

# *Park and Recreation Commission*

---

## **Minutes**

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, February 8, 2010 in the City Hall.

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

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

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

### **ELECTION OF A CHAIR:**

A motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by Andrew Cota. Move to nominate John Walsh as Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Motion carried with Mr. Walsh abstaining.

No other nominations were received. The floor was closed. Members congratulated Mr. Walsh and commended him on his continuing efforts for recreation in the City.

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

Without objection the agenda was accepted, as written.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made Beverly Moran by and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to accept the minutes of January 11, 2010, 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 Little League registration is underway. Babe Ruth registration is set for February 22<sup>nd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>. Pop Warner is making some changes in their program. They will be adding a division that will have no weight limitations.

Mr. O'Connell is working on organizing the Girls softball program. He is speaking with Shelton with the intent to play games with them. He would like to inject the players into the Shelton Little League program with the hope that the Derby program can develop and strengthen over the next few years with Derby players having teams playing within the Shelton program. He will be exploring whether there is interest in progressing in this direction.

The USTA (US Tennis Association) has been discussing a possible program networking with Shelton. Possible teams could be 8 and under, 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under, 18 and under and a possible adult program. They are also exploring involving the schools.

Since the last meeting Mr. O'Connell has met with Sheila O'Malley and they are exploring grant funding opportunities.

Chairman Walsh indicated that a preliminary meeting was held with a Lowes representative. He along with the Superintendent of Schools and the Athletic Director were in attendance. A wish list was developed that includes trails at the Ryan Field Complex to replace the ones displaced due to the Middle School construction, enhancement of trails around the High School/Middle School complex to connect the recreational and athletic fields, replacement of the lighting fixtures in the Ryan Complex and installing visitor's bleachers. Any actions will be dependant on the level of funding and determining the best use of said funding. The Lowe's website indicates that there were grants around \$5,000 but the Lowe's representative expressed a much higher amount. Ms. O'Malley is continuing to research the actual available funding.

As budget time is approaching, Mr. O'Connell has been communicating with the budget committee to work out the details of the 2010-2011 budget. It was noted that no raises have been received for the past two years. Members were in agreement that Mr. O'Connell should explore what raises will be given to other city employees under their contracts. As the wages have to be approved by the Board of Alderman, in order for the Board of Apportionment and Taxation to implement them, it was suggested that Mr. O'Connell speak with Mr. Kenneth Hughes, President of the Board of Alderman, to get the request placed on their agenda. Members felt that as no increases have been given in the past two years, a five (5%) percent was a consideration. They encouraged Mr. O'Connell to speak with the Mr. Henry Domurad, Finance Director, to work out details of the request.

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

**NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:**

**A.) Booster Club request:** Without objection, the matter was tabled until next month as no one from the Club was in attendance.

**B.) Other Business:** Chairman Walsh reported that the cost of the design of the next phase of the Derby Greenway will be presented to the City in mid-March. There is currently insufficient funding in place to accomplish the construction. A number of bridge crossings will be necessary which are costly.

Ansonia is hopeful that construction on their Greenway will commence this year. Their trail will be traveling along the dike. The trail will be in sections. It will begin at Division Street, requiring a street level crossing from the Derby Greenway. It will commence along the dike. A second separate section will be created in the area behind Target. At this time, the two sections are not slated to connect as there are still some right of way negotiations that must be accomplished.

Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) is working to get signage on the trail around O'Sullivan's Island. There are pursuing additional funding from state and federal sources to enhance the signage further.

VCOG Director Richard Dunne is pursuing funding for docking and possibly additional trails around the Island. A boat launch and fishing pier are also being explored. He will be invited to next month's meeting to speak on these possibilities further.

Mr. Clynch noted that Little League registration is \$100. The members were concerned that this fee would discourage participation in the program. It was suggested that Little League be invited to the next meeting to discuss this matter further.

Members recognized and congratulated Mr. Serednitsky for his recent induction into the Boy's and Girl's Club Hall of Fame Alumni.

Motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by Red Clynch. Move that the meeting adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,  
Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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