The Certificate of Liability Insurance from Triple Crown was received for use of the fields.

Correspondence Sent

None

Public Session

Ray Marsico-Ray came to speak to the commission regarding dates for the East Haven Umpire Association Tournaments which have been raising money for local charities. They are requesting Masotta (Deer Run) Field, and Memorial 1 and 2 on April 26th and April 27th and annually from 8/17-11/23 also at Masotta (Deer Run), Memorial 1 and 2 Sunday, Monday Thursday and Fridays. He is happy that there is a resolution now with the Umpire Association and the Board and asked that the Board consider adding the Board of Education to the list of charities so they can raise funds for their annual scholarship they give to a graduating Senior at East Haven High School. Chairman Santomassimo made a **MOTION** to add the East Haven Board of Education to the list of charities that the Board will recognize for tournament proceeds. Commissioner Porto seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**. Because the East Haven Umpires Association has shown good faith, Chairman Santomassimo made a **MOTION** to grandfather in the East Haven Umpires Association League and their field use dates from August 17th-November 23rd **EVERY** year as long as the association exists and that the fields are **NEVER** to be double booked. Vice-Chair Adamczyk seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

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John Mancinelli- Mr. Mancinelli was here tonight to speak to the Board about the Ct Chiefs Football team and their need for a practice field. The Ct Chiefs area a Semi-Pro football team based out of East Haven with local high school and college players. He is looking to use the old Crisafi Field at the Middle School for practices. He was told by one of the part owners of the team, Lance Horton that he could practice there. This was not brought to the commission prior to the practice and Mr. Mancinelli wanted to make sure he did things properly. A letter requesting Mr. Horton attend the next meeting to discuss giving out fields without the boards permission will be sent. Mr. Mancinelli is looking for 2 hours on Saturdays unless it was a holiday weekend. There will be no bathrooms open and no one is to use the bleachers. Chairman Santomassimo made a **MOTION** to set the fee for use of the fields at \$50.00 per hour times however many weeks he needed the field as long as it wasn't already booked. He also needed to show proof of insurance. Commissioner Porto seconded. All were in favor, nine were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Director's Report

There was no Director's Report as Director Louis Pane was not in attendance.

Old Business

The request for USSSA to use the Memorial 1 and 3 Fields as well as Masotta (Deer Run) Field on July 26th and 27th was granted with the increase in fee providing that the Town maintain the fields. They will clean up any mess. They will pay \$500 up front and ten days out they will pay the balance. The claim of the homeowners whose property was damaged by Memorial Field has been paid by USSSA.

Triple Crown agreed to the fee increase as well. They want full use of every field, although some are already booked. The dates were 5/3-5/4, 5/24-5/25, 6/14-6/15 and 2 fall tournaments. Chairman Santomassimo made a **MOTION** to tell the applicant they will have to take what dates are available and if when in 10 days prior doesn't have enough teams to field they will have to pay a 50% fee. Commissioner Anastasio seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

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NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Anastasio spoke to the commission about the poor condition of the pool. After some discussion, Chairman Santomassimo made a **MOTION** to have Commissioner Anastasio represent the Board of the Park and Rec Commission not to find fault but find a solution to get the Town Pool repaired. Letters will be sent out stating as such. Commissioner Porto seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed and Commissioner Anastasio abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Santomassimo requested the clerk to write a letter to the resident who spoke to the commission about the splash pad last year to come to the next meeting and present her ideas.

Chairman Santomassimo will again request a copy of the calendar for field use from Steve Kluth at Public Works so that they commission will know who is scheduled and allowed to use the Town fields.

Discuss and Take Any Necessary Action on Ceasing all Activities at the Middle School Football Complex Because of Safety Concerns

Chairman Santomassimo and Vice-Chair Adamczyk stated that they both had a previous meeting with Kevin White, the Town Engineer with regard to the problem of the deteriorating bleachers at the old Crisafi Field at the Middle School. There are several organizations that use this facility, youth football, youth cheerleading as well as the Fire Department for training purposes just to name a few. A letter was sent a few months ago to Mr. White about the issue and the commission asked that he attend their next meeting, which he did not. After the meeting at the site with the Chairman and Vice-Chair, Mr. White asked them for a few weeks in order to do an inspection and get a report to them. It has been over 5 weeks since that time. Chairman Santomassimo stated that when he spoke with Kevin White again after not hearing back from him after a few weeks, Chairman Santomassimo was told that some of the bleachers were sturdy with a few spots needing some sleeves for reinforcement. Chairman Santomassimo asked for a letter stating as such to present to the commission. When Chairman Santomassimo went to get the letter from him, Kevin White informed Chairman Santomassimo that he had no letter for him and that he was instructed by Town Attorney Zullo not to write one. According to Chairman Santomassimo, he was told by a Public Works employee that the bleachers should have come down 20 years ago.

Chairman Santomassimo told Mr. White, that there should be 3 options. One, sign off on the letter whether the bleachers were good or bad, two, take down the bleachers, use the scrap metal to buy new portable bleachers, or three, just remove the bleachers all together. Chairman Santomassimo stated that because the commission was not given a timely response, the

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commission is now forced to do something. A **MOTION** was made by Chairman Santomassimo to shut down Crisafi field until the Mayor meets with the Chair and the Vice-Chair to determine what can be done to ensure the safety of all who use the facility. Commissioner Anastasio seconded the motion. Commissioner Porto stated he doesn't agree with locking the gates. Chairman Santomassimo, Vice-Chair Adamczyk and Commissioner Anastasio were all in favor, Commissioner Porto was opposed and no one abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

There being no other business to come before the commission, a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 was made by Vice-Chair Adamczyk and seconded by Chairman Santomassimo. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 12th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda S. LaLuna
Clerk