

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Special meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 in the City Hall.

(NOTE: The meeting calendar filed with the Town Clerk stated that the November meeting would be held on November 12th. In observance of Veteran's Day, the meeting was changed to Tuesday.)

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

By roll call, members present: Andrew Cota, Beverly Moran, James Benanto and Ronald Sill. Nick Serednitsky and Red Clynch were 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 Beverly Moran and second by Ronald Sill. Move to accept the agenda, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to accept the minutes of September 10, 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 went well. Pop Warner is done with their regular season. Two cheerleading teams are headed for Florida to compete.

Youth Basketball registration is underway and the initial numbers are good. The new Girl's Basketball Travel League will have four teams networked with Ansonia and will be playing in the New Haven County League. The Boy's Travel League is also scheduled.

New basketball court rims are installed at the picnic grove tennis courts. The tennis nets have been removed and the surface has been patched. Plans are to do further surface improvements and painting of the basketball court in the spring. There has been little interest in tennis whereas the basketball court has seen an overflow of interest. The tennis courts at Bradley School have seen little use. In the spring it will be determined whether to improve the conditions or dismantle them.

Mr. O'Connell is still pursuing the inspection of the Ryan Field underside of the roof. The inspection holes have been accomplished with the help of the school maintenance staff. He intends to wait until the football season is over to schedule the inspection.

It was noted that the results from the city engineer regarding the football light fixtures have yet to be received. There was apparently some confusion over billing. Mr. O'Connell will continue to pursue the results.

Mr. O'Connell noted that with the recent severe storm there was no serious damage at the Ryan Complex. He contributes that to the previous tree trimming that had been done. He stated that Witek Park did not fare as well. Numerous branches fell on the trails and the sound of branches cracking can be heard as you walk through the Park. The soccer fields did not experience damage. Mr. Benanto commended the Public Works department personnel for doing a great job with the football field conditions.

Mr. O'Connell is working on the winter basketball schedule. They will be playing in Irving and Bradley Schools as well as the Derby Veteran's Community Center. He is also exploring the opportunity to schedule use at the Middle School.

Members discussed how there are many capital projects that have been needed for many years. The Ryan Complex has been struggling for more than a decade. The master plan prepared in the late 90's is still viable in terms of the needs and the design ideas. The Complex has old lighting on the football field that is becoming a safety hazard both structurally and functionally. The softball field lights were removed a few years ago because of age and deterioration. The field house has many needs. One currently being explored is the roof but there is also the persistent discussions regarding the public restrooms and the functionality of the overall space. The press box is in decrepit condition. The Derby Veteran's Community Center building has many structural problems as well. Minor work has been done to the building but much more is needed. It was decided that a list of needs be drafted for the next meeting. Consideration will be given at that time to pursuing grant funding for the projects.

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

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Nothing was presented.

Motion was made by Ronald Sill and second by James Benanto. Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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