

# *Park and Recreation Commission*

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## **Minutes**

(meeting taped)

Special meeting: Monday, September 21, 2009 in the City Hall.

Note: The regular monthly meeting for September 14, 2009 was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

By roll call, members present: John Walsh, Beverly Moran, Red Clynch and Nick Serednitsky. James Benanto arrived at 7:03 pm. after roll call. Andrew Cota and David Mikos were excused.

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell was present. Athletic Director Joseph Orazetti was excused.

### **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Nothing was presented.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Red Clynch and second by Beverly Moran. Move to accept the minutes of August 10, 2009, as written. Motion carried with John Walsh abstaining.

### **PUBLIC PORTION:**

No public came forward at this time.

### **CORRESPONDENCES:**

Chairman Walsh received an e-mail from a parent concerned with the condition of the fields at and around the Little League complex. He noted that when the Recreation Study was done nearly a decade ago the conditions of those fields were identified as poor at that time. A second committee was later formed to study the Little League needs. That committee studied various locations and considerations but had no authority to move forward on the results and they disbanded without action. Now there is discussion of a field to be part of the new Middle School. The area where the proposed field may be located has recently been seeded and there has been discussion of installing artificial turf. Chairman Walsh pointed out that the school system has no fields under their control. He has raised that point with the Superintendent of Schools who was surprised that the High School programs have no fields. The Commission members were in agreement that if funds are available within the school project, they would strongly encourage the installation of the artificial turf. Chairman Walsh will approach the Superintendent for an update on the field and will express the recommendation.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS:**

**Parks & Recreation Director's Report:** Mr. O'Connell reported that the new light bulbs have been installed at the Ryan Complex football field. He is awaiting a meeting with the Capital Planning Commission to possibly fund this project but in the mean time he utilized funds from his equipment line item and Ryan Capital to cover this expense. The Little League roof replacement is another capital project that he is working on. The installation of the lights at the picnic grove is 90% complete. He noted that currently the capital projects are in limbo but he will continue to communicate with members of the Capital Planning Commission.

Pop Warner is half way through their season. Youth Soccer has raised issue with their lack of access to Witek Park for their fall program. Originally it was agreed that the Youth Soccer would have the Park in the spring and the High School would have the Park in the fall. Youth Soccer desires to play games at Witek Park. Mr. O'Connell noted the difficulties in lining the fields for the multiple uses. There have been problems with vandalism of the portable toilets at both Witek Park and Bradley. The units have been placed in more visible locations to try to eliminate the problem.

The Derby Veteran's Community Center temporarily closed at the end of August for the annual maintenance.

Basketball sign-up will be starting soon. Mr. O'Connell will be coordinating again with the Ansonia programs.

It was noted that the Middle School and Freshman programs were not funded in the school budget. Private funding was secured for the Freshman football only. As these are feeder programs for the High School, their absence is a concern.

The skate park will be closing in October. Shelton and Derby oversaw the program this year. They have a five-year lease of the parcel with the State and Mr. O'Connell indicated that consideration will have to be given whether said lease should be extended or should Derby consider discontinuing participation.

**High School Athletic Director's Report:** Mr. Orazetti was excused.

Chairman Walsh noted that the CIAC provided a review and report on the High School program. The report is available for viewing on the Derby website. The report was positive.

**NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Clynch questioned if the path from the High School to the softball field was going to be restored. It was eliminated with the construction of the Middle School. Mr. O'Connell had no information. Chairman Walsh indicated that it would be incumbent on the school to restore the path as it services many of their programs.

Motion was made by James Benanto and second by Beverly Moran. Move that the meeting adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,  
Karen Kemmesies, secretary

*These minutes are subject to the Commission's approval at their next scheduled meeting.*