PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes of the April 2, 2013 Special Meeting

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on April 2, 2013, 10th Floor Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

In attendance were:

Commissioners:	Tim McGuiness
	Joe Andreana
	Mike Macari
	David Winston
	Althea Brown
Staff:	Laurie Albano
	Megan Gearhart

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Tim McGuinness, Chair.

Mr. McGuiness set ground rules stating they were having a formal discussion with the board. At the end of the discussion the public could speak. No interruptions or he will ask you to leave.

The discussion will involve youth league and field allocation. It will be an open discussion.

Ms. Albano spoke about Field Policy and Sanctioning Policy.

Field Policy

- Drafted the Field Policy about 10 years ago.
- There was no policy before that.
- Defines who gets to use the fields
- Sanctioned organizations
- General rules and regulations
- Permitted users
- Housekeeping Rules

Sanctioning Policy

- Youth Sports began to grow even more, started using Policy for about 3 years now
- Asked organizations to give more information
- Constitution or by-laws
- Board of Directors
- Complaint processing policy
- Coach selection procedure
- Coach background check
- Insurance
- Current national or state charters or affiliations
- Rules of play, age requirements
- New programs are required to go to Parks & Recreation Commission
- Housekeeping rules

Mr. McGuiness asked if this is done on honor system or are all documents given. Ms. Albano stated they ask for all the paperwork. It was recommended not to ask for financial reports due to liability. Mr. Andreana asked if we should have the leagues bonded.

Mr. Andreana asked if these 2 documents have been approved by the Commission. Ms. Albano stated yes they have been approved.

Mr. Macari asked if we get rosters and signed sanctioning policy every year. Ms. Albano stated we do.

Mr. Macari discussed

- Procedures of by-laws by the leagues
- States that parents are very vocal, all kids will play but the better kids do play more.
- The different rules for the different leagues
- 50 / 70 League
- Special interests need to go away

Mr. Andreana discussed how leagues used to be and how the leagues have expanded.
How does someone organize a new league? Ms. Albano states that it depends on field space, and this is how we have tried to selectively enforce the moratorium (if space is available). Will be

reviewing how fields should be allocated in the future.
Looking to see how fields should be allocated in the future.

Mr. Macari discussed at the last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting an organization requested starting a new program and claims it to be a private organization. This organization was turned down by the Commission. The organization pursued their own program anyway in District 1 and District 2. Commission has the power to withdraw their permit.

Mr. Andreana wants a list of all the fields and who has use of them.

Ms. Albano will get a list of sanctioned users.

Ms. Brown states that there is a strong possibility that everyone will go private. Also questioned if legal looked at the sanctioning policy? Ms. Albano will run it by legal.

Mr. McGuiness questioned if the little league charter has the ability to conduct all the little league services under their umbrella. Per Mr. Macari some things are some aren't. Girls softball needs a new charter. Charter is a document that has to be resubmitted every year.

Mr. McGuiness thanked the commission for the information then he turned it over to the public.

Mr. Macari stated that this shouldn't be a finger pointing session.

The Public Speaks

Charles Pia – Girls Softball. He stated that on March 20, 2013 The Commission turned down Little League from starting a Girls Softball League. American Little League is not sanctioned for it but they continued registration for it by posting it on their website.

John Della Jacono – President of North Stamford Little League, spoke about 50/70 and little league and stated that excellent points were made. North Stamford Little League would love to attend meetings and do whatever they can do to help. Frank Wainwright (vice-president) attended also.

Dan Young – Stamford National Little League – takes sanctioning policy very seriously. Youth sports provide lots of good lessons. It's about winning. Kids need to know that. It's about how to win and how to lose.

John Hoch – President of Springdale Little League –League founded on rules that don't exist

anymore. A lot of self interest in this for the parents. And it's not about the children like it should be.

Mr. Andreana speaks regarding the girls softball. What are they to do about it?

Mr. Macari stated that if they are sanctioned by the Commission that they should take some action regarding this softball program. Also 50/70 was told that is not allowed. If allowed the consequence would come up this summer. Then they would have to bring every league in and read them the ultimatum if you continue to not bring in your charter we will revoke your permit regard whatever time of the year it is.

Mr. McGuiness states that you can't take advantage of initial charter and piggy backing onto it.

Mr. Macari states that there are two ways of handling this. A letter can be sent to the SALL organization to cease and desist or we they can revoke their permits.

Mr. McGuiness suggests that Ms. Albano send a letter to cease and desist. To stop and if continues they will have to come back to the Commission and it's only going to get worse before it gets better. See where it goes from there.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Andreana

Seconded by Mr. Macari

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Jacquie Fahan
April 18, 2013