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 February 11, 2019 in City Hall.

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

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

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell was present.

Athletic Director Matthew Bradshaw was excused.

ELECTION OF A CHAIR:
MOTION made by Ronald Sill and second by James Butler Sr.. Move to nominate Andrew Cota as chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
MOTION made by John Bittmann and second by Bruce Sill. Move to accept the minutes of January 14, 2019, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:
No one came forward.

CORRESPONDENCES:
Nothing was presented.

2019 MAR 11 AM 9:53

DIRECTOR REPORTS:
Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell reported that the basketball program is going well. With no postponements due to weather, the games have all gone forward without delay.

Little League will be registering soon.

Pop Warner ended their season with on the downturn. He will be meeting with the directors to discuss measures to enhance and rejuvenate the program. With numbers down, it has been hard moving forward to a successful season. Having the football field in flux has also been a strain.

Regarding the budget, Mr. O'Connell has yet to hear from the Board of Apportionment and Taxation on their budget schedule. The challenge will be incorporating the new field house and fields within the budget. A maintenance sub-committee is being formed to discuss the expected cost needs as well as the staffing that will be needed.

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

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Update on the Football/Baseball/Field house Committees

On the football side, the project has been shut down for the winter. Issues have arisen that have impacted the construction schedule and the budget. Currently, a sink hole has developed and the contractors are exploring engineering solutions.

The field house and baseball side of the project is moving forward. Ms. Payden's generosity has allowed the project to leap forward, unencumbered. Work on the retaining wall for the baseball field continues with anticipation that it will be completed soon. Stairs from the field house to the parking area by the Middle School are going in. The field house construction is moving forward with the outer frame and roofing near complete. Interior work will be accomplished during the next few months as the structure will be enclosed. Time line at this point:

Retaining wall substantially complete– March 8, 2019

Turf installation to begin (subject to weather conditions) – March 15, 2019

Lighting and fencing installation – April 1, 2019

Baseball Field to be substantially complete by May 28, 2019.

The building is projected to be substantially complete by June 21, 2019.

Members discussed how the new building will affect the recreation director's duties as well as the budget. The sub-committee will be discussing this in detail but ultimately the Parks and Recreation Commission will have to decide the long-term oversight of the building. Mr. Cota noted his experience with the Police Department building and how it is important to develop an ongoing plan of maintenance and how it is going need to be managed by sufficient staffing. This is a much greater demand than can be placed on the director. The great room will likely be very well used and its function will have to be explored. Will the facility be rented out, will there be revenue generated by said rental? With the rental, how will the kitchen be managed and who will supervise the use? Will staffing be needed to oversee the great room during this use?

How will the athletic programs use the building and what will be the Board of Education involvement? As with the old field house, Mr. O'Connell and the Athletic Director worked out the details with Mr. O'Connell managing the oversight of the building. Mr. O'Connell anticipated that the process will continue. The coaches will have to observe their teams. Access issues will have to be determined. The building design does keep the uses somewhat separate with limited access for each use. There are no shared hallways but rather each section is independent of the other uses.

Members noted that parking during great room events will be challenging. The stairs being constructed will be challenging. Street parking on Chatfield Street will be an option.

Mr. O'Connell is also working out the storage demands for the complex.

MOTION by Ronald Sill and second by James Butler Sr. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,

2019 MAR 11 AM 9:54

Karen Kemmesies

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

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