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, April 9, 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 excused. Athletic Director Clerk Jennifer Moffat was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
MOTION made by Ronald Sill and second by James Butler Sr. Move to accept the minutes of February 12, 2018, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION made by Bruce Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to accept the minutes of March 12, 2018, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:
Kimberly Tovar, Vice President for Derby Pop Warner, sought an update on the questions raised at the previous meeting. She questioned whether there have been decisions on their practice locations, if they will be provided storage at the locations, whether there will be lights and available bathroom facilities and if there was any decision on possible financial support to offset the loss of concession stand revenues. If they were to be at Bradley School, she asked if there would be any temporary office space for their purposes.

Chairman Cota indicated that the Board of Apportionment and Taxation was approached during the budget presentation asking for consideration towards the financial impact of the loss of the concession stand revenues but no decision will be made until the 2018-2019 budget is set. He indicated that temporary storage is being planned as well as bathroom units. Office space is very unlikely. The facility locations are yet to be finalized as progress on the construction is still in the planning stages. Bradley School is being considered and possibly the upper field in the Ryan Complex may be available for practice.

CORRESPONDENCES:
Nothing was received.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:
Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell was excused. Chairman Cota updated the Commission about the basketball courts at Coon Hollow. He stated that Mr. O'Connell inspected them and will seek to have the cracks repaired temporarily. This should make the courts safe for play. Mr. Bruce Sill questioned whether the Road Bond Committee had been approached for possible funding. Mr. Ron Sill sits on the Committee and will research that request.

Chairman Cota indicated that the Police Department has increased their visibility at and around the Derby Veteran's Community Center.

High School Athletic Director's Report: Ms. Moffat indicated that due to the field construction, graduation is being scheduled for Nolan Field in Ansonia.

Regarding the programs, Ms. Moffat indicated that the Boys Basketball made it to first round tournament play. Girls Basketball had a successful year as well, nearly making it to tournament play. Once again, the Indoor track had a very successful season. She noted that the spring programs, baseball and outdoor track, are underway.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Update on the Football/Baseball/Field house Committees

Chairman Cota indicated that there have been modifications to the field house building design to accommodate cost estimates for the project. The changes should have no effect on the projected construction timeline.

Mr. Benanto noted that the football field/ track construction project is looking at projected cost overruns. With the shifting of the footprint of the field, this has impacted most everything existing in the complex. The press box has to be moved so as to center on the new field. This move will require that the structure be constructed meeting current building and ADA codes. The existing lighting fixtures will likely be re-utilized. Bleachers are being reconfigured, also requiring code compliance. The greater difficulty is that the two projects have been working independently. This is resulting in some costly site plan conflicts. In hindsight, things may have flowed better with one committee. Another challenge is the different funding sources. The football field funding falls under specific bidding requirements and the budget is set. The private funding from Ms. Payden provides more flexibility.

Members noted that there are many locations within the complex that have been dedicated in memory of citizens of Derby that have been very influential in the Parks and Recreation programs over the years. They hoped that consideration is being given to continuing those tributes.

With the new baseball field location taking over the softball field, initial discussions were to relocate the softball field within the upper Little League area. Looking at cost projections, to construct the separate field is not cost effective. The committee is looking at incorporating the softball field use into the baseball field. Under the turf field design, a movable mound is conceivable and this option is being explored. This may be a preferred option as the softball field would then also have the availability of the newly constructed field house.

Basketball rules and regulations for programs at the Derby Veteran's Community Center

Chairman Cota indicated that they are being finalized and will be presented next month.

Other business

Mr. Ron Sill distributed the Derby Code for the Parks and Recreation Commission. He noted the following:

§ 7-84 – Jurisdiction. Such Commission shall have jurisdiction over all parks and playgrounds in the City.

§7-86 – Requests for use of parks and playgrounds. The Commission shall be advised by the Board of Alderman that all requests for any use whatsoever for any park or playground shall be the sole responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Approval for non-City-sponsored activities in or on all parks and playgrounds shall require an affirmative vote of this Commission with the approval of the Board of Alderman.

§7-87 – Recreation facilities and programs. Such Commission shall provide recreation facilities and programs for the townspeople in particular with a priority to be given to youth programs, and that guidelines be drawn up as to the inclusion of out-of-town personnel in any recreation programs permitted by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Ron Sill presented this information as the members have expressed the importance of the Parks and Recreation Commission being approached for any and all activities regarding the Parks and Recreation facilities.

MOTION 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.