

# *Park and Recreation Commission*

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## **Minutes**

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, June 10, 2013 in the City Hall.

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

By roll call, members present: Andrew Cota, Beverly Moran, Red Clynych, Ronald Sill, James Benanto, Nick Serednitsky and John Monahan.

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

### **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Motion made by Beverly Moran and second by Nick Serednitsky. Move to accept the agenda, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion made Ron Sill and second by John Monahan. Move to accept the May 13, 2013 minutes, 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 reviewed the football fielding lighting system replacement estimate from Musco Lighting dated May 2012. The proposal would be to install a four (4) fixture light structure green system. The current layout is with eight (8) poles of which one has to be removed each spring season to accommodate baseball and then re-installed in the fall for football. The new system would reduce the life-cycle operating costs by 50% or more compared to the existing technology for the same light levels. There would be 50% less spill light to the adjoining properties. The company provides a comprehensive product assurance and warranty program that would cover 100% of the maintenance costs, including parts and labor for the next 25 years. It guarantees light levels, group re-lamp replacement, system monitoring, spot maintenance and on/off control services. The projected estimate in 2012 was between \$180,000 and \$200,000.

Mr. Sill indicated that this Commission had recommended to the Board of Alderman to go out to referendum for the cost of this project along with additional costs for bleachers. Subsequent to that recommendation, he has spoken with the City Treasurer who suggested that a possible alternative to referendum would be to pursue funding through a lease purchase program. With interest rates so low, this could be an opportune time to explore said funding. The treasurer has requested that the total cost be tallied for the projects so as to have a clear and accurate figure of the needed funding.

Members discussed the project. The existing system is deteriorating and is at the end of its useful life. Bulbs were replaced as a temporary fix but they too have lost their effectiveness. The estimate shows significant cost savings. Yearly pole removal and reinstallation currently costs more than \$1,000

annually. The electricity expense is projected to be reduced by half. Bulb replacement cost thousands of dollars. With all that and more, the new system would likely recover more than half of the expense through savings. It was estimated that it would likely take two months to install and that would require no use of the field during that time. Members felt a bid waiver from the Board of Alderman could be explored being that the only opportune time to do the project is in the summer between baseball and football season. Another option would be to review the State Bidding list to see if they are a qualified vendor at which time there would be no need for bidding. Members questioned whether the estimate included the removal of the current fixtures and whether the new system would provide sufficient illumination for the bleachers. They sought further clarity on the warranty program and what it fully entailed (does it include bulb replacement, etc.). Next, Mr. O'Connell reviewed bleacher costs. A free-standing elevated unit with 284 seats plus 5 handicapped seats would likely cost \$48,100 per a vendor cut sheet. That cost does not include shipping, handling or installation and a handicapped ramp would also have to be installed. Mr. O'Connell estimated the additional expense to be in the range of \$30,000. Members questioned whether the bleachers have the necessary railings and lighting as was required on the home-side bleachers.

Members encouraged Mr. O'Connell to review the state bidding list and to explore any safety or ADA requirements so as to prepare a comprehensive cost analysis for the projects and to meet with the City Treasurer to discuss possible funding sources.

Mr. O'Connell reported that the spring programs are going very well. Field maintenance has been very good. In reviewing the budget, he will be requesting department transfers as is customary at the end of the year but he did not anticipate any overages. He has yet to meet with Ken Hughes regarding the Witek Park maintenance.

Members noted the capital projects as detailed in the minutes. They questioned whether a determination was made on gas or diesel for the cutting machine. It was noted that the gas is cheaper and likely easier to maintain whereas, the Public Works has suggested that the diesel is heavier and better suited for performing on the sloping areas that are to be cutting with the machine. On another capital project, Mr. O'Connell noted that funding was allocated for the Jacuzzi replacement but upon exploring the project he is finding that substantial ADA modifications may be necessary if a new unit was to be purchased and installed. Possibly, due to the existing building's limitations a waiver could be sought from the State for the ADA modifications but it seems more reasonable at this time to continue to maintain the existing equipment.

Regarding the new basketball courts at the picnic grove area, work is scheduled to be done on or before July 1<sup>st</sup>. At Bradley School, they are in the process of removing the tennis courts and returning that spot to a grassy area.

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

**NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Clynch noted that during the bleacher installation, plans are to asphalt under them. He suggested at that time to also asphalt over by the field house as it gets very muddy. Mr. O'Connell noted that the roof leaders flow into that area exacerbating the conditions.

Mr. Serednitsky questioned if anything could be done with the sidewalks along Chatfield Street. The track team uses the circuit around the school, onto Chatfield Street, onto Coon Hollow Road and Hawthorne Avenue for practice. Game attendees for Ryan Field Complex use them as well. He felt their current condition was quite dangerous. Mr. O'Connell noted that he has also tried to make improvements for the walkway by the picnic grove to the field but budget restrictions limited its progress.

Motion made by Ronald Sill and second by James Benanto. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 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.*