

# *Park and Recreation Commission*

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## **Minutes**

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, June 9, 2008 in the City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

By roll call, members present: John Walsh, James Benanto, Beverly Moran, David Mikos and Red Clynch. Nick Serednitsky and Andrew Cota 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 Beverly Moran and second by Red Clynch. Move to accept the minutes of May 12, 2008, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC PORTION:**

No public came forward at this time.

### **CORRESPONDENCES:**

Nothing was presented.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS:**

**Parks & Recreation Director's Report:** Mr. O'Connell stated that the spring programs were finishing. All went well. He is closing out the fiscal year, submitting all remaining bills that will likely fully expend the budget. Revenue has met the anticipated amount budgeted.

The Board of Apportionment and Taxation reduced the amounts requested in the 2008-2009 proposal. Reductions - YankeeGas (-\$2,330), Water Co. (-\$2,980), Witek Park Maintenance (-\$3,000), Equipment Maintenance (-\$4,000), Building and Field Supplies (-\$3,000), and Recreation Equipment (-\$1,000) for a total of \$16,310. Mr. O'Connell expressed some concern being that costs are escalating and the utilities are dependent on the weather conditions. More fields are going to be used, with Amendola Complex being used again for soccer and the High School expanding their programs, this will require more maintenance and lining for games. The Capital Planning Commission is scheduled to meet tomorrow and he will hear whether the capital projects will be approved. Ms. Moran suggested contacting the grant writer to see if funding could be obtained for replacement of the lights at the Ryan Complex.

The Playground program will start in July and run for six weeks. It will be held at Bradley School. The free lunch program is set for the Derby Veteran's Community Center.

Ms. Moran noted that the Pop Warner flyers recently distributed did not go to the parochial schools. Mr. O'Connell will check into it with the Pop Warner directors. Members also inquired how registration was going for the program. It was understood that their numbers are down and Mr. O'Connell will find out.

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

**NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Mikos noted that he observed a number of fence poles down on the Greenway. Chairman Walsh noted that there are 19 poles down and 25 were already replaced in March. He indicated that part of it may be that people are standing on the railings and the railings can not support the weight. A trash can was set on fire and several signs have been defaced with graffiti. The City Engineer has been asked to explore whether some of the signs could be removed as there is no funding to replace them and the information on the signs may be superfluous. He indicated that the police department is patrolling on bicycles and a second camera is being added. The Greenway continues to be well used and a very popular recreational site in the City. He noted that since the last press on the dog poop, there seems to be some improvement although some are improperly discarding the bags. He indicated that he has observed dogs not sufficiently under the control of their owners and encouraged dog owners to be watchful of their pets. As the path is narrow and bikers and children may, at times, rush quickly by the pets; there is a possibility that the animal could react causing an injury. It was noted that there is a speed limit for the bikes and proper etiquette was encouraged. Mr. Benanto suggested that the public be more aware of the vandalism and he encouraged more information about the problems being published.

Motion was made by Beverly Moran and second by Red Clynch. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,  
Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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