

# *Park and Recreation Commission*

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## **Minutes**

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, September 10, 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, James Benanto and Ronald Sill. Beverly Moran arrived at 7:15 pm. Red Clynch was excused.

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

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

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made James Benanto and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to accept the minutes of August 13, 2012, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC PORTION:**

No one from the public was present.

### **CORRESPONDENCES:**

Nothing was presented.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS:**

**Parks & Recreation Director's Report:** Mr. O'Connell reported that the fall season is underway. Witek Park is being used by High School soccer and the Youth Soccer. There is a parochial league on Friday afternoons. The Middle School is practicing and playing at the Amendola Complex at Bradley School. Pop Warner has already played two home games at Ryan Field. Men's softball has a league playing. The Edge of Derby has initiated a youth football team. Basketball registrations will be held soon.

Derby Veteran's Community Center held its yearly shut down over Labor Day weekend. Maintenance was done on the pool and the gymnasium floor. Partitions in the locker room were replaced. Mr. O'Connell is still working on the Jacuzzi replacement project.

The Middle School gymnasium use has been discussed and a schedule is being prepared. The Pop Warner cheerleaders are looking to use the facility. Mr. O'Connell would like the opportunity to hold possibly four games per week for the basketball leagues. He noted that St. Michaels St. Mary's parochial school is looking to develop a sports program and they are seeking to use the recreational facilities. The schedule for the current facilities is already overwhelmed and usage of the Middle School facility will greatly relieve the demand.

Mr. Mikos questioned whether the gymnasium at the old St. Michaels' school is available for use. Mr. O'Connell was uncertain but would explore its availability.

Mr. O'Connell is looking to establish travel leagues for the older basketball teams, both girls and boys teams. Arrangements are still in the planning stages.

Mr. O'Connell is still attempting to schedule the inspection of the Ryan Field underside of the roof. This is needed prior to performing any roofing work. He is coordinating with the City Engineer and school maintenance staff.

Minor repairs have been accomplished on the press box to make it useable for this season. Major work is still needed. Mr. O'Connell indicated that Home Depot has still expressed interest in the project but scheduling conflicts with their other projects has hampered their ability to accomplish it this year. He will continue to communicate with them and work up strategies for completing this task.

Regarding the football field lights, their functionality is significantly waning. There has been no further information regarding grant funding for their replacement. Even with the replacement of the bulbs a few years back, the lighting was marginal and as the bulbs are aging their efficiency is fading. Luminosity is probably at 50% of what it was when the bulbs were new. Derby's field is very dark in comparison to other school facilities. Mr. Orazetti indicated that the City may have to consider no night games next year.

Mr. O'Connell indicated that replacement of the bulbs is quite costly and would have to be considered for a capital expenditure. He also has other needs that would be capital expenditures. There is field maintenance equipment that is quite old. The need for visitor's bleachers has been on the list for years now. He did feel that the lighting was crucial. He will continue to pursue all avenues for funding but he stressed that sources are sparse.

**High School Athletic Director's Report:** Mr. Orazetti stated that the use of the Middle School gymnasium has been resolved. The City will have use Monday through Friday after school activities are done. The agreement does stipulate that there will be no food in the gymnasium and there will be no wandering outside of the gymnasium. Mr. O'Connell noted that the recreational programs will also be using Irving School. To keep the activities under control he will be hiring a monitor to oversee the behavior. This is calculated into the program costs and will be reflected in the registration fees. He will likely hire a monitor for the Middle School as well.

Mr. Orazetti is looking into changing the keysets at the field house next week.

**NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Mikos stated that this is his last meeting as he is resigning from the Commission as he has moved out of town. He will submit his resignation to the Mayor. He will remain involved in many youth programs throughout the valley. Members expressed their heartfelt appreciation for his many years of service to the commission and they look forward to continuing to see him through the programs.

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.*