

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, September 11, 2006 in the New City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

By roll call, members present: John Walsh, Al Felice, Beverly Moran, David Mikos and Nick Serednitsky. James Benanto was excused. Chairman Walsh noted that the Mayor has received Karen Izzo's resignation.

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

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Without objection, the agenda was accepted as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Al Felice and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to accept the minutes of August 14, 2006, as written. Motion carried with Beverly Moran abstaining.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No public came forward at this time.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Nothing was presented.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell was excused. Chairman Walsh reported that Pop Warner has started their games and everything is going well. As noted last month, they are down one team.

Bids for the pool project should be opened next week. Bids for the bleachers should be open this Wednesday. Capital Planning is meeting that evening and will hopefully be able to award the bleacher bid to the contractor. In the interim, Shelton has offered temporary bleachers for Ryan and field scheduling with them is also an option. The two center sections have already been disassembled and the area is cordoned off for safety. The project specifications are for aluminum seating and the intent is to replace as much seating as the funding will allow.

Witek Park opening ceremony is set for Saturday, September 16th at 1 p.m. The contractor has addressed the drainage issue. High School varsity soccer will continue to play at Ryan Field this year. Mr. Felice stressed the need for alternating use on the fields so that there will not be uneven wear. Chairman Walsh noted that Board of Alderman President Ken Hughes has requested that the use of the field be light this season so that the surface can further establish itself.

Mr. Mikos noted that he has observed frequent practicing on Ryan Field and he asked if anyone is scheduled for this use. This will be relayed to the directors, as it was understood that no one is authorized.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee – Nothing was presented.

Programs Committee – The Committee did not meet. Mr. Mikos indicated continued interest in expanding offerings in the City. He noted that the gymnasium time at the Derby Veteran's Community Center is fully utilized to the point that there is no open gym time for the members. The members have expressed concern.

Chairman Walsh suggested that the gymnasium schedule of all the facilities be reviewed and further discussed at the next meeting. He also suggested that the structure of these committees be reviewed as the Commission has new members.

Facilities Committee – Reports were provided earlier in the meeting

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Walsh noted that a committee has been formed by the Mayor to review the chronic issues of Parks & Recreation. They will be assessing maintenance needs and determining the jurisdictions of the facilities. The committee will include representatives from the Board of Alderman, Board of Education as well as Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Felice researched styles for portable soccer goals and benches. He will forward the information to the Recreation Director.

Mr. Felice noted that experience has shown that most turf damage occurred due to play during inclement weather. It's in everyone's interest to insure that fields are not used when play damages the playing surface. Other towns have adopted policies to place responsibility on the coaches to monitor field conditions and enforce penalties such as forfeiture of use for the remainder of the season.

Members suggested that the Commission have greater oversight of the programs. It was suggested that programs be invited to meetings on a rotating schedule.

A motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by David Mikos. Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully prepared,
Karen Kemmesies, secretary