Park and Recreation Commission

John Bittmann, Chairman
Ronald Sill
Bruce Sill
Ashley Simon (BOAT)
vacant
vacant
vacant

Minutes

(meeting recorded)

Monthly meeting: Monday, May 11, 2026 – 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, Bruce Sill, Ronald Sill and Ashley Simon.

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell was present. Athletic Director Jenn Moffat was participating remotely.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:

Without objection the agenda was accepted, as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Ronald Sill and second by Bruce Sill. **Move** to accept the minutes for August 11, 2025, as written. **Motion carried** with Ashley Simon abstaining.

MOTION by Ronald Sill and second by John Bittmann. **Move** to accept the minutes for September 8, 2025, as written. **Motion carried** with Ashley Simon abstaining.

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 – April 2026

- Spring programming is going well. We are approximately halfway through our schedule, and all is ok so far.
- At DVCC we have not had maintenance problems with our pool system in almost two months. A record for us! Not really. .
- Derby/Ansonia Youth Baseball is doing ok. They are utilizing facilities from both towns. They are in good shape in that regard.
- Facilities are great, numbers are not. That is not unique to baseball.
- It is hoped that a facilities supervisor will be on board for the next fiscal year. Payden Fieldhouse is seven years old and professional expertise is believed to be vital to Payden's future well-being. Park and Recreation supervise three buildings. Payden, Little League Fieldhouse and 35 Fifth Street (DVCC & BOE) are included.
- Plans for the upcoming summer camp program are underway. A start date is not selected yet but will be very soon.
- **Recreation Receivables: $64,214.75 as of 5/4/26**.

Mr. O'Connell reviewed his report. Travel baseball, the 13+ boys team and the athletic department baseball programs are using Payden Park. Middle School girls and boys and the travel program are at Bradley's field. Games should be complete by mid-June. Men's baseball will be utilizing Payden during the summer.

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By Marc J Garofalo MPA, MMC, MCTC at 3:47 pm, Jun 08, 2026

Swim lessons for children and adults have been scheduled at the Derby Veteran's Community Center and are going very well.

Mr. O'Connell is hopeful to have the part-time facilities supervisor in place starting in July. He sees great benefits from having a person on-staff taking care of the maintenance needs of the three buildings.

The Summer Program will be starting on June 28th for six weeks. Nicole Stockmal will be the director again this year. It is expected to have approximately 130 participants. They will be offered free breakfast and lunch. The daily numbers will generally fluctuate dependent on the weather.

High School Athletic Director's Report:

Ms. Moffat reported that things have gone well at both Payden and Bradley. She acknowledged Mr. O'Connell and Public Works for their assistance in keeping the fields ready for the school programs noting the logistics of the baseball field in regards to the fencing and mound modifications needed between the girls and boys sports. All programs should be wrapping up by the end of the month. There are only a few more track meets for the season. Baseball and Track will be advancing to the tournaments. Ms. Moffat noted that due to the low numbers of players in some of the programs, the Board of Education has been working with her to reach out and co-op with other schools. They are working with Emmett O'Brien for a number of programs. She is currently working on the fall program schedules.

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS:

The Naming Committee has met to discuss Mario Tessitore field dedication. They have suggested that the youth field at Witek Park be dedicated to Mr. Tessitore. They recognized his decades of service to Youth Soccer noting he was considered the Godfather of Youth Soccer in Derby.

MOTION made by Ronald Sill and second by Bruce Sill. **MOVE** to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 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.

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