

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, September 9, 2013 in the City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

By roll call, members present: Andrew Cota, Red Clynch, Ronald Sill, James Benanto, and John Monahan. Beverly Moran arrived at 7:10 p.m. Nick Serednitsky 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 Ron Sill and John Monahan. Move to accept the agenda, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made James Benanto and second by Red Clynch. Move to accept the August 12, 2013 minutes, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Laura Harris of 511 Roosevelt Drive and member of the Board of Education expressed appreciation to the Commission and to Mr. O'Connell for their successful efforts in obtaining funding for the football field lighting and visitor bleachers. They have been needed for many years and this will enliven the program and the pride and spirit of the players.

David Mikos, former member of the Parks and Recreation Commission stated that the newly enlarged basketball area at the picnic grove has been overwhelmingly successful. The summer league has nine teams with more than forty players playing each night. He and the league are very appreciative of the efforts made to expand the play area and make general improvements of the facility.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Nothing was presented.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell has been working with the various contractors to get the football field complex all set for the first game this week. He reported that the new lights will be used by the high school football teams, the Pop Warner teams and the senior night games played by the boys and the girls soccer teams. With the new lights and new visitor bleachers come secondary projects under the scope of the overall mission. Tree work was needed to accommodate the placement and effective illumination of the lights. Asphalt was placed under the new bleachers. With the electrical service needs of the new lighting system, the existing wiring connections to the scoreboard, press box, ticket booths and the bleacher emergency lights had to be rewired. The press box renovations are moving forward. The desire is to perform all necessary work within the complex and Mr. O'Connell is carefully watching the overall budget funding. The secondary work will be straining the existing funding resources.

In regards to the programs, Pop Warner is underway. They have accommodated the construction by loading their away games at the start of the season.

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

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Benanto noted that the football field conditions have deteriorated with each year of overuse. Currently much of the field is crabgrass. The members discussed what would be needed to address the playing conditions. It was noted that the field is being used constantly making it impossible for Public Works to do intensive remediation to the field. Members noted that Witek Park soccer fields are overseen by a professional service that may be able to offer some suggestions. Mr. Clynch indicated that in the past he was able to receive knowledgeable suggestions from local professionals who manage college and golf course facilities. Ideally, the surface needs to rest and be rejuvenated but that is not feasible. Members felt there should be further discussions on artificial turf or possibly re-sodding the field would be an option.

Motion made by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,

Karen Kemmesies

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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