

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, July 9, 2007 in the New City Hall.

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

By roll call, members present: John Walsh, David Mikos, Nick Serednitsky, James Benanto and Andrew Cota. Al Felice and Beverly Moran were excused.

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell was present. 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 David Mikos and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to accept the minutes of June 11, 2007, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No one came forward.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Mr. O'Connell submitted the Skate Park Report (on file) from the Valley YMCA. Data was incomplete as of June 15th for the breakdown by town. The report stated the following:

- Resident season passes = 10
- Non-resident season passes = 0
- Resident daily pass = 10
- Non-resident daily pass = 2

Contributions from Shelton and Derby as well as registration revenue support the program. Historically, interest in skateboarding comes and goes and it appears by the numbers that the interest at this time is low. The two cities and the YMCA will be studying whether it is realistic to continue funding and whether the YMCA will desire to continue the supervision. It was noted that Seymour recently opened their park.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell reported that the summer program registered fifty-five (55) participants as of today. The program is being run at the picnic grove. The lunch program is delivering lunches to the picnic grove as well as serving at the Derby Veteran's Community Center. He has been searching for a carpenter to do some necessary work and thought he had found someone but that did not materialize so he will continue to pursue the needed services. He had hoped to have the work done prior to the end of the fiscal year in order to use the remaining funds available. Now, he will have to look at the 2007-2008 budget funding to see where funds are available for this work.

In regards to the football bleachers, \$25,000 is in place for their replacement. The City Engineer has advised Mr. O'Connell that the Fire Marshall is requiring railings and an emergency lighting system be installed in conjunction with this work. Members understood the purpose of the lighting with the field being used for night games but did not understand the need for the railings. Mr. O'Connell noted that the

Building Official did accept the project without railings citing the fact that the issue is grandfathered in the use. The project consists of the replacement of the seating from wood to aluminum but the base structure is existing and it was questioned whether this would effect the requirements being that it could be perceived as a repair rather than a replacement. Members were uncertain whether the available funding could be used for purposes other than what was requested in the proposal, would the Capital Planning Commission allow said funding to be used for the lighting. They questioned whether this is because of the night games and if so, would a possible solution be that the Board of Education would have to consider having the athletic games held during daylight hours. It was decided that a written report would be requested from the Fire Marshall and then the Capital Planning Commission would be approached to see how to go forward on this matter.

Motion was made by David Mikos and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to contact the Capital Planning Commission to determine how to proceed with the replacement of the Ryan Field football bleachers in regards to the issue of emergency lighting and railings and also to have the Fire Marshall report his findings to be included in said discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. O'Connell indicated that Little League and Babe Ruth are wrapping up their seasons.

The increase in the daily swim fees has had a positive effect. The swim sessions with the lifeguards are going very well.

Witek Park is closed. Sections where the goals are situated are being resodded. Mr. O'Connell will continue to encourage repositioning of the goals periodically with the programs so as to lessen the focused use on the fields.

High School Athletic Director's Report: Mr. Orazetti was absent. It was noted that the Board of Alderman approved the use of Witek Park for the Middle School soccer program.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Nothing was presented.

Motion was made by Andrew Cota and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,
Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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