

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped – with audio difficulties)

Monthly meeting: Monday, March 13, 2006 in the New City Hall.

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

By roll call, members present: John Walsh, Karen Izzo, Beverly Moran, Matt Cripps and James Benanto. David Mikos and Al Felice were excused.

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell was present. Athletic Director Joseph Orazetti arrived at 7:10 p.m. Alderman Joseph Bomba was also in attendance.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Without objection, the agenda was accepted as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by James Benanto and second by Matt Cripps. Move to accept the minutes of January 9, 2006, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No public came forward at this time.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Nothing was presented.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell noted that basketball season is finishing.

Sign ups for Little League and Babe Ruth have been done. He is meeting with the regional Babe Ruth. He anticipates two teams and the thirteen year olds will be playing with the older team members.

At the Derby Veteran's Community Center, with basketball wrapping up, the soccer teams will utilize the facility for indoor practice.

Girl's softball registration will begin soon.

High School Athletic Director's Report: Mr. Orazetti stated that spring sports are about to start. It was noted that the outdoor track team continues, but with no facility, they cannot hold any home meets.

Chairman Walsh, noting that there are no athletic facilities associated with the schools, questioned whether there were discussions of athletic facilities during the meetings regarding the School future needs. Mr. Orazetti was unaware of any such discussions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee – Reviewing the budget, transfers were made with \$3,500 transferred into equipment maintenance from office supplies (\$1,000), recreation equipment (\$1,000) and training and safety (\$1,500). With many issues arising through the year, such as field house repairs and removal of the bleachers, the budget has been strained but Mr. O'Connell felt that he would be able to accomplish necessary needs within the remaining budget.

Programs Committee – The Committee did not meet.

Facilities Committee – Outstanding issues with Witek Park are being reviewed with the contractor. There are issues with the condition of the turf but consensus is that possibly one field may be ready for use this year. The City will not accept the facilities until the outstanding issues are addressed. Derby Inland Wetlands Agency are now reviewing a maintenance plan prepared for them as part of the stipulated condition of approval.

The Greenway is a major success with extensive use. A Friends of the Greenway committee will be appointed soon. There was damage to railings on the Housatonic River side of the trail.

The Skateboard Park will be opening soon.

The Derby Veteran's Community Center still is without a maintenance person. Staff have been addressing the urgent needs and the Board of Education janitor who maintains their offices has provided time to the Center.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Public portion was reopened. Carlos Fiallas of Ansonia submitted the schedule for the Over 30 Soccer team. He explained that the State Soccer League regulates the league and his team represents Derby. Members questioned how games are called off due to inclement weather. Mr. Fiallas indicated that the referee generally calls the game if he determines that conditions warrant the cancellation. The team would also be watchful of the conditions and call the game if necessary so as not to do undue damage to the field. They will be playing eight home games under the submitted schedule.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

A.) Discussion of 2006 – 2007 Parks & Recreation Budget: The preliminary budget reviewed this evening totaled \$240,155, an increase of \$23,230 over this year's amount. The increase is due to adding a part-time custodian, salary increases, maintenance increases and increases to both Little League and Pop Warner allocations.

		2005-2006 Budget		2006-2007 Budget		Changes	Percent '05 vs '06
Dept 5100 - Parks & Recreation							
110-0110-0000	Parks Director Wages	13,905		14,500		595	4.28%
110-0111-0000	Supervisors	55,208		57,460		2,252	4.08%
110-0112-0000	Attendants	13,658		14,040		382	2.80%
110-0114-0000	Lifeguards	12,036		11,960		(76)	-0.63%
140-0141-0000	Playground Wages	6,644		6,900		257	3.85%
	Bldg Maintenance wages			13,520		13,520	100.00%
			101,451		118,380	16,930	16.69%
230-0231-0000	Yankeegas	4,700		5,000		300	6.38%
230-0232-0000	Water Co.	8,000		8,000		-	0.00%
230-0233-0000	Light Pole Ryan Field	1,275		1,275		-	0.00%
330-0330-0000	Equip. Maintenance	27,000		30,000		3,000	11.11%
330-0331-0000	Bldg & Field Supplies	22,000		22,000		-	0.00%
330-0332-0000	Office Supplies	4,000		4,000		-	0.00%
330-0333-0000	Recreation Equip.	6,000		6,000		-	0.00%
			72,975		76,275	3,300	4.52%

