

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Regular meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 2001 at City Hall. The meeting was held in the Aldermanic Chambers at C

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. By roll call, members present: John Walsh, Beverly Moran, Matt Cripps, Edward Handi. David Mikos arrived at 7:06 p.m. Al Felice was excused.

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell was present. Athletic Director Kenneth Marcucio was absent.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Without objection, the agenda was accepted, as presented.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No one was present and the public portion was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Karen Izzo and second by Matt Cripps. Move to accept the minutes of the meeting on Jul favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Nothing was presented.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell reported that there was miscommunication regarding Organization's request for use of the football field for their playoff games. They had scheduled November 8th which was the approved date given by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Mr. O'Connell offered November 7th and is reviewing its schedule to accommodate this alternative date.

Registration for Bidy Basketball, girls and boys, has started. The program will utilize the gymnasium at the Community Center four nights a week and Saturdays. The parochial league has approached the Center gymnasium. Mr. O'Connell is reviewing the schedule for available times on the weekends. The gymnasium is also being used by the adult basketball league to utilize the space for Sunday mornings.

Extensive work has been done at the field house to expand the coach's room and provide better supervisory rooms. The work should cost approximately \$3,000. It was noted again that the primary use of the building is for Pop Warner programs. Pop Warner utilizes this space only during their home games.

The Seymour Swim Club will be renting the Derby Veteran's Community Center pool as their facility is down for November.

Next, Mr. O'Connell reviewed the issue of the lights at the picnic grove requested by Pop Warner. Pop Warner Board of Alderman and received approval for additional lights for practice at the picnic grove. Upon coordination it was discovered that the proposed lights would replace the current Light the Night lights at the grove. The new lights are comparable to streetlights and were installed to provide safety and security of the area. The new lights would be on from dusk to dawn every day of the year. Concerns were expressed that these lights would be a nuisance to the Hawthorne Avenue neighborhood once the foliage had thinned and the cost would be an additional \$266 per year to the City. With these revelations, it was decided that the plan should be further reviewed. The Commission acknowledged the need for lights for practice use and Mr. O'Connell will be approaching the Neighborhood Committee to suggest an alternative.

Mr. O'Connell noted that the receivables from the Center are doing well. The fees from the Boy's Club, anticipated for the year budget, totaling \$13,500 have been received. Monthly revenue is in line with the anticipated revenues for the year.

The proposal for repairs in the Center has gone out to bid. Work will be commencing to replace the men's lavatory and needed lavatory upgrades.

Members noted that the LoCIP projects have yet to be started. The projects being the bathrooms at Amendola Field building at Ryan Field. It was suggested that the Neighborhood Committee be approached to explore the projects forward with the projects. Designs need to be developed and locations have to be determined. The bathrooms are being held while awaiting a decision for the overall recreational plan of fields. The storage building was requested so as to store Works field maintenance equipment and supplies currently stored in the field house. It was also suggested that the jurisdiction over the field house be explored. As primarily school programs use it, it may be better served to have and supervision provided by the Board of Education.

Purchase of soccer goals was discussed at a previous meeting. The High School soccer coach was exploring the vendor. As the school program as well as the recreation program use the goals it was suggested that a shared goal be explored. Dr. Gotowala has indicated that as this was not included in the budget request, the funding would not be available. Mr. O'Connell had safety concerns with the current goals and encouraged the purchase through the recreational

projects. Cost will be approximately \$600 for each goal and two will be purchased.

Athletic Director's Report: Mr. Marcucio was not present this evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Programs Committee – A meeting will be scheduled in November. Scheduling of clinics will be explored.

Facilities Committee – The Committee has been awaiting a focus of the City's overall plan. It was felt that the new fields remains crucial and members felt that forward moment was needed. They will explore proceeding independent proposal with focus on Witek Park as this appears to be the only city-owned parcel adequate and available.

Budget Committee – Next year's budget deliberations should commence in January.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Nothing was presented.

A motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by Matt Cripps. Move to adjourn this meeting at 7 favor. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Monday, November 12, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. If the Aldermanic Chambers are the Veteran's room will be requested.

Respectfully prepared,

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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