

# *Park and Recreation Commission*

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## **Minutes**

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, March 9, 2009 in the City Hall.

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

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

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

### **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Nothing was presented.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Nick Serednitsky and second by Andrew Cota. Move to accept the minutes of February 9, 2009, as written. Motion carried with Mr. Walsh abstaining.

### **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 finished. The Youth League will be finishing this week.

Little League has completed its registration. Numbers seem to be down. The Ansonia Parks and Recreation Commission has decided not to continue the regionalizing with Ansonia and Derby as has been done for the past few years. There are discussions with Shelton. Babe Ruth has a thirteen year olds team of 15 players. There are a few fourteen and fifteen year olds also signed up as of now and more players should be signed up soon.

The field house is set for the baseball season. A thorough cleaning and maintenance upkeep was necessary after the end of the football season.

Mr. O'Connell has spoken with Public Works and they are preparing to begin their seasonal duties on the fields.

Soccer registration is done and their numbers are down. They will be using Witek Park at least four days a week.

There are no Men's or Women's softball leagues registered but some residents from Derby are playing on Shelton teams. Members noted how the scope of recreation is changing. Years ago there were so many teams it was difficult to find time on the schedules for the adult teams. With obesity becoming a national concern, one wonders if the downturn in recreation participation may be a cause. It was noted that sports in general are changing. The youth are choosing a specific sport to play and they join leagues

to pursue this interest year round. Previously, children would play different sports depending on the season. Children are gravitating to AAU programs and others. A high note is that the Greenway clearly is a success, as observed recently during an exceptional spring day, with an over abundance of use.

**High School Athletic Director's Report:** Mr. Orazetti was excused. Mr. Mikos noted that the basketball, girls and boys, had good seasons. The girls went to the state quarter finals and boys varsity was one game short of being in their tournament. The teams do have difficulties with participation and commitment just as the recreational programs are experiencing.

Mr. Mikos did note that the Coon Hollow basketball courts were full this past weekend as the weather is getting better. This was a welcome sight.

**NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:**

A.) 2009-2010 Budget Presentation: The Finance Committee met and developed the proposed budget for 2009-2010. It was noted that the request form from the Board of Apportionment and Taxation was only received today and this presentation was developed over the past month.

A 3% increase was suggested for the director. A 3% increase was suggested for the supervisors. The attendants' and lifeguards remained the same as it is anticipated that there will be a turnover in staff as many are high school students. The building maintenance salary reflects a 3% increase and an increase in hours. 80 additional hours for the year were calculated to satisfy the cleaning obligations of the Derby Veteran's Community Center, Ryan Complex field house and Uluski field house. Yankeegas was increased as last year included rebates which reduced the overall expense for this year. Witek Park maintenance will require \$15,000 based upon the estimated cost. This budget year is half over and has expended 60% of the budget.

Minor increases were requested in equipment maintenance and building and field supplies. No increases were requested for the programs.

		<b>2009-2010 Budget</b>	<b>2008-2009 Allocation</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Percent '08 vs '09</b>
<b>Dept 5100 - Parks &amp; Recreation</b>					
110-0110-0000	Parks Director Wages	15,450	15,000	450	3%
110-0111-0000	Supervisors	64,609	62,727	1,882	3%
110-0112-0000	Attendants	17,572	17,572	0	0%
110-0114-0000	Lifeguards	12,689	12,689	0	0%
110-0115-0000	Bldg Maintenance wages	16,983	15,337	1,646	11%
		<b>127,303</b>	<b>123,325</b>	<b>3,978</b>	<b>3%</b>
140-0141-0000	Playground Wages	7,320	7,320	0	0%
230-0231-0000	Yankeegas	5,000	3,500	1,500	43%
230-0232-0000	Water Co.	5,800	5,500	300	5%
230-0233-0000	Light Pole Ryan Field	1,500	1,500	0	0%
		<b>19,620</b>	<b>17,820</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>10%</b>
270-0278-0000	Witek Park Maintenance	15,000	12,000	3,000	25%
		<b>15,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>25%</b>

