

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, January 13, 2014 in the City Hall.

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

By roll call, members present: Andrew Cota, Beverly Moran, Ronald Sill, John Monahan and Frank Rubino. Nick Serednitsky and James Benanto were excused.

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

ELECTION OF A CHAIR:

Motion was made by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to nominate Andrew Cota as Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Motion carried with Mr. Cota abstaining.

No other nominations were received. The floor was closed. Members congratulated Mr. Cota and looked forward to his continuing efforts for recreation in the City.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made Beverly Moran and second by John Monahan. Move to accept the minutes of November 12, 2013, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Deana DiLuggo, assistant track coach at the High School, approached the Commission with a request to use Witek Park for a running program she would like to hold each Saturday from April 5th to May 10th from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The time includes the 2 hour program and time for setup. The program would be for ages pre-k to 8th grade and the intensity of the workout would be as per the skill levels determined for each age. She explained that this would be in conjunction with the Healthy Kids Running Series as produced by "The Mill"- 381 Brinton Lake Rd, Thornton, PA 19373 (www.healthykidsrunningseries.org) The mission is to instill a get up and go philosophy to the participants. Mr. O'Connell noted that Youth Soccer is usually using the fields in the spring two weekday evenings and Sunday afternoon so there should be no conflict in the scheduling.

Tara Hyder, representing her husband Rob Hyder – VP of Derby Little League, approached the Commission asking to recognize at their opening day on April 12, 2014 Kenneth Marcucio for his lifetime of dedication and achievements to the Little League. Members agreed that Mr. Marcucio has spent decades working with the youth in Derby both through the Little League, as a teacher and as athletic director.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Nothing was presented.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA:

Motion made by Ron Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to add to the agenda the usage request as presented from Deana DiLuggo for a Healthy Kids Running Series program. Motion carried unanimously.

Members felt that the program would be beneficial to the youth. They requested that an insurance certificate be provided to Mr. O'Connell. They questioned whether the ambulance would be needed for stand-by but Mr. O'Connell noted that stand-by has customarily only been for the football program.

Motion made by Beverly Moran and second by John Monahan. Move to allow the usage of Witek Park on Saturday afternoons from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm from April 5th through May 10th as per the request from Deana DiLuggo for a Healthy Kids Running Series program, subject to insurance verification. Motion carried unanimously.

Members noted that the request from Mrs. Hyder will be added to next month's agenda and it was also suggested that consideration be given to acknowledging past member Red Clynch who served as Parks and Recreation director for many years, as Commission member and was instrumental in the girls softball programs.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell reported that basketball season was well underway. There are five teams in the girls travel league grades 4 -8 that plays with Ansonia. The instructional league has 4 teams and they play at Bradley School. The grades 4-6 League has 5 teams. The grades 7-8 League has 4 teams and they play at the Community Center. He noted that the participation is up over last year. He noted that in recent years, the numbers generally have been declining in all the programs. The greater challenge is finding volunteers to coach and supervise the programs.

Little League is getting to register.

Budget discussions: Mr. O'Connell stated that overall the current budget is in good shape at the midway point. He is concerned with the maintenance line items. Generally, the springtime is when expenses are the heaviest. He indicated that associated costs for the Ryan Field Complex work regarding the lights, visitor bleacher install and press box have taken a toll on the current budget maintenance and capital line items. He stated that the utility costs are controlled by Mother Nature so it is difficult to project, but generally in a good year, there is funding remaining in those line items.

Mr. O'Connell and members discussed the upcoming budget. It was noted that the employees have not seen an increase in wages this past year. The playground staff wages should also be reviewed. He indicated that he saw a need for an additional staff member this past year.

Mr. Cota and Ms. Moran offered to work with Mr. O'Connell on the preparation of the new budget.

Speaking on capital projects, Mr. O'Connell is still pursuing having an engineering study of the field house. The building is in need of renovation but it is questionable whether to renovate or build a new structure. Reviewing the 1999 study, it was noted that the design showed that the field house would have to be shifted on the site so as to accommodate the upgraded field and track layout. Members still weigh the benefits of artificial turf and how that field could see much more usage if the turf was installed.

Members noted the positive results with the new lights at Ryan Field. It was noted that the Bradley School softball field lighting is over 30 years old. Cost projections will be sought for the replacement of

the bulbs in the fixtures and Mr. O'Connell will speak with the contractor who performed the Ryan Field upgrades to see what would be the most cost effective way to proceed.

Members were encouraged to bring any further suggestions to Mr. O'Connell and the budget committee prior to the next meeting. Members asked if Mr. O'Connell has been in contact with former alderman Ken Hughes regarding the Witek Park maintenance. Mr. O'Connell indicated that he has been speaking directly with the contractor that has been performing the work on the fields for the past few years. He will explore the projected costs to continue the maintenance done on the field as required as per the stipulated approvals given by the Derby Inland Wetlands Agency.

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

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Nothing was presented.

Parks and Recreation Commission Calendar:

Motion made by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to adopt the Park and Recreation Commission meeting schedule for the 2014 calendar year to be the second Monday of each month with the exception of October (Columbus Day):

January 13, 2014	August 11, 2014
February 10, 2014	September 08, 2014
March 10, 2014	October 14, 2014 (Tuesday)
April 14, 2014	November 10, 2014
May 12, 2014	December 08, 2014
June 09, 2014	
July 14, 2014	January 12, 2015

The meetings will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the City Hall.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 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.