Park and Recreation Commission

Andrew Cota, Chairman

Beverly Moran
James Benanto
Ronald Sill
James Butler Sr.
Bruce Sill
John Bittmann

Minutes

(meeting recorded)

Monthly meeting: Monday, June 11, 2018 in City Hall.

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

By roll call, members present: Andrew Cota, Beverly Moran, James Benanto, Ronald Sill, James Butler Sr., Bruce Sill and John Bittmann.

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell was present. Athletic Director Clerk Jennifer Moffat was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
MOTION made by James Butler Sr. and second by Bruce Sill. Move to accept the minutes of May 14, 2018, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:
No one came forward.

CORRESPONDENCES:
Mr. O'Connell received a request from Mr. Scott, a Derby resident, seeking to use Witek Park on July 28th for a soccer event. Mr. O'Connell explained that there are no activities scheduled in July and most of August and during that time the field is allowed to rest and rejuvenate. Soccer begins again at the end of August. As the field is not being used, the cost to prepare the field would likely be over $250 just to line the field. Allowing use during this time has not been allowed previously and opening the field for use at this time could set a precedent.

Members decided that it would be detrimental to the condition of the field and cost prohibitive to allow use of the field at the requested time.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:
Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell stated that summer camp is set to start on July 9th and will run for six weeks. He is all set with the staffing and noted that free lunch will be offered.

Men's basketball league at Coon Hollow will start on June 18th. The court's surface is in good condition after the repairs. Members noted that last year the lights were regulated in response to the neighbors concerns. Mr. O'Connell will verify that the lighting is properly timed.

Mr. Butler noted that there are light bulbs out at the Amendola Field at Bradley School. Mr. O'Connell will investigate.

High School Athletic Director's Report: Ms. Moffat was excused.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:
Update on the Football/Baseball/Field house Committees
Mr. O'Connell stated that due to the funding shortfall the committee is looking at removing the press box relocation and storage bins from the project. Mr. O'Connell noted that due to the football field inactivity

within the 2017-2018 budget there will be funds unspent in the Recreation Department budget and Ryan Field capital line item. He would like to approach the Board of Apportionment and Taxation to request that the funding be carried over to the 2018-2019 budget to help with some of the expenses during the construction phase. Within the 2018-2019 budget funds were requested anticipating that the new facility would be up and running in February 2019. If this timeframe is delayed there may be additional funds available in the 2018-2019 budget. Also, if the press box is done separately from the project, there may be some flexibility in the code requirements for construction that may allow for the press box to remain on the home team side.

Mr. O'Connell will send communication to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation requesting the carryover of funds to the 2018-2019 budget.

The scoreboard will have to be relocated because of the construction. Currently there is electrical cabling that provides for connection to the press box. This cabling will have to be re-established. The committee is exploring whether it would be cost effective to replace the scoreboard as new models have wireless remote access rather than performing the relocation process of the existing equipment.

Mr. O'Connell noted that the field house construction is stalled as the contractor is dealing with the required soil testing. This will hopefully be resolved quickly.

Mr. Benanto discussed how other towns manage their rental fees and gate proceeds to go toward the maintenance of the fields. He questioned whether this could be accomplished in Derby as well. Mr. O'Connell noted that currently the gate proceeds are managed by the Board of Education and the Derby Veteran's Community Center rental fees are returned to the City's general fund. Members explored how the new field house will be utilized and if the building would be rented out by private organizations. If this were to happen, they questioned where those revenues would be applied. Additionally, it was questioned whether vending machines may be another fundraising opportunity. The concession stands will be operated as they do now which is during games of the programs. The vending machines could provide refreshments on those off times when games are not being played.

Basketball rules and regulations for programs at the Derby Veteran's Community Center
Chairman Cota indicated that a draft will be sent to the members for their review prior to the next monthly meeting.

Other business
MOTION by James Benanto and second by Beverly Moran. Move that the July 9, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission be cancelled unless matters arise that warrant action. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 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.