

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, December 10, 2012 in the City Hall.

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

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

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

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 Ronald Sill and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to accept the minutes of November 13, 2012, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No one from the public was present.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Mr. O'Connell was contacted by Sarah Kelly of the Sky Hawks. They are an organization that runs youth sports camps for ages 3-14 and they have worked with other cities. He felt that the cost factor, usually \$100 per child, would be prohibitive for Derby but he would contact John Saccu to explore possible outside funding sources or grants. If funding could be found it could be advantageous to set aside a week of the summer program to hold the camp.

Mr. Cota asked if the 2013/14 budget request from the Board of Apportionment and Taxation had been received. Mr. O'Connell had not received anything yet but he is already formulating thoughts on the upcoming budget.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell reported that basketball season is coming together. He noted that the Pop Warner cheerleaders won their national championship. He stated that Little League is meeting with Ansonia to explore possible regionalization.

Mr. O'Connell has been working with Sheila O'Malley to secure a \$5,000 grant from Home Depot for the press box repairs. While this would not cover all the needed work it certainly would be a great boost for that effort.

Mr. O'Connell has been working with Sheila O'Malley and David Kopjanski to develop specifications for the football field house roof replacement. The holes were cut but the inspection has yet to be done. There have been no noticeable leaks. Members suggested to go forward with the bidding process and once awarded, have the contractor provide an inspection prior to the start of work.

Plans are moving forward to remove the tennis courts at Bradley School as no interest has been expressed.

Regarding the Derby Veteran's Community Center whirlpool, Mr. O'Connell has been continuing with maintaining the existing unit as a replacement has yet to be found that would fit into the current placement.

It was noted that the Youth Wrestling program has requested use of the Middle School gymnasium during the winter break. The program is administered by Mr. Jadach and has been playing at the High School. Mr. O'Connell will contact them to confirm their request.

Mr. Serednitsky questioned who would be overseeing Witek Park since Ken Hughes has resigned as alderman. Mr. O'Connell noted that there was specific maintenance stipulated by the Derby Inland Wetlands Agency at the time of their approval. Mr. Hughes saw that the maintenance applications were performed to those stipulations and Mr. O'Connell would have to explore what would have to be done to continue that level of oversight. Mr. Sill indicated that he would contact Mr. Hughes.

Mr. Sill will also approach the Mayor to fill the vacancy since Mr. Mikos resigned.

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

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Cota resurrected the comprehensive recreational study done in 1999. While there were minor inroads into the plan, much remains to be done. He indicated that the plan is still relevant to the city's needs. He noted the proposed changes and upgrades designed for the football complex at Ryan would speak to the discussions regarding everything from the lights to the condition of the field house. It would seem that replacing the sod with artificial turf would also improve the usage needs. Certainly all the work would be costly, something more than could be funded by the City, so there is a great need to receive funding through outside sources. Members discussed at length the benefits of changing to turf as it would reduce maintenance and fertilizer costs and would allow for a greater amount of use. As this is a multi-use field, baseball as well as football, the layout would have to be studied to solve that combined use. Mr. O'Connell noted that Stratford has built a turf field that does incorporate both uses. Members discussed whether the project could be accomplished in stages with the lighting being the highest priority. They strongly felt that this is an issue that must be pursued and decided to research costs and funding sources further and to continue the discussion next month.

Motion made by Red Clynych and second by Ron Sill. Move to approach State and Federal representatives for assistance in securing funding for the Ryan Football Complex. Motion carried unanimously.

Parks and Recreation Commission Calendar:

Motion made by Beverly Moran and second by James Benanto. Move to adopt the Park and Recreation Commission meeting schedule for the 2013 calendar year to be the second Monday of each month with the exception of October (Columbus Day) and November (Veteran's Day):

January 14, 2013	August 12, 2013
February 11, 2013	September 09, 2013
March 11, 2013	October 15, 2013 (Tuesday)
April 08, 2013	November 12, 2013 (Tuesday)
May 13, 2013	December 09, 2013
June 10, 2013	
July 08, 2013	January 13, 2014

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

Motion was made by James Benanto and second by Ronald Sill. Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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