

Park and Recreation Commission

John Bittmann, Chairman
Ronald Sill
Bruce Sill
Heather Beaton
Jose Rivera (BOAT)
Michael Kelleher
vacant

Minutes

(meeting recorded)

Monthly meeting: Monday, May 12, 2025 – held at City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

By roll call, members present: John Bittmann, Ronald Sill, Bruce Sill, Jose Rivera (ZOOM) and Michael Kelleher (ZOOM). Heather Beaton was excused.

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell was present. Athletic Director Jenn Moffat was present on ZOOM.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:

Without objection, the agenda was accepted as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION made by Michael Kelleher and second by Bruce Sill. MOVE to approve the April 14, 2025 minutes, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Yamilette McNeill, Pop Warner president (ZOOM), advised that she was present and available to answer any questions the members may have about the program.

No one else spoke and without objection the public portion was closed.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Nothing was presented.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Mr. O'Connell reviewed his monthly report. He noted that this is a very busy time of year. Payden Park has play on the baseball and football fields as well as activity in the great room. Witek Park has the adult soccer teams playing on Sunday mornings.

Mr. O'Connell noted that the pool maintenance issues continue and do impact the ability to hold swimming lessons. That is resulting in lower revenues generated from the Derby Veteran's Community Center.

Mr. O'Connell has been speaking with the Mayor and Finance Director Brian Hall regarding a capital request for the Derby Veteran's Community Center health club air conditioning unit. He is hopeful that it can be included in the upcoming discussions with the Capital Planning Commission.

Parks and Recreation Update and Report for April 2025

- The spring 2025 parks and recreation schedule features programs for baseball, softball, soccer, football, rugby, and run club.
- Witek Park has four men's teams playing home games at the facility. The games are 8:00 am and 10:00 am Sunday mornings.
- Payden Park contains a very busy schedule. Men's firemen softball will play games on Monday nights once the DHS schedule subsides.
- DVCC lost ten days of revenue due to the pool suffering maintenance problems.
- Finishing up this fiscal year is a usual challenge for the parks and recreation budget. Many transfers inter-department are expected.
- Recreation receivables \$70,931.00 as of May 5, 2025.

High School Athletic Director's Report:

Ms. Moffat agreed that it is a very busy time of year.

(from Board of Alderman and Alderwoman monthly reports)

Athletic Updates

- Jaylen Titus was formerly honored at the National Football Foundation Casey O'Brien New Haven Chapter Scholar Athlete Banquet on 4/27
- Celebrated our Unified Sports Player of the Year Antonio Ortiz and Partner of the Year Emma Hyder at the banquet on 4/28
- Baseball played Naugatuck at Dunkin Park in Hartford on 4/24 which is always an exciting experience for the team
- Unified Sports team at DHS has hosted our DMS team for volleyball and kickball. We will be hosting them again on May 7th for a track meet. The DMS Unified Sports team will be hosting the CIAC Cornhole tournament on May 21 3-5pm
- Currently planning the 14th annual PINK day of games that will be happening on 5/17 to raise funds for the Hewitt Center for Breast Wellness at Griffin Hospital. Senior Kaelyn DiMartino has taken the lead on the planning of the event this year as her National Honor Society Community Service Project. Baseball will play Ansonia at 10am, Softball will play Ansonia at 2pm and Notre Dame vs Stratford softball will play at 5pm with the alumni fun game at approximately 7:30pm. We have almost 100 raffle prizes up for grabs as well as food and music throughout the day
- DHS Spring sports are at the halfway point. The baseball team has 4 wins and the softball team has 3 wins. Track is off to a great start as well with the NVL Championship meet coming up on 5/24 (All info as of 5/1/25)
- DMS spring sports are now in full swing and will continue through May. All teams have recorded at least 1 victory on the season.
- Continued work with Parks & Rec and Public Works to update some field issues that need attention. The roof of the 1st base side dugout still needs to be repaired from the large rocks that were thrown through it. We have new banners with the distances on them but they have yet to be hung by public works. I have sent the Director of Parks & Rec the invoice for the required repairs for the Payden Park scoreboard
- Celebrated our CAS/CIAC Scholar Athletes of the Year at a banquet at the Aqua turf on May 4th

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 3:58 pm, Aug 11, 2025

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS:

Nothing was presented.

MOTION made by Ronald Sill and second by Bruce Sill. MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 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.