

Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, November 8, 2004 in the Veteran's Room of City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

By roll call, members present: John Walsh, Al Felice, Matt Cripps, Edward Handi, Karen Izzo and Beverly Mikos was excused.

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

additions or deletions to the agenda:

Without objection, the agenda was accepted as written.

approval of minutes:

A motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by Karen Izzo. Move to accept the minutes of the meeting.

12, 2004, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Public portion:

James Mastrony of 1010 Roosevelt Drive reported on the skate park. Registration is up to 225 with approval from the Board of Education. The park will be closing for the season on November 21st. It has been free to this point. Bikes are allowed on Saturdays from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mr. Mastrony does programming of events for the Shelton Parks & Recreation Commission. He indicated that contests and events are being planned to generate funds to purchase more ramps and equipment. He is looking into storage for maintenance equipment, lockers for the participants to use and possibly a ticket booth. He will help Derby with planning child and adult activities and trips and presented a proposal to the Director.

No one else came forward and public portion was closed.

Correspondences:

Nothing was presented.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

A.) Field maintenance proposal for Ryan football field: The Board of Apportionment and Taxation allocated funds for field maintenance. The Director will be seeking three quotes and will continue to pursue a bid waiver for the job due to cost sensitivity.

B.) Temporary repairs to Little League field: Ken Marcucio and Gary Haydu were present. Mr. Marcucio was reading the minutes of the previous meeting, that it was not their intent to express that they choose between a batting cage as an either/or situation. Rather, the league desired to accomplish both if funding was available. He indicated that work also is needed on the fencing. He was seeking assistance from the Commission to agree to contribute a portion of the cost of the cage (\$1,500).

Mr. Haydu indicated that holes were filled in the infield and sod was placed. The outfield will be split section and is awaiting delivery of the clay. The water line was replaced after receiving approval from the Board of Education. The Commission is currently seeking fencing quotes.

Members discussed the league's plans and measured the safety considerations and available funding. It was determined that a batting cage is not a permanent structure and it could be moved if the fields were relocated. All agreed that fence repairs are a priority. It was decided that the Little League would explore cost estimates for the fence repairs first and then return to the Commission. As it is early in the fiscal year, members felt it was impossible to dedicate time to the league. The league was encouraged to participate in the budget process bringing forward the program's needs for consideration in next year's budget proposal.

C.) Update on Public Works reorganization: The department is in the process of hiring. Public Works Director will be invited to the next meeting.

D.) Update on Neighborhood Committee request to have the Commission oversee the administration of Vinton Park: The Neighborhood Committee is still open to the Parks & Recreation Commission overseeing Witek Park and Vinton Park.

overseeing the Onopiak property.

This request ties into the Public Works reorganization. Members stressed that there will be essential duties and responsibilities. The reorganization will define staffing as well as which department would be charged with the duties. They felt strongly that the Recreation Department would have to be properly supported with adequate funding if the Commission is to undertake this additional responsibility.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell stated that Derby is splitting the fee with Shelton for the skateboard park through the end of the season. The cost being \$400 each.

Youth basketball registration is nearly complete with numbers in the mid 200's. The season starting time determined.

Pop Warner cheerleaders are advancing in the competitions, winning the State competitions. They are now in the Regionals.

The Saturday league will be starting December 4th. There are currently 10 to 12 teams. The sixth grade league is also being scheduled.

A new roof was installed on the pavilion at the Amendola complex.

Clay is being purchased for all the fields, including the Little League.

Athletic Director's Report: Mr. Orazetti was excused.

Leo DiSorbo and Dennis Devonshuk from the Board of Education were present to speak with the members about the needs. Chairman Walsh noted that the schools have no fields but rather utilize the recreational fields. He mentioned a referendum and the thought of including fields with the school project. This suggestion will be forwarded to the Committee Chair John Orazetti.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee – The budget is going well.

