Park and Recreation Commission

John Bittmann, Chairman
Ronald Sill
Bruce Sill
Heather Beauton
Jose Rivera (BOAT)
vacant
vacant

Minutes

(meeting recorded)

Monthly meeting: Monday, August 11, 2025 – held at City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell was present. Athletic Director Jenn Moffat arrived at 7:22 pm. Town Clerk Marc Garofalo served as ZOOM host.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:

MOTION made by Ronald Sill and second by John Bittmann. MOVE to accept the agenda as written. **Motion** carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION made by Heather Beauton and second by Ronald Sill. MOVE to accept the minutes of May 12, 2025, as written. **Motion** carried unanimously.

MOTION made by Ronald Sill and second by John Bittmann. MOVE to accept the minutes of July 14, 2025, as written. **Motion** carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCES:

Nothing was presented.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Mr. O'Connell reviewed his monthly report.

Parks and Recreation Update and Report – August 11, 2025

- At Derby Veteran's Community Center struggles continue with the pool support system. Basically, we are not sustaining heat even though many improvements have been made.
- A local group (adult men's team) has contacted P & R to promote Rugby in our community.
  Currently an adult team in Derby is requesting continuous scheduling time for our field. Bradley School could be an option to utilize this request, however all our fields will have significant participation during the Fall Season.
- Derby Pop Warner has a twelve and under tackle team and a five to seven flag team participating this fall. Scheduling is not yet formulated.
- We are experiencing some minor issues with the Little League Pop Warner Field House. On August 8th the power was shut off because of failure to pay the bill. Utilities payment was assumed by us on July 1, 2025 from the Little League.
- An accident at the Coon Hollow Picnic Grove has resulted in damage to the Grove and the basketball court at the lower level. Repair will be soon. A claim has been established for fence repairs.
- **Recreation Receivables: $7,386.25 as of 8/9/25**.

Mr. O'Connell explained that service was scheduled for the pool but was rescheduled by the company. Several parts have been replaced but the problem continues with the heating of the pool. The pool is usable but the water is cold.

The Rugby team is Derby based. They have shown up on fields unscheduled but have requested use of a Derby field a few times a week through October. Mr. O'Connell noted that Bradley School soccer fields could be a possibility. Nothing has been finalized and the program will have to provide insurance, as is customary. It was noted that the Middle School softball team does utilize that field and scheduling will take that into consideration.

Pop Warner registration continues as the turnout so far has been low. They have created two teams.

The issue with the electricity at the Little League Pop Warner Field House is being resolved. Mr. O'Connell will be meeting with the programs to assess whether the loss of electricity has caused any issues in the building. It did affect the water source as the building is on well and the pump could not run so bathroom facilities were out of order.

The accident at the picnic grove involved a driver who went through the upper fence and the basketball fence, landing on the court. The damage has been documented and a claim will be presented to the driver. The incident is being investigated.

High School Athletic Director's Report:

Ms. Moffat stated that many programs are ramping up for fall. Practices will start on August 18th. She is working on the schedule with Mr. O'Connell and coordinating with Public Works. Both football and soccer will have varsity programs. Girl's volleyball will have varsity and JV. Cheering has been working through the summer. Cross Country also have been training.

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS:

The naming committee of the Board of Alderman and Alderwoman has tentatively scheduled a meeting to discuss the naming of Mario Tessitore Soccer memorial.

MOTION made by Ronald Sill and second by Heather Beauton. MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 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.