

**Town of Hamden
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes of a Special Meeting
Tuesday, February 9th, 2021
6:00 pm**

2/9/2021 - Minutes

1. Call To Order

Chairman Leonardo called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

2. Attendance

1. In Attendance: Richard Leonardo, Chairman; Arnold Mann; Christine Huber; Ken Sweeten; Sarah Morrill
2. Also in Attendance: Craig Cesare, Parks Director; Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk
3. Absent: Chris Ruggiero; Thaddeus Watson; Patrick Donnelly

3. Approval Of Past Minutes

3.I. January 19, 2021

Ms. Morrill made a motion to approve the past minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Huber. All were in favor.

4. Parks & Recreation Director's Report

Mr. Cesare had not arrived at this point, so Chairman Leonardo proceeded to the next agenda items.

5. Old Business

N/A

6. New Business

6.I. Discuss Potential Date For Joint Meeting With TCP Commission

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Ms. Paglia reported that the Town Center Park Commission has invited all Parks and Rec commissioners to their upcoming meeting on 2/22 at 4:45 pm. She will send the Zoom link in the coming week. Ms. Morrill reminded the commissioners that the joint meeting with TCP is to discuss the fee structure for the parks, and potential overlap in duties. She reiterated that the Town is fiscally responsible for maintaining the parks, and therefore a fee structure should be devised, especially for the outside athletic teams.

Mr. Mann questioned the TCP Commission's fee structure and what it entailed. Ms. Morrill noted that the park itself is free to use, but food trucks have to pay vendor fees. Mr. Sweeten commented that the Town needs to monetize as much as possible. Ms. Huber followed up by saying that the fee itself is not as important as actually getting the regulations approved and enacted. Ms. Morrill emphasized the need to identify the right parks to start charging fees. Mr. Sweeten commented that Hamden sports organizations should not have to pay to use Hamden facilities, only outside teams. Chairman Leonardo noted that there is a fee to use Wintergreen fields.

At 6:40 pm, Mr. Cesare arrived. He agreed that there is a clear need to monetize the parks. He agreed that for-profit sports teams should pay to use Hamden fields. He noted that it could be challenging to get people on board with a fee structure. However, he believed that the legislative council would be receptive if the commission formally suggests fees for non-residents only. Ms. Morrill noted that it is important that these fees benefit Parks and Rec directly, and not the general fund. Mr. Sweeten discussed his research into other towns' parks' fees, specifically for parties.

7. Adjournment

At 6:56 pm, Chairman Leonardo requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Morrill made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Sweeten. All were in favor.

Submitted by: Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk