

Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, December 12, 2005 in the Veteran's Room of the Old City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

By roll call, members present: John Walsh, David Mikos, Al Felice, Matt Cripps, Karen Izzo and James J Moran was excused.

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

additions or deletions to the agenda:

Without objection, the agenda was accepted as written.

approval of minutes:

A motion was made by Karen Izzo and second by David Mikos. Move to accept the minutes of November written. Motion carried unanimously.

Public portion:

No public came forward at this time.

Correspondences:

Nothing was presented.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

A.) Meeting Schedule for 2006: Members felt that the second Monday schedule was agreeable. The local plans are to have the Board of Education central offices move into the old City Hall.

A motion was made by Al Felice and second by James Benanto. Move to adopt the Park and Recreation meeting schedule for the 2006 calendar year to be the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with the October, which would be scheduled for Tuesday, October 10th to be held at the old City Hall. Motion carried.

B.) Update on the Greenway: The bridges are in place. Completion of the bridge is delayed until the spring is needed and weather conditions will not permit the work during the cold months. The contractor is working markings on the trail. The Safety Committee is working on creating the colored zones of the trail so that a person can identify their approximate location by the color zone they are in at the time. The extensive use continues even with the colder weather. Public Works is doing a good job in clearing the path so usage can previous administration planned on appointing a committee to support the greenway and the Commissioner new administration. Chairman Walsh noted that the City has received grant funding to pursue extending the Orange town line.

C.) Update on Neighborhood Committee request to have the Commission oversee the administration of V Onopiak property and Update on Public Works reorganization: The matter will be removed from the agenda further direction from the new Board of Alderman.

Updating the progress at Witek Park, the City Engineer met with the irrigation contractor and a leak was explained the wet condition at the southwest portion of the field. This will be repaired in the spring and shrubs will be planted on the slope. The sprinkler system has been drained for the winter. Drainage at the toe of the slope continues. Plans are to place stone gravel to allow better percolation of the water into the ground. The contractor will compact the soil to prevent compaction occurred during construction, which would have an effect on the ability to drain properly.

D.) Public Works reorganization: The new Public Works director has yet to be appointed. It is understood employees may be trained in turf management to satisfy the Derby Inland Wetlands Agency stipulation if the City Engineer is looking at private contractors for this work. Another stipulation was a study of the parks done by the Mayor's assistant Mr. Lutz. There was no information on its progress. Mr. O'Connell will be Mayor Staffieri to discuss the Parks & Recreation needs.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell was excused. It was noted that the Junior Midge

took fifth in the nationals and the Midgets took eleventh.

High School Athletic Director's Report: Mr. Orazetti was excused. Chairman Walsh noted that Charles dedicated on the Tuesday prior to the Thanksgiving football game.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee – Nothing was reported.

Programs Committee – The Committee did not meet. Ms. Izzo attended an abuse and abduction program discussed requirements of mandatory reporters and the legislature exploration whether recreational instru included. This matter will be monitored and instructional program will be considered if the law is implem noted a coach's clinic for basketball was recently held. The clinic reviewed changes in the regulations.

The Commission suggested having program directors attend future meetings to discuss their program anc Members noted the trend towards regionalization of programs and the out-of-town participants that comp programs to satisfied their membership needs. This will be discussed with the program directors.

Facilities Committee – The Booster Club asked whether the water has been shut off at the field house. T forwarded to Mr. O'Connell. Members questioned the status of the replacement of the visitor's bleachers. are used primarily for High School athletic use, the Commission will be looking at the relationship betwe Education and the Parks & Recreation and the matter will be further discussed during budget preparation

Ms. Izzo indicated that Little League is wondering if they will be moving to a different facility once the s Witek Park. It was noted that the Planning Committee appointed by the previous mayor is in limbo. May speak to St. Jude's Church regarding their adjoining property but no further information was available. T raised with the new administration. The previous ad

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A motion was made by Al Felice and second by James Benanto. Move to adopt the Park and Recreation meeting schedule for the 2006 calendar year to be the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with October, which would be scheduled for Tuesday, October 10th to be held at the old City Hall. Motion carried unanimously.

B.) Update on the Greenway: The bridges are in place. Completion of the bridge is delayed until the spring work is needed and weather conditions will not permit the work during the cold months. The contractor is placing signage and markings on the trail. The Safety Committee is working on creating the colored zones of the trail so that in an emergency, a person can identify their approximate location by the color zone they are in at the time. The usage of the greenway continues even with the colder weather. Public Works is doing a good job in clearing snow from the trail. The usage can continue. The previous administration planned on appointing a committee to support the greenway. The new administration will speak to the new administration. Chairman Walsh noted that the City has received grants to pursue extending the greenway to the Orange town line.

C.) Update on Neighborhood Committee request to have the Commission oversee the administration of the Onopiak property and Update on Public Works reorganization: The matter will be removed from the agenda and await further direction from the new Board of Alderman.

Updating the progress at Witek Park, the City Engineer met with the irrigation contractor and a leak was found. This explains the wet condition at the southwest portion of the field. This will be repaired in the spring and should not affect the use of the field. The sprinkler system has been drained for the winter. Drainage at the toe of the slope continues to be an issue. Plans are to place stone gravel to allow better percolation of the water into the ground. The contractor is investigating whether compaction occurred during construction, which would have an effect on the ability to drain properly.

D.) Public Works reorganization: The new Public Works director has yet to be appointed. It is understood that the new Public Works employees may be trained in turf management to satisfy the Derby Inland Wetlands Agency stipulation. The City Engineer and the City Engineer is looking at private contractors for this work. Another stipulation was that the new Public Works director would oversee the drainage work at Witek Park that was being done by the Mayor's assistant Mr. Lutz. There was no information on its progress.

will be meeting with Mayor Staffieri to discuss the Parks & Recreation needs.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

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Facilities Committee – The Booster Club asked whether the water has been shut off at the field house forwarded to Mr. O'Connell. Members questioned the status of the replacement of the visitor's bleachers. The bleachers are used primarily for High School athletic use, the Commission will be looking at the relative position of the bleachers to the Board of Education and the Parks & Recreation and the matter will be further discussed during budget hearings.

Ms. Izzo indicated that Little League is wondering if they will be moving to a different facility once the Witek Park. It was noted that the Planning Committee appointed by the previous mayor is in limbo. Ms. Izzo was to speak to St. Jude's Church regarding their adjoining property but no further information was available. The matter will be raised with the new administration. The previous administration had also begun exploring the possibility of moving the Little League to the Derby Veteran's Community Center. This also will be discussed with the new mayor.

Motion was made by Matt Cripps and second by Karen Izzo. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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