

# *Park and Recreation Commission*

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## **Minutes**

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, May 11, 2009 in the City Hall.

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

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

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell and Athletic Director Joseph Orazetti (arrived at 7:12p.m.) were present.

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

Nothing was presented.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by David Mikos and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to accept the minutes of April 13, 2009, 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 reported that the Little League fence in the minor league section of the facility is completed. The field house roof was inspected and is in need of replacement. The matter will be discussed at the Capital Planning Commission on Wednesday. Estimated replacement cost is approximately \$4,000.

Gym equipment has been purchased for the Derby Veteran's Community Center. The previously owned equipment is in excellent condition and will enhance the offerings at the Center. Plans are, with space permitting, to add this equipment to facility while still maintaining the existing equipment.

Mr. O'Connell will be attending the Capital Planning Commission meeting and will present the roof request as well as the major priority needs. The priorities for the capital projects include the football field lights (bulbs and ballasts – not the pole structure itself) and visitor bleachers. He suggested that the visitor's bleachers would best serve the facility and the finishing of the other bleachers could be explored when additional funding is available. It is anticipated that the participation in the NVL will increase public attendance and the visitor's bleachers is recommended. The replacement of the field groomer machine will also be raised. This piece of equipment is a valuable tool in maintaining the playing surfaces and the existing one is more than ten years old.

The Summer Program will start on July 6<sup>th</sup> at Bradley School. The free lunch and free gym time at the Derby Veteran's Community Center will start on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

The numbers for the girl's softball program were low. Mr. O'Connell made arrangements with Shelton to network with them. The Babe Ruth 14 & 15 year olds team was also low in numbers and they will also network with Shelton. The Babe Ruth 13 year olds team had better numbers and is set to go.

Little League is set to go. They have three major league teams and minor league and T-ball divisions. Their numbers are down from previous years.

Soccer numbers are also down. Previously they had six travel teams and now they have two teams and the instructional program.

Everything is going well at Witek Park. Only one men's team is authorized to use the facility.

Pop Warner will be holding registrations at the end of the month.

The skate park is open and is being managed by the Derby and Shelton recreation directors.

The budget is progressing to the end of the year with transfers, as needed.

**High School Athletic Director's Report:** Mr. Orazetti stated that the new batting cage is working out very well. Public Works was instrumental in creating a launching pit for the track and field program.

The fall schedule is being prepared. Everyone is excited over the new NVL programs. Ansonia, Shelton and Seymour are all home games. Rather than having spring football, they will be opting to go with an additional week in the fall, so they will be starting earlier.

**NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Clynych walked the Ryan Field facility and raised a number of maintenance issues. He noted the big dip along the third base line, a hole in the left field fence, a branch over the fence by the 295' sign and the mound needs works. Mr. Clynych encouraged touring the facilities prior to the start of each season. Mr. O'Connell noted that Public Works is aware or will be told of the issues, some of which can not be resolved until the end of the season, at which time they will be addressed. Chairman Walsh noted that the advisory committee report submitted to the Board of Alderman a few years ago did recommend that the insurance provider inspect the fields annually for any safety concerns.

Mr. Clynych noted that he spoke with the Yolanda's men's soccer team that plays at Bradley on Sunday nights. They indicated that the field is often not lined and the grass has been high. Mr. O'Connell indicated that as formal games are not being played, the field is not lined. Mr. O'Connell noted that there are a number of maintenance issues at Bradley that do need to be addressed and Public Works is aware of them. Mr. Clynych also noted the bottom of the softball backstop needed to be reinforced to address the curling.

An established men's soccer team does play at Witek Park on Sunday mornings. They have been associated with Derby for a number of years.

Chairman Walsh noted that the Beltline trolley path is being stenciled by Public Works. This project was initialed a few years ago and it defines the old trolley route that ran through Derby and Ansonia. It followed the trolley route from the Derby Green, down Seymour Avenue to Atwater Avenue to Bridge Street in Ansonia then to Main Street up to Derby Avenue to Main Street (RTE 34) to Elizabeth Street. Residents would walk this route socially many years ago and there are still some who continue to follow the route.

Mr. Benanto questioned the status of the proposed field associated with the Middle School. Mr. Orazetti indicated that the Building Committee is still discussing the matter but they are trying to create a practice field approximately the size of half a football field. There are discussions about the possibility of artificial turf. Members felt that the turf would provide for this field being multi-functional and would certainly support many uses due to its durability, thus relieving some of the use on the existing fields in the complex.

Motion was made by David Mikos and second by Red Clynch. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,  
Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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