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 December 10, 2018, 2018 in City Hall.

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

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

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell was present.

Athletic Director Matthew Bradshaw was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
MOTION made by Ronald Sill and second by Bruce Sill. Move to accept the minutes of November 13, 2018, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:
No one came forward.

CORRESPONDENCES:
Nothing was presented.

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DIRECTOR REPORTS:
Update on the Football/Baseball/Field house Committees
The surface run-off and soil and sediment erosion has been a costly issue. Two additional sink holes have been discovered. The contractors and the insurance companies continue to determine the liabilities and exposure for the damage that occurred with the significant rain event. It is being expressed that the area was under construction and seven inches of rain fell. That amount of rain was extraordinary and disruptive even in the best of circumstances. Turner Construction, Turco and Brennan continue to communicate on the responsibilities.

Mr. Benanto noted that the insurance companies seem to be moving slowly and the effected residents are very frustrated.

Mr. Cota advised that the Field House Committee has been considering the future maintenance and use of the building. They are looking at possibly creating a sub-committee that will include members from Board of Education, Board of Alderman, Board of Apportionment and Taxation and Parks and Recreation Commission to hash out the needs and expectations.

PUBLIC PORTION:
MOTION made by John Bittmann and second by Ronald Sill. Move to reopen the public portion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ken Little stated that he has been coaching in the basketball program for a number of years. He understood that David Mikos was taking over supervision of the program this year.

Mr. O'Connell noted that last year was a tough year. Other towns within the league were unhappy with the behavior of the Derby participants and they were not interested in continuing play with Derby. Mr. O'Connell understood that there are tryouts at the Derby Middle School for the 7th and 8th graders.

Mr. Little indicated that the problem was not with the players, the problem was with the children in the stands. He felt that more security should have been on hand. He did not feel that the program should suffer when it was not their fault. He noted that last year the Middle School played well but then the coach quit. The position was not filled and the program ended.

Mr. O'Connell stressed that he wants to see children play but the program needs to transition to something that will succeed. He noted the new rules that were developed by the Commission. He continues to explore a solution with new locations and competition.

Mr. Benanto questioned if there is a 7th & 8th grade team. Mr. O'Connell said yes. Mr. Benanto noted that the players will practice and play under CIAC rules and these behavioral issues fall within the rules.

Mr. O'Connell indicated that the recreational league that the program played in last year seems to be weakening. He noted this year registration is down. For grades 5-6 there were only 7 players and he has sought to have them merge with Ansonia to create a team.

Mr. Little felt that due to one parent complaining about him that he was not being allowed to coach and he felt it was effecting his reputation. He stressed how committed he has been and how strongly he works to participate with the programs his children are involved with in the City. He is only looking for a fair shake.

Mr. Cota acknowledged Mr. Little's comments and reiterated again that there are new rules in place to address disruptive behaviors and he supported Mr. O'Connell and his efforts to bring forward a more competitive and robust solution for the basketball program.

Mr. Benanto noted that if the Basketball program survives it will be because going forward the new rules are followed. Otherwise, the program must end. Parks and Recreation will not tolerate a repeat of the behaviors of last year.

Mr. Cota asked Mr. Little if this answers his concerns and Mr. Little indicated that it did. He will continue to reach out to Mr. O'Connell about the program going forward.

Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell indicated that he had nothing further for his report.

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

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:
Update on the Football/Baseball/Field house Committees
(discussed earlier in the meeting)

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Parks and Recreation Commission meeting calendar for 2019
MOTION by Ronald Sill and second by James Benanto. Move to adopt the 2019 meeting schedule, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting schedule for the 2019 calendar year shall be the second Monday of each month with the exception of October (Columbus Day) and November (Veteran's Day):

January 14, 2019	August 12, 2019
February 11, 2019	September 9, 2019
March 11, 2019	October 15, 2019 (Tuesday)
April 8, 2019	November 12, 2019 (Tuesday)
May 13, 2019	December 10, 2019
June 10, 2019	
July 8, 2019	January 13, 2020

The meetings will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the City Hall.

MOTION by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 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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