

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, October 15, 2013 in the City Hall.

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

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

A moment of silence was observed for the passing of long time member Red Clynch. He will always be remembered for his decades of support and service for recreation in the City of Derby.

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

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion made by James Benanto and John Monahan. Move to accept the agenda, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made John Monahan and second by Beverly Moran. Move to accept the September 9, 2013 minutes, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Chris and Christine, local students, were present to observe the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Nothing was presented.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Members expressed pleasure with the new lights and other improvements at the football field. They also felt that the field conditions seemed much improved through the efforts of the Public Works staff.

Members discussed the outstanding capital projects. Mr. Cota indicated that the intent is to use the funding scheduled for the roof replacement of the field house for an engineering study on the renovation or replacement of the building. They are well aware of the generosity of the City for the recent improvements of the football field complex and the recently appropriated funding for the Little League field improvements. They discussed the possibility of artificial turf which would be a great benefit but they were also aware of the large expense to do the project. They discussed the field house in detail noting that the storage of field maintenance equipment and supplies are a great detriment and should be relocated. Any changes would present with the need for code and disability upgrades that could make renovation impractical. The cost of a new field house would have to be determined possibly through the planned study. Mr. O'Connell noted that the recent football field improvements resulted in incidental projects having to be accomplished. Emergency lighting for the bleachers are being done as well as the other work as noted last month. He is cautiously watching the budget and feels that there may be a need to present additional costs to the capital plan or the Board of Apportionment and Taxation for funding.

The Little League has received \$13,000 from the City for field improvements. They will be using said funds along with their own monies to install a sprinkler system and sodding of the field.

In regards to the programs, Pop Warner is underway. Their cheerleading squads will once again be going to the finals as they are doing very well in competitions. Basketball registration is scheduled for November. The girls will be playing with Ansonia in a combined travel league. Mr. O'Connell noted the need for volunteers and coaches for the program.

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

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Benanto questioned if there are any plans for the Onopiak property on Sodom Lane. He suggested that the area may be suitable for a community gardens area. Ms. Moran indicated that there are no plans at this time due to a lack of any available funding. There are restrictions as to the property's use. Mr. Moore was chair of a committee a few years back that was overseeing the property. He will be contacted to see if there is any progress.

Motion made by Beverly Moran and second by James Benanto. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 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.