

Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes
(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, November 14, 2005 in the Aldermanic Chambers of the Old City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

By roll call, members present: John Walsh, David Mikos, Al Felice, Beverly Moran and Karen Izzo. Jam at 7:12 p.m. Matt Cripps was excused.

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell was present. Athletic Director Joseph Oratzetti arrived a

additions or deletions to the agenda:

Without objection, the agenda was accepted as written.

approval of minutes:

A motion was made by David Mikos and second by Al Felice. Move to accept the minutes of October 11 Motion carried unanimously.

Public portion:

No public was present at this time.

Correspondences:

Nothing was presented. Mr. O'Connell indicated that a report on the skate park is forthcoming.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

A.) Update on the Greenway: Two sections of the bridge have been delivered. Completion of the bridge in spring as concrete work is needed and weather conditions will not permit the work during the cold month working on signage and markings on the trail. The Safety Committee is working on creating the colored : that in an emergency, a person can identify their approximate location by the color zone they are in at the greenway has been incredible.

B. & C.) Update on Neighborhood Committee request to have the Commission oversee the administration of the Onopiak property and Update on Public Works reorganization: With the recent election, these matters further discussion with the new administration. The Commission will express their concerns for ongoing for the facilities that must be addressed in a timely fashion and the function of Public Works in accomplis

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell reported that basketball registration is complete registrants. They will be playing at Irving, Bradley and the Derby Veteran's Community Center. The Sat Derby Veteran's Community Center has fourteen teams.

The Ryan Field Complex football visitors' bleachers were inspected and subsequently removed. Portable borrowing from other locations are being explored for the Thanksgiving Day game.

Pop Warner has finished their regular season. Two cheerleading teams have won the State competitions : to the regionals.

The 4th Annual Thanksgiving Day Road Race will be held in the morning and registration is very good. I thanked the police and fire departments for their assistance in this endeavor. Last year the Boy's and Girl approximately \$6,000 from the proceeds.

At the Derby/Wilbur Cross football game, a New Haven resident fell on the bleachers. A report is on file Education. The bleachers were inspected by Public Works and maintained as necessary.

The Athletic Director received a request from Woodland (Beacon Falls) football to hold a tournament game (neutral field). Members briefly discussed this request voicing concern with the bleacher situation, the fact that Derby is not associated with the NVL league and whether this was a request that should be before Alderman. The matter will be further discussed upon the arrival of the Athletic Director.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee – Mr. O'Connell indicated that the budget would be tight as everything seems to be year. He will be monitoring the situation.

Mr. Benanto noted that Seymour recently installed turf on the football field with financing through a Stat noted that the city used Small Cities Grant funding. It was suggested that Derby explore any possible ave their capital projects.

Members discussed the long-term needs for the recreational programs. The soccer fields will be in use in will offer some relief to the field use but the other programs' needs must also be explored. It was noted th considers plans for a new Middle School, fields should be part of the request as the City has the opportun reimbursement from the State for the construction. They noted that many towns are now going to artificia This proposal was discouraged a few years ago because of the cost, but it was felt that the City should rev increased amount of usage the new surface could support would equate to having another field.

Programs Committee – The Committee met November 7th. Many of the program directors were present indicated that they are searching for a location, possibly at the High School gym. Members questioned w School students could participate or would it be a conflict with CIAC rules. This will be explored with the wrestling coach. Pop Warner is exploring the cost for the installation of the lights at the picnic grove. Little getting prices for fencing. Little League expressed concern that the upstairs of the Little League field hou maintained. This will be brought to the attention of the custodian.

All of the programs were asked to begin looking at their 2006-2007 budget requests so the information can February, when the Commission will begin to prepare the Recreational budget.

First Aid and CPR course offerings were discussed and there was interest so the Committee will explore courses.

There is a possibility that an Indian on horseback may ride down the trail from the High School parking lot.

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written. Motion carried unanimously.

Public portion:

No public was present at this time.

