

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, December 14, 2009 in the City Hall.

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

A moment of silence was observed to acknowledge the passing of past Mayor Richard Grande.

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

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell was present. Athletic Director Joseph Orazetti arrived at 7:15 pm.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Nothing was presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made Beverly Moran by and second by Red Clynch. Move to accept the minutes of September 21, 2009, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION/CORRESPONDENCES:

Mr. O'Connell stated that he has been approached by a group seeking to start up a regional Men's Softball League. Seth Gibson, from Ansonia and Tyrone Maynor, from Ansonia were present to answer questions. They explained that they have been playing in Seymour and are now approaching both Derby and Ansonia to try to expand the league. The number of teams will be determined by the availability of space in the towns. Mr. O'Connell indicated that Bradley School could accommodate their needs. The facility is currently used by the Fire Department Softball League one night a week and by the Middle School who play in the afternoons and have the fields until around 6 pm. Their league could use the facility the other four week nights.

Members discussed the stipulations that would be necessary to allow this use. It would be understood that the lights would be available only to 10 pm and that the league would be responsible for turning them on and off. There would be no loitering on the field after the game. In the past there has been concerns voiced by the adjoining neighbors and members stressed the importance of respecting their trepidation. Mr. Maynor indicated that the lights would be shut off 15 minutes after the game has ended or by the 10 pm curfew. Mr. O'Connell explained that there may be some run-over from the Middle School games and any attempted encroachment by the league would be frowned upon. Members also indicated that there would have to be a balance of Derby residents as is the custom in the regional leagues. Mr. Clynch noted that as the field is currently not being used to the proposed extent, he would like it verified with Public Works that they will be able to properly maintain the facility. Mr. O'Connell agreed that the facility needs maintenance to bring up the playing conditions. Taking the comments and concerns from the members into consideration, Mr. O'Connell will work with the League on the possible schedule.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director’s Report: Mr. O’Connell reported that the baseball programs are going very well. There are four boy’s divisions (Senior, Junior, Little Hoop and Instructional). Games are playing nights and weekends. The girl’s program is playing with Ansonia and have a total of six teams.

Mr. Mikos noted that the new High School basketball coach has expressed interest in getting involved with the Youth programs. He is suggesting possibly summer clinics or supplemental programs.

The Little League field house roof is not fixed as the funding is not available. Mr. O’Connell will continue to approach the Capital Planning Commission for funding. Members suggested that a tarp be placed over the roof for the winter.

Mr. O’Connell noted that the ladies bathroom at the field house were improved last year by adding a handicapped stall but this resulted in reducing the number of stalls from six to five spaces. Complaints continue that the stalls are too tight and he acknowledged that they are very tight. To make any changes would be excessively costly because of the extensive plumbing relocation that would be required. To enlarge the stalls will also result in a further reduction in the number of stalls. At this time he had no answer on how to resolve the complaints but will continue to explore solutions and possible available funding.

Mr. Clynych noted that the flag pole at Ryan Field needs to be painted.

High School Athletic Director’s Report: Mr. Orazetti stated that the Booster Club wants to attend the February meeting to discuss improvements to the refreshment stand. One thing they are seeking is to install a concrete slab in front of the stand where the patrons are served.

Mr. O’Connell noted that conditions at the field house have to be discussed before the next football season. Players cleats bring in an enormous amount of dirt and the locker rooms are not being maintained. More oversight is needed. The field conditions are badly worn by the end of the season. This season the teams practiced more on the field. Mr. Orazetti noted that the new lights were much brighter and were a positive improvement.

A new baseball score board has been donated by the Police Department. Mr. Orazetti expressed appreciation for the donation.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

It was noted that Ms. O’Malley will be invited to the January meeting.

B.) Meeting schedule for 2010: Members were in agreement that the schedule of the 2nd Monday of the month has worked well. The one exception would be October for Columbus Day.

Motion was made by Andy Cota and second by William Clynych. Move to adopt the following schedule of meetings for 2010:

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| January 11, 2010 | July 12, 2010 |
| February 8, 2010 | August 9, 2010 |
| March 8, 2010 | September 13, 2010 |
| April 12, 2010 | October 12, 2010 (Tuesday) |
| May 10, 2010 | November 8, 2010 |
| June 14, 2010 | December 13, 2010 |
| | January 10, 2011 |

The meetings will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the City Hall. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued over the new Middle School gymnasium and how it will effect overall gym space. Mr. Orazetti noted that some use at the elementary schools may shift to the new facility freeing up time at the schools. Certainly he and Mr. O'Connell will be as creative as possible to maximize the use. Members expressed the desire to add programs, especially adult programs, but it has been impossible previously due to the limited space. It was also noted that some of the current programs have been squeezed into small spaces or have limited time so this additional gymnasium will be a great asset to both the school and the recreational programs. The chair expressed the fact that it must be remembered that recreation is for everyone and this commission continues to seek to maximize all resources.

Motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by William Clynch. Move that the meeting adjourn 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.