

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, August 11, 2014 in City Hall (small room adjacent to Alderman's chambers).

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

By roll call, members present: Andrew Cota, James Benanto, Ronald Sill, John Monahan and Frank Rubino. Beverly Moran arrived at 7:15 p.m.

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

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion made by Ron Sill and second by Frank Rubino. Move to accept the agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made Frank Rubino and second by John Monahan. Move to accept the minutes of June 9, 2014, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No one came forward.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Nothing was presented.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell reported that all went well with the spring programs. Little League is wrapping up. The summer playground program was held at Coon Hollow due to the roofing project at Bradley School. It is finishing up this week with the participants going on a field trip. Approximately 80 participants signed up and attendance varied at any given day. The program went well in the temporary location but will likely return to Bradley School next year. The program at the Derby Veteran's Community Center also was well received. The Basketball League at Coon Hollow went very well and is wrapping up now. Softball is going well.

Pop Warner is underway with approximately 100 players and 100 cheerleaders. Their opening game is scheduled for August 30th. They have 6 teams including flag.

Mr. O'Connell advised that he is still pursuing the completion of the bleacher emergency lighting project that was undertaken a number of years ago. The project requires the installation of a generator to provide power to lighting on the home side bleachers, as required by code and the completion of the installation of associated lighting. Members concurred that this project has lingered too long and stated that it must be completed prior to the first football game this season. They indicated that Mr. O'Connell should pursue the original contractor and if unavailable, Mr. O'Connell should explore alternate sources so as to complete the job.

Mr. O'Connell indicated that the physical therapy program that has been renting the Derby Veteran's Community Center on Wednesday and Friday afternoons for a number of years has terminated their rental as the facility has had limitations to their needs. The loss will certainly be reflected in the yearly income budgeted for the Derby Veteran's Community Center.

Mr. Rubino questioned if the Recreation Department had oversight of the Greenway. Mr. O'Connell stated that the Board of Alderman still has jurisdiction. Mr. Rubino stated that he was approached requesting that mileage markers be placed along the route so that they could be utilized for road races. Members thought that markers were in place already but they would explore further.

Mr. O'Connell stated that the Red Clynych dedication went very well. There was some confusion as to the schedule due to inclement weather but all was pulled together and the family was very pleased.

The Derby Veteran's Community Center will be having its annual closure for maintenance on or about the Labor Day weekend. The exact dates have yet to be determined and they will be posted. No major projects are scheduled, only annual maintenance.

High School Athletic Director's Report: Mr. Orazetti was absent. It was noted that he has retired and that his replacement has yet to be appointed.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Members discussed the recent announcement by Seymour that they will be receiving funding from the State for the installation of artificial turf at their football field. Derby has been exploring funding for a similar project for years without success. It was mentioned that Shelton will be replacing their turf field in the near future. Often times when a contractor is approached with the opportunity to do multiple jobs in close proximity, they are agreeable with offering a measurable savings. It was suggested that Derby may desire to explore whether this would be a viable endeavor. Members noted that the master recreational and athletic plan developed more than a decade ago had artificial turf on the football field but that entailed the redesigning of the field with the field house being relocated, the track being redone and the baseball field being moved to a new location specified in the plan. As placing turf on the existing field may be difficult, members then suggested that placing it on the practice field would be a viable alternative that could result in a positive benefit to the athletic and recreational programs. The artificial turf is so durable it can support much more use than regular turf. The regular field could then be saved for game play only. Members were in agreement that Derby has very limited field opportunities and they felt exploration of funding and location options were vital.

Motion by Ron Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,

Karen Kemmesies

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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