

**TOWN OF HAMDEN**  
**Town Center Park Commission**  
**Via Zoom/ Telephonically**  
**Minutes of a Regular Meeting**  
**September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 4:45 pm**

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A regular meeting of the Hamden Town Center Park Commission took place on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, via Zoom/telephonically.

**In Attendance:** Matt (Matthew) Fitch, Chair; Gerry Tobin, Victor Mitchell, Jessica Hazen. **Absent:** Michael D’Andrea  
**Also in Attendance:** Patrick Donnelly; Alisha Martindale; Liana Paglia, Clerk for the Commission

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Matthew Fitch called the meeting to order at 4:44 p.m.
2. **Attendance:** As noted above.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** There were no minutes to approve.
4. **Chairman’s report:** The recreation department has offered to provide programming.
5. **Presentation from Administration:** Patrick Donnelly from the Mayor’s Office

The administration proposed a four (4) week summer movie series and hopes to have the endorsement of the Town Center Park Commission. The movie series would be “drive-in” style, as was done in the past. The movies would play on Thursday nights. It is being considered to hold all four movie nights at Town Center Park or potentially hold two at Town Center Park and two at Brooksvale Park. A vendor would be responsible for bringing in and setting up the necessary equipment. The town would work closely with recreation staff and volunteers to handle the layout and parking logistics.

**Questions and Comments:**

Mr. Fitch questioned why the movie nights would be done on Thursdays. Mr. Donnelly explained that Fridays and Saturdays are currently booked with activities. Mr. Fitch asked when the movie series would begin. Mr. Donnelly said the series would either run September 10<sup>th</sup>- October 1<sup>st</sup> or September 17<sup>th</sup>- October 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Fitch asked if any other commissioners had any additional questions.

Mr. Mitchell voiced concern over whether parents would bring children to the series on a school night, when a movie would end late. Mr. Fitch stated that that might allow more freedom when choosing the programming. Mr. Fitch also stated that because the sun sets earlier this time of year, the movies can actually begin earlier, as opposed to other summer months.

Mr. Donnelly pointed out that the movie series currently being offered in other towns, is quite successful. Mr. Donnelly clarified that the event would be free of charge for participants. Mr. Fitch pointed out that due to the staggering schedule for Hamden schools, the “school night” concern is possibly less severe.

Ms. Tobin questioned the presence of food trucks at the event. Mr. Donnelly stated the administration is considering a popcorn vendor. Other food vendors are under consideration by the administration, but would require a more extensive

enforcement of social distancing, face mask, etc. protocol. Mr. Fitch suggested using the movie series as an opportunity for moviegoers to support local restaurants and bring takeout to the programming. Mr. Donnelly was enthused with the idea and was interested in speaking with the Chamber of Commerce regarding potential advertising.

Mr. Mitchell questioned the logistical set up of the movie screen. Mr. Donnelly said that after consultation with the Public Works department, the movie screen will most likely face the middle school.

Mr. Donnelly reasserted that the administration is still considering if all four of the movie nights will be held at Town Center Park, or if they will be split between Town Center Park and Brooksvale Park. Mr. Donnelly assured the Town Center Park Commissioners that they would remain informed about the final decision in regards to the location of the movie series. Mr. Fitch pointed out that Brooksvale has an ideal parking lot for such an event. Mr. Mitchell pointed out that while Brooksvale is a nice park, it is off the beaten path for many potential attendees.

**6. Old Business:** There was no old business to discuss.

**7. New Business:** Mr. Fitch requested a motion to approve this proposal for a four week movie series. Ms. Tobin moved to approve the proposal, and was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Tobin asked Mr. Donnelly if the Chamber was going forward with their previously scheduled event, which would take place at the Town Center Park in December. Mr. Donnelly said as far as he knows, the event is cancelled. Mr. Donnelly also stated he would speak to the Chamber regarding this event, and notify the Town Center Park Commission of any changes/updates.

Mr. Fitch asked if the commissioners had any additional questions, all responded “no.”

**8. Adjournment:** Mr. Fitch requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mitchell motioned to adjourn at 5:02 p.m. and was seconded by Ms. Tobin. All were in favor.

Submitted by: **Liana Paglia**, Commission Clerk