

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, February 11, 2008 in the New City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

By roll call, members present: John Walsh, Nick Serednitsky, James Benanto, Andrew Cota and Red Clynych. Beverly Moran arrived at 7:07 pm. David Mikos was excused.

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

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Without objection, the 2008-2009 Budget presentation was added under new business and the agenda was accepted as amended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Red Clynych and second by James Benanto. Move to accept the minutes of January 14, 2008, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No public came forward at this time.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Nothing was received.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell noted that basketball season is finishing. With the good weather, the season flowed with few cancellations and the schedule went very well.

Registration for Babe Ruth baseball has started. The cost being \$65.00 per participant. Little League will also be starting registration.

Mr. O'Connell has been communicating with the Capital Planning Commission. The Commission approved funding for the railings in the area of the new bleachers. The project will be scheduled. He continues to pursue funding for the remainder of the bleachers and railings. It may be necessary to close the old section until railings are in place. He has been working with the City Engineer to draft specifications to obtain quotes on the cost for this work.

The Capital Planning Commission will be seeking information for projects for the next plan in the coming months. The Finance Committee suggests, in order of priority, 1.) funding for the remainder of the bleachers and railing, 2.) replacement of lighting at the football field and basketball court with installation of necessary emergency lighting, 3.) replacement of the girl's softball field backstop. It was again noted that the light bulbs on the fields lose luminosity as they age and a schedule should be developed for funding a portion of the replacement each year so as to stagger the expense. Another project for consideration is the Little League fence by Nutmeg Avenue. Members suggested cost estimates be obtained.

High School Athletic Director's Report: Mr. Orazetti questioned whether the railings will be installed prior to graduation. Members were uncertain and suggested that the Board of Education be made aware of the possibility that the bleachers will be closed.

Motion was made by James Benanto and second by Red Clynch. Move to send a letter to the Board of Education advising them that due to safety concerns regarding the bleachers there is the possibility that the bleachers will be inaccessible for baseball season and at the time of graduation. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Walsh indicated that the intentions are to meet with the Board of Education members in March to continue the discussions on facilities and future needs.

Mr. Orazetti indicated that the lighting on the path coming down from the practice field to the football field is poor. Mr. Clynch noted that lights were installed a number of years ago utilizing the "Light the Night" program from UI. It will be investigated whether these fixtures are working.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

A.) 2008-2009 Budget Presentation: The Finance Committee met and developed the proposed budget for 2008-2009.

A modest increase was suggested for the director. A 3% increase was suggested for all employees. The attendants' line item was also increased to cover for personnel to close the gate at Witek Park. The intent is to have Public Works or the Police Department open the gate and then the gates would be closed by someone from Parks & Recreation. Utilities were increased by 6% anticipating the rate increases. Equipment maintenance costs are increasing. Building and Field supplies were increased anticipating that additional material will be needed for Bradley School. Technology was reduced with the intent to purchase toner and software only. Playground supplies were increased to allow for the ability to travel at least one additional trip. There is no funding being requested for the maintenance of the Greenway.

It is expected that the capital line item for Ryan Field will be funded at the annual amount of \$10,000 as per the charter. Mr. O'Connell will verify that this is included in the funding under capital expenditures – department 3700 in the general budget. Members questioned whether there was funding for Amendola but there has been no annual funding, capital projects were proposed in the past but never accomplished.

Mr. O'Connell indicated that he intends to seek a transfer within his current budget into the Attendants' wage line item to fund the cost of having someone close the gate at Witek Park. The park will likely be open seven days a week from April through June and then from September through November. July and August would be closed.

Mr. O'Connell and the Shelton director have been talking with the Boys & Girl's Club in Shelton to possibly oversee the skate park. The conversations will continue.

		2007-2008 Budget	2008-2009 Budget	Changes	Percent '07 vs '08
Dept 5100 - Parks & Recreation					
110-0110-0000	Parks Director Wages	14,500	15,000	500	3.45%
110-0111-0000	Supervisors	60,900	62,727	1,827	3.00%
110-0112-0000	Attendants	15,203	17,572	2,369	15.58%
110-0114-	Lifeguards	12,319	12,689	370	3.00%

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110-0115-0000	Bldg Maintenance wages	14,890		15,337		447	3.00%
			117,812		123,325		4.68%
140-0141-0000	Playground Wages	7,107		7,320		213	3.00%
230-0231-0000	Yankeegas	5,500		5,830		330	6.00%
230-0232-0000	Water Co.	8,000		8,480		480	6.00%
230-0233-0000	Light Pole Ryan Field	1,500		1,500		0	0.00%
			22,107		23,130		4.63%
270-0278-0000	Witek Park Maintenance	15,000		15,000		0	0.00%
			15,000		15,000		0.00%
330-0330-0000	Equip. Maintenance	28,000		30,000		2,000	7.14%
330-0331-0000	Bldg & Field Supplies	22,000		25,000		3,000	13.64%
330-0332-0000	Office Supplies	4,000		4,000		0	0.00%
330-0333-0000	Recreation Equip.	6,000		6,000		0	0.00%
330-0348-0000	Technology (computer)	2,000		500		-1,500	-75.00%
			62,000		65,500		5.65%
390-0001-0000	Derby Colt Baseball	3,300		3,300		0	0.00%
390-0007-0000	Girls Softball	2,500		2,500		0	0.00%
390-0009-0000	Soccer	5,000		5,000		0	0.00%
390-0010-0000	Little League	8,000		8,000		0	0.00%
390-0011-0000	Pop Warner	10,000		10,000		0	0.00%
390-0012-0000	Wrestling	1,000		1,000		0	0.00%
390-0013-0000	Playground Supplies	1,200		1,400		200	16.67%
390-0016-0000	Girls Softball 14-18	1,000		1,000		0	0.00%
			32,000		32,200		0.63%
480-0484-0000	Youth Basketball	9,000		9,000		0	0.00%
480-0488-0000	Skate Park	2,500		2,500		0	0.00%
			11,500		11,500		0.00%
	Dept. Total	260,419		270,655		10,236	3.93%

Motion was made by James Benanto and second by Red Clynych. Move to approve the proposed 2008-2009 budget, as submitted for presentation to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. Discussion on the motion. Ms. Moran suggested that the number of employees associated with the various wage line items be included in the presentation. This will be added. Motion carried unanimously.

Members discussed preparing a five-year capital plan. They were encouraged to be speaking to the Board of Education to develop the plan. The long-range plan developed a number of years ago is still relevant and members suggested that the information within the plan should be reviewed as a starting point. Certainly, capital plan projects will have to be discussed with consideration for cause and effect of

other areas so as not to duplicate or cause to have to do work twice, thus reducing overall costs. With the new Middle School, the intentions are to bring in a new water line to service the new school and the High School. This water line will also be available for the Little League field house which is currently on a well. It was noted that there is also discussion with the new Middle School to be closing a portion of Nutmeg Avenue. It was questioned whether this would free up some land to allow for the creation of a practice field. This will be explored.

Motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by James Benanto. Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,
Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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