

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Tuesday, October 12, 2010 in the City Hall.

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made Beverly Moran and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to accept the minutes of September 13, 2010, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No one was present.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Nothing was presented.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell stated that they will be registering for Youth Basketball at the Derby Veteran's Community Center from Oct 25th through the 29th. They will be coordinating again with Ansonia.

Pop Warner's season is almost done with only two more away games to play. The skate park will close by the end of the month. Soccer should be done in the next two weeks and Witek Park will be closed. Because of the stringent maintenance requirements on Witek Park costs for said work is mounting. Mr. O'Connell is watching the budget line item carefully.

Regarding maintenance issues, the budget is being monitored due to the unexpected expenses of the light pole repair at Ryan and the pumps at the Derby Veteran's Community Center. The pumps seem to be working adequately at the moment. Mr. Gruttadauria is working with Public Works director Ron Culmo to assess the long term effects and future maintenance needs. The Derby Veteran's Community Center is quite active with swim programs and gymnasium use is increasing as we move into the winter season sports as well as private rentals. Members again discussed how field overuse and maintenance issues could be better managed if the football field had an artificial turf surface. They all felt there would be great benefits and pondered pursuing the installation once again as a capital project. The field could support so many more games, maintenance could be less and playing conditions would be greatly improved through each of the seasons.

Zumba is very successful. The instructor has also started a program at Griffin Hospital. Discussions are ongoing as to ways to coordinate or compliment the two programs the instructor is currently teaching. One idea is to see if there is interest in a morning program.

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

Mr. Benanto mentioned about the new Little League bleachers and whether they could serve for visitor's bleachers for football home games. He noted that this year many of the valley rivalries were away games. Next year they will be home games and consideration should be given to exploring additional visitor seating for those visiting teams.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Moran noted a recent news article where a volunteer team from Home Depot performs community service by taking on projects and with funding from Home Depot performs maintenance and repairs on location buildings. She wondered if the Derby Veteran's Community Center could be a candidate as Mr. O'Connell has recently pointed out that the windows in the building are in serious need for replacement. Mr. O'Connell will explore this program.

Chairman Walsh noted that the Commodore Hull Road Race is almost sold out. Each year they increase the number of participants allowed in the race. The number is determined by looking at the maximum number that the event can support. Each year the volunteers and the participants make this a great success.

Motion made by Beverly Moran and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to adjourn the meeting 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.