

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, March 12, 2012 in the City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

By roll call, members present: Andrew Cota, David Mikos, Nick Serednitsky, Beverly Moran, Red Clynh and Ronald Sill. James Benanto was excused.

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

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion made by Nick Serednitsky and second by Beverly Moran. Move to accept the agenda, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made Ronald Sill and second by David Mikos. Move to accept the minutes of February 13, 2012, 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 Youth Basketball is done. The program went very well. Mr. O'Connell is hopeful that next year there will be more volunteer coaching staff as the existing volunteers worked very hard to make the program a success.

Little League held their registration with approximately 120 signing up so far. There will be two major teams, three minor teams, three coach pitch teams and 3 T-ball teams. They will be playing regionally with Ansonia, Shelton and Beacon Falls. The regional play works well, making the play much more interesting.

The Fireman's Softball League is preparing for another season of Monday night games. The Valley Major Softball League will also be playing at Bradley School. A Girls U12 fast pitch softball team is also being scheduled. They will be playing with a travel league and if all goes well this could revive the girl's softball program.

Engineers will be inspecting the field house soon. Teams are using the building. The cracks were discovered in the shower area last year. This is not an area that the teams are using at this time.

Mr. O'Connell has contacted Musco Lighting, an outdoor sports facility lighting company who will be sending down a representative to assess the football field lighting. He will be seeking estimates for the football and softball field lighting.

Mr. O'Connell noted that the Board of Alderman still oversees Witek Park. Mr. O'Connell works closely with Mr. Hughes to coordinate with the contractor to perform maintenance duties. They also contemplate the level of play that would be favorable for managing the conditions of the field surfaces. Mr. O'Connell does prepare the scheduling for the facility. Currently, there is one men's adult soccer team playing on Sunday mornings. They play nine home games in the spring and have been playing in Derby for many years. The facility is utilized by the Youth Soccer in the spring and fall and the High School athletic program in the fall. Mr. O'Connell has been approached by other adult teams seeking to use the facility but play has not been authorized. Currently, there is a second team, with approximately 18 Derby residents on the team, desiring to play. Mr. O'Connell felt that they could also play on Sunday mornings and that the field could support the added use. Members questioned if the Bradley School soccer field was available for use. Mr. O'Connell indicated that the field is not being used as much and it needs work to bring it up to a playable field condition. Another issue is the number of goals that are available; he felt that another set is needed if this was used regularly. Being that the season is starting shortly, he anticipated that getting the field work done quickly was unreasonable, both in terms of making arrangements with Public Works and also for securing funding to perform the work and purchase goals. He felt that planning for next year was more acceptable. It was suggested to approach the Board of Alderman to see if they would be agreeable to adding play at Witek Park. It was thought that team rosters could be provided to demonstrate Derby participation and also insurance coverage for the league would have to be verified.

Members next discussed the Capital Budget. Last year, funding was received for the Ryan Field house roof and for the field groomer. Members looked at last year's requests that have not been funded as well as a number of new requests.

	Ryan Field Visitor		
1	Bleachers	\$47,000	New installation
2	Coon Hollow - Basketball & Tennis Courts	\$20,000	Resurface courts and consider replacing one tennis with a basketball court
3	Little League City Water line service installation	\$To be determined	A lateral was installed during the Middle School construction. This would be to extend it to the field house.
4	Jacuzzi/Whirlpool replacement	\$10,000	Unit is very popular and widely used by older members. 15 years old and requires increasing maintenance.
5	Press box renovations	\$To be determined	All aspects of the structure are beginning to fail.
6	Ryan Field Bleachers	\$62,000	Finish section to complete the overall project
	TOTAL	\$To be determined	

Mr. O'Connell noted that he continues to pursue Home Depot regarding the Press Box renovations. There is extensive deterioration throughout the structure. They often take on community projects soliciting volunteers from the community to work together on the projects completion. Members also suggested approaching Emmett O'Brien Technical School to see if they would have an interest in the project.

Members will review the list, prioritize the projects and present the projects to the Capital Planning Commission.

Mr. Clynch noted that it can get quite muddy around the football field house. He asked if asphalt would be installed. Also, the conditions by the scoreboard are also comprised due to weather. Mr. O'Connell will speak with Public Works for options. It was noted that millings from road work may be available.

Mr. Cota noted that the Witek Park sign has been painted. The sign should be back in place shortly.

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

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Nothing further was discussed.

Motion was made by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:01p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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