Correspondences:

Nothing was presented. Mr. O'Connell indicated that a report on the skate park is forthcoming.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

A.) Update on the Greenway: Two sections of the bridge have been delivered. Completion of the bridge is anticipated in early May. The contractor has indicated that concrete work is needed and weather conditions will not permit the work during the cold months. The contractor is working on signage and markings on the trail. The Safety Committee is working on creating color-coded zones of the trail so that in an emergency, a person can identify their approximate location by the color of the zone they are in at the time. The usage of the greenway has been incredible.

B. & C.) Update on Neighborhood Committee request to have the Commission oversee the administration of the Onopiak property and Update on Public Works reorganization: With the recent election, these items were tabled for further discussion with the new administration. The Commission will express their concerns regarding maintenance needs for the facilities that must be addressed in a timely fashion and the function of Public Works in accomplishing this task.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell reported that basketball registration is complete. There are approximately 150 registrants. They will be playing at Irving, Bradley and the Derby Veteran's Community Center. The Senior Center has 12 teams and the Derby Veteran's Community Center has fourteen teams.

The Ryan Field Complex football visitors' bleachers were inspected and subsequently removed. Portable bleachers are being borrowed from other locations are being explored for the Thanksgiving Day game.

Pop Warner has finished their regular season. Two cheerleading teams have won the State competition and are advancing to the regionals.

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Finance Committee – Mr. O'Connell indicated that the budget would be tight as everything seems to be this year. He will be monitoring the situation.

Mr. Benanto noted that Seymour recently installed turf on the football field with financing through a State grant. He noted that the city used Small Cities Grant funding. It was suggested that Derby explore any possible alternatives for their capital projects.

Members discussed the long-term needs for the recreational programs. The soccer fields will be in use; this will offer some relief to the field use but the other programs' needs must also be explored. It was noted that the City considers plans for a new Middle School, fields should be part of the request as the City has the option of partial reimbursement from the State for the construction. They noted that many towns are now going to the fields. This proposal was discouraged a few years ago because of the cost, but it was felt that the City should consider the idea as the increased amount of usage the new surface could support would equate to having another field.

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All of the programs were asked to begin looking at their 2006-2007 budget requests so the information will be available by February, when the Commission will begin to prepare the Recreational budget.

First Aid and CPR course offerings were discussed and there was interest so the Committee will explore offering these courses.

There is a possibility that an Indian on horseback may ride down the trail from the High School parking lot on the sideline at the game, as per a previous tradition. The Athletic Director is exploring whether this is allowed.

Facilities Committee – Parents are very pleased with the improved conditions of the Ryan Field field house.

OSHA inspected the Derby Veteran's Community Center and noted minor violations needing to be addressed. Mayor's assistant is handling the matter.

At Witek Park, the fields are in good condition. The City Engineer is exploring the drainage along the fields as the drainage system that was installed is not functioning as per the design.

Mr. Benanto noted that the outdoor lights at the fields lose their brightness as they age. The City's current practice is to replace the unit when it burns out. He suggested that the units be inspected to see if they are aged and provide more than the needed lumens. An ongoing schedule could then be developed to coincide with the budget.

Athletic Director's Report: Mr. Orazetti arrived. The Woodland request was revisited. Members restated their concerns.

A motion was made by David Mikos and second by Karen Izzo. Move to allow Woodland football to use the Complex football field on Thursday, November 17th with the understanding that the Athletic Director and the Director will use best judgment to determine the field conditions and the ability to play and further that the cost will be paid by Woodland (i.e. police, public works, ambulance) with the understanding that Woodland will retain gate proceeds and further if a postponement is necessary, the game must be played by Saturday or the game will be withdrawn.

Vote on the motion. Chairman Walsh, Beverly Moran and James Benanto were opposed, the motion did not pass.

Motion was made by Karen Izzo and second by Beverly Moran. Move to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. carried unanimously.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting will be Monday, December 12, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall, 35 Fifth Street. If the Aldermanic Chambers are unavailable then the Veteran's room will be requested.

Respectfully prepared,

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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