

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, May 14, 2012 in the City Hall.

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

By roll call, members present: Andrew Cota, David Mikos, James Benanto and Ronald Sill. Nick Serebnitsky, Beverly Moran and Red Clynych were 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 Ronald Sill and second by David Mikos. Move to accept the agenda, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made David Mikos and second by Ronald Sill. Move to accept the minutes of March 12, 2012, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No one from the public was present.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Mr. O'Connell indicated that a letter was sent to Mayor Staffieri from Post1562 Commander Tom Voytek of St. Michael's Post 1562 Catholic War Veterans (CWV). The CWV sponsors a basketball team from St. Mary's and the team does not have the facilities to hold a home game. He asked that they be provided gymnasium time at the Derby Veteran's Community Center as the Community Center is a facility dedicated to veterans. Mr. O'Connell noted that he has tried to work with St. Mary's in the past. They are seeking to use the facility in the evening as that is the time when their coaches are available. The evening time at the facility is prime time with many existing programs running for many years. Mr. O'Connell has been speaking with Arthur Gerckens, alderman and St. Mary's parent. Mr. O'Connell noted that many students from St. Mary's do participate in the City's programs. He also noted that it would be a great help if the Derby Middle School gymnasium was opened for City use. It is his understanding that the Middle School principal is not allowing use at this time, possibly because the school has not been officially accepted by the City from the construction company. Members suggested contacting the Board of Education to have a discussion on the use of the school's gymnasiums.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell reported that the spring programs are underway and going well. Little League is going well and the registration numbers did remain low. Girl's Softball has one team and they play at the Ryan Softball field.

The Summer Program will be at Bradley School for six weeks starting in July. They will be offering breakfast and lunch. The Derby Veteran's Community Center will also have the free lunch program and gymnasium time. Both have been very successful over the past few years.

Men's Basketball is playing at the picnic grove courts. Mr. O'Connell noted that the resurfacing of the courts is a capital project that is a high priority but funding has yet to be approved.

Mr. O'Connell is still trying to schedule the City Engineer to inspect the field house.

Mr. O'Connell noted that he continues to pursue Home Depot regarding the Press Box renovations. There has still been no commitment from them.

Men's Softball is going well. The Fireman's League plays at Bradley School on Monday nights.

There are now two men's adult soccer teams playing at Witek Park. There was some confusion on who was the second team but that has been clarified. The Youth soccer program uses it three nights a week.

Musco Lighting looked at the existing lighting at the Ryan Football field and submitted an estimate for replacement. The estimate is between \$180,000 and \$200,000. Mr. O'Connell is working with Sheila O'Malley to explore possible grant funding. It was noted that the existing lighting is an ongoing expense in the budget with bulb replacement costs and the annual cost of taking down/putting up of the pole to accommodate the change from football to baseball season. The new lighting will eliminate the pole that has to be moved annually and will provide better overall lighting conditions for the field. The new fixtures will offer better coverage as well as brighter conditions. The concern for the existing lighting poles structural condition has been the subject of discussion for quite some time. Members discussed the difficulties in playing with inadequate lighting and the way the lumens reduce as the bulbs age. It was also noted that the softball field lighting needs were discussed with Musco Lighting as that field currently has no lighting since the poles were removed after one came down due to age and deterioration.

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

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Nothing further was discussed.

Motion was made by James Benanto and second by Ronald Sill. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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