

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, August 10, 2015 in City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

By roll call, members present: Andrew Cota, John Monahan, James Benanto, Ronald Sill, Frank Rubino and James Butler Sr. Beverly Moran was excused

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

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion made by Ronald Sill and second by James Benanto. Move to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made James Butler Sr. and second by Ronald Sill. Move to accept the minutes of June 8, 2015, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No one was present.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Nothing was presented.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell reported that the summer program will be ending on August 14th. There were approximately 100 children utilizing Bradley School although numbers fluctuated dependent upon the weather. They will have taken a total of three trips during the program.

Pop Warner has started. The numbers for the cheerleading program are strong. The football program will likely not have a Jr. midget team as the number of players in the league is down. Due to new league roles regarding play time, the High School program may be restructuring their playing teams. They may be going with a freshman team and varsity team while eliminating the JV team. If that happens it can also affect the numbers in Pop Warner.

The Men's Basketball League at the Picnic Grove went very well.

Mr. O'Connell was approached by a gentleman exploring whether there would be an interest in starting a co-ed Lacrosse program. It was just in the planning stages and would likely be an instructional type program to start. Members discussed this in detail noting the number of issues that should be considered. First, insurance would be key and Mr. O'Connell will speak to the City's insurance carrier. Second, would be the cost of equipment and set up. The gentleman had stated that he may be able to acquire some used equipment and while that may be fine, members questioned if used equipment would raise liability concerns. Members wondered who the program would play with and could this become a regional league. Members felt that more information and more exploration by the party seeking this request was needed before there could be a thoughtful discussion. Another consideration would be how

this would work into an already overwhelmed field schedule and how this would impact player numbers in other programs.

High School Athletic Director's Report: No one was present. Mr. O'Connell will be speaking to the school regarding scheduling of the fall programs.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. O'Connell indicated that he has heard nothing further on the field request. It is his understanding that the State Bonding Commission has not yet discussed the allocation. Members expressed concern as to how the process has been undertaken. While most certainly they strongly support the idea of the artificial turf, they felt that the Parks and Recreation Commission was omitted from the process and that the discussions on relocation were premature. They are hopeful that moving forward, the conversations will be inclusive and that the original field study done in the 90's should once again be reviewed as that study had presented the idea of a turf field as well as how to deal with the baseball field.

Motion by Ronald Sill and second by John Monahan. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,

Karen Kemmesies

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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