Programs Committee – The Commit

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

additions or deletions to the agenda:

Without objection, the agenda was accepted as written.

approval of minutes:

A motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by Karen Izzo. Move to accept the minutes of the meeting for October 12, 2004, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Public portion:

James Mastrony of 1010 Roosevelt Drive reported on the skate park. Registration is up to 225 with applications from Shelton. The park will be closing for the season on November 21st. It has been free to this point. It is open on Saturdays from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mr. Mastrony does programming of events for the Shelton Park Recreation. He indicated that contests and events are being planned to generate funds to purchase more equipment. They are looking into storage for maintenance equipment, lockers for the participants to use and a ticket booth. He offered to help Derby with planning child and adult activities and trips and presented a letter to the Director.

No one else came forward and public portion was closed.

Correspondences:

Nothing was presented.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

A.) Field maintenance proposal for Ryan football field: The Board of Apportionment and Taxation allocated the maintenance. The Director will be seeking three quotes and will continue to pursue a bid waiver for the time sensitivity.

B.) Temporary repairs to Little League field: Ken Marcucio and Gary Haydu were present. Mr. Marcucio, after reading the minutes of the previous meeting, stated that it was not their intent to express that they choose to repair the batting cage as an either/or situation. Rather, the league desired to accomplish both if funds were available. He noted that work also is needed on the fencing. He was seeking assistance from the Commission to contribute to the funding of a portion of the cage (\$1,500).

Mr. Haydu indicated that holes were filled in the infield and sod was placed. The outfield will be split and is awaiting delivery of the clay. The water line was replaced after receiving approval from the Board of Apportionment. The league is currently seeking fencing quotes.

Members discussed the league's plans and measured the safety considerations and available funding. It was noted that the batting cage is not a permanent structure and it could be moved if the fields were relocated. All agreed that it was a priority. It was decided that the Little League would explore cost estimates for the fence repairs first and return to the Commission. As it is early in the fiscal year, members felt it was impossible to do this time. The league was encouraged to participate in the budget process bringing forward the program for consideration in next year's budget proposal.

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Parker will be invited to the next meeting.

D.) Update on Neighborhood Committee request to have the Commission oversee the administration of Neighborhood Committee is still open to the Parks & Recreation Commission overseeing Witek Park and suggested overseeing the Onopiak property.

This request ties into the Public Works reorganization. Members stressed that there will be essential due to these properties. The reorganization will define staffing as well as which department would be charged with maintenance. They felt strongly that the Recreation Department would have to be properly supported with Public Works staffing if the Commission is to undertake this additional responsibility.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell stated that Derby is splitting the fee with Shelburne for the operation of the skateboard park through the end of the season. The cost being \$400 each.

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Pop Warner cheerleaders are advancing in the competitions, winning the State competitions. They are moving on to the Regionals.

The Saturday league will be starting December 4th. There are currently 10 to 12 teams. The sixth grade Sunday's is also being scheduled.

A new roof was installed on the pavilion at the Amendola complex.

Clay is being purchased for all the fields, including the Little League.

Athletic Director's Report: Mr. Orazetti was excused.

Leo DiSorbo and Dennis Devonshuk from the Board of Education were present to speak with the members regarding athletic needs. Chairman Walsh noted that the schools have no fields but rather utilize the recreational fields. They discussed the referendum and the thought of including fields with the school project. This suggestion was passed on to the Building Committee Chair John Orazetti.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee – The budget is going well.

Programs Committee – The Committee has not met.

Facilities Committee –The soccer fields at Witek Park are nearly complete and the facility looks very available on the Derby website. A walk-thru is scheduled for Saturday.

Chairman Walsh indicated that bids on the Greenway were opened and found to be higher than expected. Specifications are being reviewed to see if the project can be recalculated to bring it in-line with the available budget.

The Commodore Hull Road Race is scheduled for Thanksgiving.

Mr. Felice suggested that the Committee tour the facilities and determine the crucial needs so as to formulate a long term plan of maintenance.

It was noted that the parking within the gate during a game last week at Ryan Complex was excessive. This issue will be relayed to the Athletic Director.

A motion was made by Edward Handi and second by Al Felice. Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting will be Monday, December 13, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at Aldermanic Chambers are unavailable then the Veteran's room will be requested.

Respectfully prepared,

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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