



TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM, October 13, 2026

Hamden Government
Center
2750 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518
Tel: (203) 287-7070
Fax: (203) 287-7075

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1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Francese called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM; Commissioner Army seconded the motion.

2. ATTENDANCE

- In attendance: Dominic Francese, Chair, Commissioners, Ryan Ott, Arny Mann, Richard Leonardo, Katyayani Mishra, Youth Commissioner, Karen Bivens, Director, Cultural Affairs & Human Services Parks & Recs Director, and Steven White, the Town Engineer.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- Chairman Francese motioned to reject the minutes from September 9th, 2026, in order to amend them. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leandro and approved unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

5. CORRESPONDENCE

There will be a brief summary of the correspondence submitted between the last correspondence update and this one. This includes but is not limited to any correspondence with council members that members wish to submit for the record. It can also include written communication to the council from the administration, community members, etc.

None

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(if recommended by the town attorney)

- Not needed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

1. Hamden Middle School field replacement plan (Hamden Town Engineer Stephen White scheduled to attend and present).

- The proposed plan for a full build-out is about \$9.5 million, including installing two new turfgrass fields, and repairing middle school tennis courts. The cost for a partial scope comes up to \$4,624,179. Both options will keep the field inaccessible for a long period of time, but the town engineer recommends two turfgrass fields.

2. Update on HHS tennis court repair/replacement.

- The deadline for a final proposal package with USTA requirements is expected around May 2027. Courts will be of asphalt using \$150K from Quinnipiac, and \$250K from USTA, as well as \$500K from local capital.

8. REPORTS

- An assessment of the middle school fields shows that heavy use by recreation leagues has contributed to the field's deterioration. While the irrigation system is installed, it is not functional.
- Potential solutions include reconditioning all grass fields, redoing drainage and irrigation systems as necessary, as well as regrading the fields while at the same time repaving the exterior walking paths.
- The proposed plan for a full build-out is about \$9.5 million, including installing two new turfgrass fields, and repairing middle school tennis courts. The cost for a partial scope comes up to \$4,624,179. Both options will keep the field inaccessible for a long period of time, but the town engineer recommends two turfgrass fields.
- Environmental concerns exist for turfgrass fields, but they can be mitigated by material selection.
- The tennis courts will be of asphalt using \$150K from Quinnipiac, and \$250K from USTA, as well as a local \$500K capital fund. The deadline for the final proposal package with USTA requirements is expected around May 2027.

1. Director of Cultural Affairs and Human Services, Karen Bivens to briefly report on activities of the Parks and Recreation department.

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9. OLD BUSINESS

1. BOE Facility use fees for town-sponsored programs (status of negotiations between Mayor and BOE).
2. Rochford Field contract (status of discussions between Mayor and Albertus).
 - Public works and the engineer are currently assessing the overall use of Rochefort and whether it could be isolated for Albertus.
 - There is a drainage issue that often requires the parks crew to have to drain the field for it to be playable.
 - A request to obtain a full schedule was made in order to better coordinate lighting on the field.
3. League stipends (status of requests).
 - Stipends have been distributed for baseball. Still awaiting the requests from football, Heroness's and lacrosse.
4. Ice rink Committee (update by Dominic and Arnie from the first two meetings).
 - The Rink Committee was joined by Joe Colello for an assessment of how it is run and its long-term needs in terms of capital improvements.
 - The finance department will provide models and recommendations in early January.
 - Commissioner Ryan Ott suggested exploring an open bid competition in the planned RFP to ensure that the town and its citizens are well served.
 - On October 22nd, the BOE and Hamden Athletics will be visiting the rink, followed by Parks & Recs in November.

- Recommendation to vote on a new schedule for next year's commission meetings, and perhaps, considering moving the meetings to 5:30 PM. The new voted schedule would be submitted to the Clerk's office.

10. ADJOURNMENT

- The motion to adjourn was introduced at 8:58 PM, seconded by Commissioner Arny, and was approved unanimously.
- (https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/cCOorGA8-oZxgW4CchMfOw2lbHbzjwGwox4elz22zYIHSeiSWGSDxvOmDToolGE.UAL8dSyXP9DwenK0?startTime=1791931899000&pwd=DADPBRDvV17hQl-WCwAAIAAAAEt94sk6WIS_M8JYN9NZyUn8ryYU-wg9uZnL3ErWpokLJXSpNfli0YhVbSb8MiWrjAwMDAwNA)