390-0001-0000	Derby Colt Baseball	3,300		3,300		-	0.00%	
390-0007-0000	Girls Softball	2,500		2,500		-	0.00%	
390-0009-0000	Soccer	5,000		5,000		-	0.00%	
390-0010-0000	Little League	6,000		8,000		2,000	33.33%	
390-0011-0000	Pop Warner	9,000		12,000		3,000	33.33%	
390-0012-0000	Wrestling	1,000		1,000		-	0.00%	
390-0013-0000	Playground Supplies	1,200		1,200		-	0.00%	
390-0016-0000	Girls Softball 14-18	1,000		1,000		-	0.00%	
480-0484-0000	Youth Basketball	9,000		9,000		-	0.00%	
480-0488-0000	Skate Park	2,500		2,500		-	0.00%	
480-0489-0000	Training and Safety	2,000		-		(2,000)	-100.00%	
				42,500		45,500	3,000	7.06%
	Dept. Total	216,926		240,155				
	Dept 3700 - Misc. Capital							
440-0442-0000	Ryan Field Capital	10,000		10,000				
460-0464-0000	Amendola Improvements	45,000		45,000				
480-0487-0000	Bleachers Comm Center	20,000		-				
	Paint Light Poles			5,000				
	Bleachers - softball field			8,000				
				75,000		68,000		
	Dept 6000 - Revenue							
690-6920-0000	Recreation Receivables	40,000		35,000				

Mr. O'Connell noted the arrangement for custodial services made by the previous administration that was to use the custodian from the police station to maintain the Derby Veteran's Community Center. Subsequent to the change in administration, the arrangement was withdrawn from the police department. This has placed a great strain on the center.

Members discussed the Ryan field house that is primarily used for High School athletics. It was felt that this obligation should be further explored with the administration and the Board of Education as the expense may be better placed under the Board of Education.

Next salaries were discussed. The 2005-2006 budget reflected a 3% increase in salary. The figures reflect this increase but the implementation of the increase in the payroll has never been approved. The 2006-2007 budget reflects a 3% increase to the current figures. Mr. O'Connell and the Commission will investigate what needs to be done to have these increases properly approved.

Members questioned whether the custodian hours should be increased. It was decided to increase the line item to \$14,460. This raised the budget to \$241,095.

Members discussed the increase in the two programs. Little League requested additional funding in order to purchase a lawnmower. Members agreed to the increase with the stipulation that the funds are specifically used for said purchase. Pop Warner needs to refurbish and purchase equipment and members felt this was an appropriate increase.

Next, the members reviewed capital projects. Mr. O'Connell noted that he has spoken with the building official and the mayor's assistant and they feel they have found a resolution to the Little League backstop within the 2005-2006 budget. Other projects include:

- 1.) Replace the main pipe at the Derby Veteran's Community Center pool
- 2.) Resurface the pool lining
- 3.) Little League fencing
- 4.) Paint light poles
- 5.) Ryan Field bleachers

Members felt the pipe replacement was a high priority and Mr. O'Connell will be communicating with the newly reformed Capital Planning Commission. They noted that the funding for the Amendola bathrooms has been in the budget for a number of years. With the use of the facility changing with the new soccer fields at Witek Park, this project has been in limbo. It was questioned whether the funding could be used for other needed maintenance.

A motion was made by James Benanto and second by Karen Izzo. Move to request that the Board of Apportionment and Taxation release the funds currently under Miscellaneous Capital in the budget titled Amendola Improvements for the purpose of reallocating said funds for the purpose of replacing bleachers at the Ryan Field Complex football field, adding bleachers to the softball field and making necessary lighting improvements to the football field. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Karen Izzo and second by Beverly Moran. Move to approve the Parks & Recreation Department 2006-2007 budget in the amount of \$241,095, as presented this evening with the change to the custodian line item. Motion carried unanimously.

Members reviewed this year's revenue and felt that the proposed revenue figure was attainable. This year's figure is running lower than the budgeted amount. Mr. O'Connell suggested that the fee schedule be reviewed this coming September, after the new custodian has been in place and gotten the facility back on track.

Motion was made by Matt Cripps and second by Karen Izzo. Move to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,
Karen Kemmesies, secretary