

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, January 11, 2010 in the City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

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

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move that the meeting go out of order on the agenda and entertain the discussion with Sheila O'Malley, Community Development Director at this time. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

A.) Discussion of Parks and Recreation infrastructure projects underway and planned – Sheila O'Malley.

Ms. O'Malley stated that the Greenway Phase III is in the design phase. DeCarlo and Doll, consultants on the project, are currently developing the costs and man hours needed for the design. This information will be forwarded to the State to begin the funding process. Phase III is seeking to extend the existing Greenway to the Orange border. One major expense will be the bridge needed to cross over the Naugatuck River. Ansonia's Greenway which will connect with Derby's on Division Street is slated to move forward in the construction phase soon.

The Urban Open Space Award is being pursued which could possibly provide funding up to \$10,000.

Regarding O'Sullivan's Island –

- The contamination has been cleaned up and the land has been cleared.
- Grants for development of this area for public use are being explored.
- An Open Space Grant is possible, this is a 50% matching grant that allows for creation of a recreational space
- The Council of Governments (COG) has gotten a grant for \$325,000 which they have earmarked for development of a culvert around the island as well as for improvements to a boat launch site.
- A grant for designing a boat docking pier is being researched.
- The Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) has funding for signage on the existing Greenway. The content will be both historical and environmental as it relates to the Greenway and to the City.

Mr. O'Connell questioned if there should be funding included in the Parks and Recreation budget for O'Sullivan's Island. Ms. O'Malley will communicate with him to determine any possible needs.

Chairman Walsh suggested that Arthur Bogen and Richard Dunne be invited to the next meeting to further explain the project on O'Sullivan Island.

Ms. O'Malley noted that Derby prepared a Long-Term Comprehensive Recreation Plan a number of years ago and it has been an asset when seeking funding. Many towns have no such plan in place. She suggested that the plan may be amended to include O'Sullivan's Island.

Mr. Serednitsky noted that the Ryan Complex is primarily used by the schools and questioned if there was grant funding available through the State and Federal Education Boards. Ms. O'Malley indicated that funding would have to be requested through the Derby Board of Education. Other towns have been successful in obtaining funding for recreational use. Chairman Walsh, Mr. O'Connell and the members agreed that it is important to continue communicating with the Superintendent of Schools. Reaching out to all possible avenues of funding helps both the athletic and recreational programs in the City.

Ms. O'Malley stated that she recently was advised that Lowes offers a TOOL BOX GRANT for approximately \$300,000. Mr. O'Connell suggested that there are many projects that could benefit from such a grant. Possibilities include improvements to the field house and also, with the building of the Middle School, paths are needed to allow for access to the fields from the schools above. It was also noted that KBE Conover, the company that constructed the Lowes is exploring possible community projects. Previously, they refurbished the gazebo on the Green. Possibly, the refurbishment of the pavilion at Bradley School could be presented for consideration.

Members thanked Ms. O'Malley for her work on behalf of recreation in the City and they were encouraged by the opportunities she is exploring.

ELECTION OF A CHAIR:

Motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to table the election of the chair. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made Beverly Moran by and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to accept the minutes of December 14, 2009, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No one from the public was present.

CORRESPONDENCES:

No correspondence was presented.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell reported that the indoor sports are going well. The older groups in the basketball program are playing against Ansonia. Mr. O'Connell spoke positively how the partnering with the Ansonia for many of the programs throughout the years has benefited Derby's programs. It offers more challenges and recreational opportunities for the children.

A Zumba fitness program will be starting on March 15th. More information will be placed on the Derby website.

Little League registration will be starting soon. Babe Ruth will also be organizing for the season.

As budget time is approaching, Mr. O'Connell will be communicating with the programs and the budget committee to work out the details of the 2010-2011 budget.

High School Athletic Director's Report: Mr. Orazetti was absent.

Motion was made by Andrew Cota and second by Beverly Moran. Move that the meeting adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,
Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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