

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, December 8, 2008 in the City Hall.

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

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

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

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 William Clynch. Move to accept the minutes of November 10, 2008, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No one was present.

CORRESPONDENCES: Mr. O'Connell presented communication (attached) he has sent to the Board of Alderman regarding a lighting project at the picnic grove. Lighting fixtures were obtained a number of years ago and have been stored at the public works. The expense for installation made it prohibitive to install. The Pop Warner developed a construction plan utilizing volunteers that will allow for these lights to finally be installed. They are approaching the Board of Alderman for a fee waiver for the electrical permit that is needed. The actual timeframe of installation will be dependent on the weather and the availability of the volunteers. The project may not be done until the spring but Mr. O'Connell and Pop Warner want to have all the necessary details finalized now.

Motion was made by William Clynch and second by Beverly Moran. Move to authorize the Parks and Recreation Commission Director to pursue the fee waiver and to endorse the installation of lighting at the picnic grove, as described. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Walsh noted that the Friday Night Lights contest has closed and unfortunately Derby was not chosen. The competition was close but another community won. Mr. O'Connell noted that the Capital Plan had allocated funding for the football lights replacement a few years ago but with the downtown redevelopment stalled, funding was frozen. The request for funding was resubmitted but not allocated. Members suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission capital projects should be reviewed and the needed projects should be presented during the upcoming budget deliberations.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell indicated that Pop Warner has one cheerleader team going to the tournament in Florida. As many of the cheerleaders will also be playing in the girl's basketball program, the start of the program is delayed until after the tournament. The boys' basketball schedule is being finalized and is ready to begin. The travel league has been underway for the past two weekends and it is going very well.

Mr. O'Connell is working on replacing the fencing at Uleski Field down by the minor league field. The project will go out to bid. He is also working on replacing a few pieces of equipment at the health club. He indicated that the Derby Veteran's Community Center is very active with the basketball programs and the Derby Middle School students use the gym in the afternoons.

High School Athletic Director's Report: Mr. Orazetti was not present.

Chairman Walsh noted that the CIAC recently audited the school athletic programs. The audit evaluates all aspects of the programs and the facilities. The report will detail whether there is sufficient programs for the city's population and whether there are adequate facilities. The report should be available in a few months and should be very informative.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

The Commodore Hull Road Race, an annual Thanksgiving Day event, was very successful with all the available spaces for runners filled. The race raised approximately \$10,000 for the Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Cota indicated that the clean-up along the Naugatuck River is progressing. UI has cut a path through the area and now they are able to get in and truly assess the scope of the project. Hopes are to start in the spring. The plan is to have volunteers work to clean up the debris that has been dumped along the bank for many years. Certainly, with the foliage bare at this time, it is clear from the Greenway that the other side of the river is in need of attention.

Chairman Walsh noted that the CT DOT cleaned all the graffiti by the Route 8 entrance ramps and a fence was installed by the train station to prohibit improper access to the trail in that area. He noted that within 24 hours new graffiti was appearing. He also noted that during the design of the Phase II of the Greenway an entrance was planned by the East Derby Bridge. This entrance has now been completed providing an additional access point to the very successful Greenway. People can now park at the train station and access the trail through this new point.

Motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by William Clynch. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,
Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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