

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, June 13, 2011 in the City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

By roll call, members present: Andrew Cota, Nick Serednitsky, Beverly Moran and Red Clynch. David Mikos, James Benanto and Ronald Sill were excused.

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

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion made by Beverly Moran and second by Red Clynch. Move to add to the agenda the cancellation of the July meeting and accept the agenda, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Red Clynch and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to accept the minutes of May 9, 2011, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No one from the public was present.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Mr. O'Connell presented a request from the High School girl's soccer to run a clinic at Witek Park from June 27th through July 1st. He indicated that he has forwarded the request to the Board of Alderman who have jurisdiction over the use of the park.

Mr. O'Connell distributed the registration form for the Playground Summer Camp Program. The program will run from July 5th through August 12th. He noted that the free lunch program has been extended to the Bradley School program as well as the program at the Derby Veteran's Community Center. The Summer Camp program will have a director and four counselors and he will utilize one of the Derby Veteran's Community Center staff to distribute the food at Bradley. Registration will be held on the first day of the program.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Discussion with the Little League program: Mr. Ken Marcucio was present to answer any questions from the commission. He indicated that the Little League program is playing the playoffs now and will be moving into the All-Stars play. The program plays with Beacon Falls, Ansonia and Shelton and this collaboration has worked well. Currently, the program has two major league teams, three minor league teams, three T-Ball teams and three coach pitch teams totally approximately 126 players. Registration is \$75 and the player gets a discount card that he/she can sell or use. The card provides discounts totaling \$10 at local businesses. Late registration costs an additional \$10. The League has always given a discounted rate if a hardship is demonstrated and also gives a discount rate for multiple players within a family. Mr. Marcucio indicated that the numbers are down in the program but this is consistent with numbers in other towns. The registration fee is comparable with other towns and he did not feel that the lower numbers is a reflection of the fee rate. He noted that the City does assist in the maintenance of the

field house. Pop Warner and Little League each contribute \$300 per month from their budgets to cover the utilities costs at the field house.

Members discussed the program. They noted that they had heard that the registration fees were much higher than what was stated this evening. Members were troubled by the reduction in the number of participants and wondered if anything could be done to spark interest. It was suggested that a survey be distributed in the schools to try to better understand the lack of participation. Possibly, clinics could be organized so as to draw more interest.

Mr. O'Connell noted that the Babe Ruth program will not be going forward due to lack of participation. He pursued players to no avail. The climate for sports seems to have shifted. Many players now focus on one sport and will pursue that interest privately. Also, children do not seem to be coming out as much as in the past. Concern was voiced as to how this lack of participation in the recreational sports by the youth now will effect the High School programs in the near future. Generally, the recreation programs serve as feeder programs into the High School, teaching the basic skills and techniques.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell reported that the new equipment is in at the Derby Veteran's Community Center. There are now five stations of equipment. The old equipment was removed and it was determined that the equipment should be discarded rather than bringing it up to the High School. Concern was as to the integrity of the old equipment and for safety the decision was made not to continue to use it. Everything else is going well. Mr. O'Connell is working on end of year budgetary matters and will be making the necessary transfers within the budget. He did not foresee any difficulties.

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

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Motion made by Beverly Moran and second by Red Clynch. Move to cancel the July meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission unless urgent matters arise that would require timely action. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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