

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, December 13, 2010 in the City Hall.

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

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

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

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Without objection, the agenda was accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made Nick Serednitsky and second by Red Clynch. Move to accept the minutes of November 8, 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 Youth Basketball is well underway. There is a shortage of coaches as the volunteer pool of parents has diminished. He has been filling in where necessary. There are 75 girls and 100 boys playing. The upper division boys program is playing games with Ansonia. The Ansonia girl teams are showing lower numbers so they are not playing with the Derby program this year. He noted the high school programs are showing a decline in participation in the school programs. There are no freshman teams. Overall, there seems to be a downturn in children participating in recreation throughout the region.

Mr. O'Connell noted that Ryan Field is certainly showing its wear. The number of games and practices has taken its toll. Mr. O'Connell did strongly discourage the use of the field for practices but many were held on the field. The Athletic Director was made aware of the conditions time and time again. The coaches do not appear to be listening to the concerns. Public Works has done as much maintenance as possible but it is likely that next year the field will start the season in a poorer condition and thus will end in even greater distress. Members were in agreement that the only true solution would be to have artificial turf installed.

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

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Meeting Calendar - 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 David Mikos. Move to adopt the following schedule of meetings for 2011:

January 10, 2011	February 14, 2011
March 14, 2011	April 11, 2011
May 09, 2011	June 13, 2011
July 11, 2011	August 08, 2011
September 12, 2011	October 11, 2011 (Tuesday)
November 14, 2011	December 12, 2011
January 09, 2012	

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

Chairman Walsh noted that his term and Beverly Moran's term on the Commission are expiring at the end of December. Ms. Moran has agreed to continue but Mr. Walsh indicated that professional demands on his time do not allow him to continue. He has enjoyed his tenure on the commission and he noted the many accomplishments. He highly commended Mr. O'Connell for his commitment to parks and recreation and he thanked all of the volunteers that have supported recreation over the years. Members expressed regret in his leaving and spoke highly for Mr. Walsh's years of service. He will be greatly missed.

Motion made by David Mikos and second by Red Clynch. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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