

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, January 12, 2015 in the City Hall.

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

By roll call, members present: Andrew Cota, Beverly Moran, Ronald Sill, and Frank Rubino. James Benanto and John Monahan were excused.

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell was present and Athletic Director Martin Pascale was excused.

ELECTION OF A CHAIR:

Motion was made by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to nominate Andrew Cota as Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Motion carried with Mr. Cota abstaining.

No other nominations were received. The floor was closed. Members congratulated Mr. Cota and looked forward to his continuing efforts for recreation in the City.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion made by Beverly Moran and second by Frank Rubino. Move to accept the agenda, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made Ronald Sill and second by Frank Rubino. Move to accept the minutes of December 8, 2014, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No one was present and the public portion was closed.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Nothing was presented.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell reported that basketball season was well underway. There are five teams in the weekend league and they play games with Ansonia. The teams play at both Ansonia and Derby facilities allowing for more flexibility in scheduling and also pairing the players with compatible age, size and skill levels. This sharing of participants and resources seems to function very well for both communities.

Babe Ruth Baseball is now districtly connected with Shelton. They previously were associated with Ansonia but the new arrangement should function equally well.

Mr. O'Connell noted that the expense for the Witek Park repairs is totaling over \$5,000. He will be reviewing the overall budget to see if he can transfer funds for this expense. As it was unanticipated, this expenditure was not budgeted for and the Witek Park budget line item generally is fully expended with just the general yearly maintenance.

Another facility expense that is unexpected is the boiler at the Derby Veteran's Community Center. The problem is that the unit is not starting automatically. Mr. O'Connell and other staff have been going to the building every morning to get the unit started and then it is monitored throughout the day. He has had a contractor and YankeeGas at the building trying to diagnosis the problem but as of yet, there has been no resolve. The situation could become an emergency should the unit fail completely. The boiler services the whole building. Members suggested that Mr. O'Connell communicate in writing to the Mayor, the Board of Alderman and the Board of Apportionment and Taxation to advise them of this pending capital expenditure.

Budget discussions: Mr. O'Connell noted that budget time is approaching and he will be preparing a draft for the next meeting.

Mr. Cota and Ms. Moran offered to work with Mr. O'Connell on the preparation of the new budget.

High School Athletic Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell noted that Martin Pascale has undertaken additional duties at the High School with the recent changes in staffing and Mr. Orazetti will be covering temporarily until another director is appointed.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Nothing was presented.

Motion made by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 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.