330-0330-0000	Equip. Maintenance	27,000	26,000	1,000	4%
330-0331-0000	Bldg & Field Supplies	23,000	22,000	1,000	5%
330-0332-0000	Office Supplies	4,000	4,000	0	0%
330-0333-0000	Recreation Equip.	5,000	5,000	0	0%
330-0348-0000	Technology (computer)	250	500	-250	-50%
		<b>59,250</b>	<b>57,500</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>3%</b>
390-0001-0000	Derby Colt Baseball	3,300	3,300	0	0%
390-0007-0000	Girls Softball	2,500	2,500	0	0%
390-0009-0000	Soccer	5,000	5,000	0	0%
390-0010-0000	Little League	8,000	8,000	0	0%
390-0011-0000	Pop Warner	10,000	10,000	0	0%
390-0012-0000	Wrestling	1,000	1,000	0	0%
390-0013-0000	Playground Supplies	1,300	1,400	-100	-7%
390-0016-0000	Girls Softball 14-18	1,000	1,000	0	0%
		<b>32,100</b>	<b>32,200</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>0%</b>
480-0484-0000	Youth Basketball	9,000	9,000	0	0%
480-0488-0000	Skate Park	2,500	2,500	0	0%
		<b>11,500</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>Dept. Total</b>	<b>264,773</b>	<b>254,345</b>	<b>10,428</b>	<b>4%</b>

Motion was made by David Mikos and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to approve the proposed 2009-2010 budget, as submitted, to be presented to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that the charter requires an annual capital expenditure for Ryan Field in the amount of \$10,000. This amount was determined decades ago and does not reflect the true cost value when inflation is tallied. It was suggested that the Board of Apportionment and Taxation be asked to evaluate this allocation.

<b>Dept 3700 – Capital Projects</b>					
1	3700-340-0342	Ryan Field Lighting	\$30,000	Replace existing lights& ballast, install back reflectors, wiring upgrades	
2		Ryan Field Visitor Bleachers	\$75,000	New installation	
3		Field Groomer	\$11,000	Replace existing machine due to age	
4	3700-430-0438	Ryan Field Bleachers	\$62,000	Finish section to complete the overall project	
5	3700-430-0439	Ryan Softball Backstop	\$10,000	Replace existing fencing	
6		Pop Warner Lights	\$7,500	Install lighting fixtures at Picnic Grove	
7		Bradley Tennis Courts	TBD	Repair or remove existing courts	
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$195,500</b>		

It was noted that the Middle School construction appears to be encroaching on the existing softball fence and it was stated that this must be inspected prior to the start of the season. Any work being done with the school project should take into account the potential water problems in this area and the chronic erosion problems that have been prevalent in the location. The installed silt fences for the construction project may have to be adjusted to provide for the ability to walk behind the backstop when the field is in use by the programs.

Board members raised the issue of artificial turf, as stated in last years capital request for consideration. Wear and tear on the fields, especially on Ryan Field, could potentially be alleviated with this artificial turf. The turf surface could support multiple purposes and allow for longer periods between repairs and replacement of grass. They encouraged the Capital Planning Commission to consider this in the future.

Chairman Walsh noted that the tennis courts at Bradley School are in great disrepair. They should be fixed or dismantled as the current conditions are very poor.

Motion was made by Andrew Cota and second by David Mikos. Move to approve the proposed 2009-2010 capital project budget, with the tennis court project costs to be determined, to be presented to the Capital Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

**Other Business:**

Mr. Mikos noted that the recreation department does support the High School athletic program needs. He encouraged the Board of Education to participate in the pursuit of funding needs. Members agreed that a number of the capital projects do support the school programs more so than the recreational needs. There has always been a good working relationship between the Recreation Director and the Athletic Director and members were hopeful that as the school project moves forward the Board of Education will continue to be open and supportive.

Daniel R. Waleski of 23 Elm Street, Derby, CT. apologized for missing the public portion but upon his arrival he found the doors locked. He appreciated this opportunity to speak. He noted the recent interest in the subject of dog feces on the Greenway at the Board of Alderman meeting. He suggested a humorous approach to getting the people to comply with the ordinance. He suggested signage such as "Decisions, decisions, decisions, Scoop your poop or ban your dog!"

Mr. Waleski noted that last year distinguished citizens were selected for the Hall of Fame. At that time he had suggested Harold B. Yudkin and Louis Bradley and family and would like to resubmit their names for consideration.

Chairman Walsh thanked Mr. Waleski for his comments, noting the Parks and Recreation Commission has no oversight of the Greenway. Chairman Walsh will bring this information to the Greenway Committee. He noted that since these people were nominated last year, they will remain on the list.

Motion was made by David Mikos and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,  
Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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