

Town of Hamden
Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 14th, 2022
5:30 PM
Hybrid Meeting
Zoom/Telephonically & Parks & 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/v1PSkmu2jV2QRD4wRQRvY09kLcAoME8DGmgeu1FKNK6BEo0YLF96TItWNkQhqYk.YC1kAZRjd-rGRmJu>

If prompted for a passcode, enter: yf1MR=Le

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Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** As a quorum was unable to be met, an informal discussion took place at 5:36 pm.
- 2. Attendance**
 - a. In Attendance:** Sarah Morrill, Chairwoman; Rich Leonardo; Ken Sweeten; Deborah Smith
 - b. Absent:** Arnie Mann
 - c. Also in Attendance:** Karen Bivens, Director of Arts, Culture, Recreation & Wellness; Sallie Lowry, Recreation Supervisor; Casey Stark, Assistant Athletic Director, Academic Support at Quinnipiac University; Kenneth Paecht, Public Works; Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk
- 3. Building Bobcats QU Initiative: Casey Stark**
 - a.** Casey previously attended the commission meeting in which the youth league representatives were present. The meeting, along with additional conversations with Hamden leaders, has given QU a better pulse on what Hamden needs, in regards to youth sports and how the institution can provide support and leverage resources.
 - b.** She was happy to announce an upcoming coach's panel, during which any Hamden residents/current coaches can interact with QU coaches, ask questions, and gain insight into better coaching practices.
 - c.** She also announced that field days with local schools/ programs are in the works. Ideally, fellow QU athletes would be able to show off their sport and interact with the kids.
 - d.** There was a discussion regarding the national shortage of referees, especially for youth sports, and a potential relationship with QU students/athletes to fill that need.
- 4. Questions from Public**
- 5. Kenneth Paecht- Public works**

- a. Mr. Paecht gave an overview of the status of the athletic fields, the brick walkway project in TCP, and the other landscaping maintenance updates.
 - b. There was a discussion regarding field usage and existing restrictions regarding the high school fields, as well as the ongoing issue of having no industrial complex/storage area for sports equipment. Ms. Bivens suggested bringing this up at a future BOE meeting. Chairwoman Morrill suggested inviting BOE members/administrators to a future commission meeting to begin this conversation.
- 6. Approval of Past Minutes: January 14th, 2023 –N/A**
- 7. Parks and Recreation Director’s Report- N/A**
- a. **Updates on Parks’ and Fields’ Maintenance (Farmington Canal, Brooksvale Park, Brush Removal, etc.)**
- 8. Old Business- N/A**
- a. **Marketing/ Communications Strategy (work with greater community on needs/wants)**
 - b. **Partnering with Youth Leagues**
- 9. New Business**
- a. **Summer Camp**
 - i. Ms. Bivens announced that this year, the summer camp program will be extending to six (6) weeks. They are actively searching for camp counselors and lifeguards, as well as a camp director for Brooksvale.
 - b. **Commission & Departmental Vacancies**
 - i. There was a discussion regarding efforts to be made to fill the vacancies on the commission. There was also a discussion regarding the new language in the charter revision, and how it would affect reappointments and new members. Chairwoman Morrill will reach out to the Town Clerk to gain clarification.
 - c. **Partnerships with other Commissions/ TOH Entities- N/A**
 - d. **Potential Playground/Filed “Tour”/ Assessment**
 - e. **Events**
 - i. **One Hamden Night- Hamden PTA Council**
 - 1. Chairwoman Morrill was happy to extend an invitation to all leagues who wish to attend the event, which aims to promote more unified events across all Hamden schools.
 - ii. **Boards & Commissions Fair**
 - iii. **Earth Day Celebration**
 - 1. Chairwoman Morrill reminded leagues that they are welcome to host a table at Hamden Fest to offer information.
 - iv. **Memorial Day Parade**
 - v. **Hamden Fest**
 - 1. Chairwoman Morrill reminded leagues that they are welcome to host a table at Hamden Fest to offer information.
- 10. General Comments/ Suggestions- N/A**
- 11. Adjournment:** As a quorum was unable to be met, the informal discussion ended around 7:30 pm.

Submitted by: Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk