

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, June 11, 2007 in the New City Hall.

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

By roll call, members present: John Walsh, Beverly Moran, Nick Serednitsky and James Benanto. Andrew Cota Al Felice and David Mikos were excused.

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

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Without objection, the agenda was accepted, as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to accept the minutes of May 14, 2007, 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 the spring programs are going smoothly and the season will be ending soon.

Work on the fence at Ryan softball field should be started this week and should be completed within a few days.

Mr. O'Connell has been speaking with Philip Robertson, the Mayor's assistant, about the funding for the football bleachers. They are working on securing funding to complete the remaining areas. The installation that was done last year has been completed to the satisfaction of the City Engineer with all outstanding issues resolved. They are hopeful that the work can be completed prior to the start of the season as there are some existing wooden planks in need of repair.

Storage bins are being purchased to replace the one at the picnic grove and at the Little League field.

The Summer Program is being scheduled at the picnic grove as the status of the playground at Bradley School is unclear by the start of the program. The children will also have the opportunity to participate in the free lunch program being scheduled at the Derby Veteran's Community Center.

Mr. O'Connell has been receiving calls regarding who is using Witek Park. He will be communicating with the authorized programs to see if their schedules can be more condensed and clear. He is trying to develop the schedule so that the fields will have some rest time when the gates can be closed to access. The issue of park users staying after dusk continues to be a concern as the gates can not be closed until everyone has left the area. It was noted that the Board of Alderman still has jurisdiction over the Park although funding has been placed in the Parks & Recreation Department for maintenance.

Mr. Benanto questioned if the municipal rate is being charged on the water bill. Mr. O'Connell indicated that he would have to check. The line item covers the water usage in the field house as well as the irrigation system on Ryan Field. The fields at Witek Park obtain their water for the irrigation system from the upper reservoir pumping system. The charges are dependent on the weather, in wetter years the charges are low; whereas when the season is dry, more irrigation is needed.

High School Athletic Director's Report: Mr. Orazetti stated that he has a sophomore athlete doing very well with the long jump. He asked that a sand area be developed next year in the vicinity of the picnic grove so the player can practice. Mr. O'Connell will explore the request.

Mr. Orazetti indicated that with the new Co-Op with Emmett O'Brien, the freshman programs will be reinstated. He will be starting a new Middle School boy's soccer program that will play at Witek. They will practice at Amendola and play approximately six games at Witek. Chairman Walsh indicated that the Athletic Department should contact the Board of Alderman regarding the additional use of Witek.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

B.) Update on Review Committee: Mr. Walsh indicated that the Board of Alderman has taken no action as of yet.

C.) 2007 – 2008 Parks & Recreation Budget: The Board of Apportionment and Taxation allocated \$260,419 which reflects the request made by the Commission with a reduction of \$2,000 is equipment maintenance. The status of the capital items was not available. It was understood that the funding is still frozen. It was suggested that the football lights be tested for the lumen output and if found to be insufficient, then the request for the release of the funding would be more warranted.

D.) Other business: Mr. Benanto noted that at a recent T-Ball game in Ansonia, he noticed that their helmets had face masks. Sure enough, the ball took an odd bounce and hit a player in the face mask. He felt it would likely be a minimal expense to have this added safety and questioned whether Little League had considered them. Mr. O'Connell will contact Little League.

Chairman Walsh noted that the dogs are back on the Greenway as of June 1st. He thanked Carl Yaccobacci for the donation of disposable bags and receptacle. The completion of the installation of the benches, brick plaza, getting the fountain functioning was to be done by Memorial Day but has now been moved back to Derby Days. The Christian Community Church members were also thanked for their efforts on cleaning and planting in areas on the Greenway.

Motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,
Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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