

# *Park and Recreation Commission*

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## **Minutes**

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, May 10, 2010 in the City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

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

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

Without objection the agenda was accepted, as written.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made James Benanto and second by Beverly Moran. Move to accept the minutes of April 12, 2010, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC PORTION:**

No one was present.

### **CORRESPONDENCES:**

Two letters (attached – dated May 5, 2010 and May 10, 2009) from George Geer of 129 Bradley Terrace, Derby, CT were presented. The letters were sent to the Board of Education and forwarded to Mr. O'Connell. Mr. Geer requests that the Commission consider dedicating the batting cage at Ryan Field Complex to Sumner Sochrin, a long-time baseball coach at Derby High School. He asked that the dedication be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> during the Senior Day.

Members discussed the request. Mr. O'Connell noted that Mr. Sochrin was very instrumental in getting the batting cage. It was questioned whether this matter should fall under the jurisdiction of the Board of Alderman rather than this Commission. The baseball team and parents through the High School Athletic Department did pursue funding for the cage. Mr. O'Connell noted that the Parks and Recreation Department as well as the Public Works Department did participate in the cost and installation of the cage.

Motion was made by James Benanto and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to recommend to the Board of Alderman to consider the dedication of the batting cage in recognition of Sumner Sochrin with the Parks and Recreation Commission expressing no objection. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. O'Connell will bring this recommendation to the attention of the Board of Alderman.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS:**

**Parks & Recreation Director's Report:** Mr. O'Connell reported that the spring programs are going well. A goal was stolen from Witek Park. A new set had to be purchased. There has been some trouble with ATV's up in the field area. The gate is locked when not in use so as to discourage unlawful activity. Unfortunately, the perpetrators find other ways to enter the park.

Little League is going well. Their games are played with Beacon Falls, Ansonia and Shelton.

The Babe Ruth (13-15 yr olds) will have one team and they will start play after the High School baseball season is over. The High School team has made it to tournament play so the start will be delayed until the completion of the games.

Pop Warner is continuing their registration to the end of the month.

Capital Planning Commission will be presenting their plan to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. Included in the plan are the Little League roof replacement (\$5,000), two Little League bleachers (\$7,000) and a universal workout machine (\$9,800) for the Derby Veteran's Community Center. Other items on the Parks and Recreation Commission request will be held off until future years. Those items being the visitors bleachers (\$75,000), field groomer (\$11,000), remainder of the home side bleachers at Ryan (\$62,000), removal of the tennis courts at Bradley School (\$15,000) and replacement of lighting at Ryan (\$150,000).

Mr. O'Connell noted that the groomer was rebuilt and should last another few years. The tennis courts at Bradley are prone to vandalism and the courts are not usable for tennis due to their age and deterioration. Consideration may be given to how this area could be re-purposed. Members suggested exploring the interest for volleyball or some other use in this area.

Chairman Walsh noted that the Board of Alderman did approve the pay raises presented in the upcoming budget. The approval is then sent to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation for inclusion in their budget.

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

**NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:**

Nothing was presented.

Motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move that the meeting adjourn at 7:44 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,  
Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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