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 October 15, 2019 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 present. Athletic Director Matthew Bradshaw was excused.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:
MOTION made by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to accept the agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
MOTION made by James Butler Sr. and second by John Bittmann. Move to accept the meeting minutes of September 9, 2019, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:
No one came forward.

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CORRESPONDENCES:
Nothing was presented.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:
Mr. O'Connell reported that the Pop Warner season has one remaining home game to be played on Saturday rather than the usual Sunday. He noted that a recent scheduling issue arose where Pop Warner was seeking to play a Sunday night game at 6 pm rather than their usual schedule. After discussion, the game went forward at their usual afternoon schedule.

Registration for basketball is scheduled for the last week of October and the first week of November. The girl's program is placed with a travel program with Ansonia.

The JR Payden ribbon cutting ceremony went very well. The new field house is mostly equipped with all the equipment and supplies. The purchase of the supplies has exhausted the current supplies line item in the budget and Mr. O'Connell will be making transfers to take the line item through the end of the fiscal year. It was thought that there may be funds set aside for these initial purchases.

It was noted that there is no ventilation fans in the rest rooms and air fresheners will be put in place. The exhaust fans in the locker rooms have to be checked as them did not seem to be functioning effectively. Both items will be reviewed with the contractor.

Mr. Benanto noted that it appears that there are more patrons congregating around the field house during events, as would be expected with the new facility. He suggested that the police officers who are regularly at the games be given a heads up to monitor the activities in the areas of the field house as well

as what they have always observed. He noted that the visiting team access to the football field should be revisited. Possibly a gate could be installed to provide a more direct access to their sideline benches.

Mr. O'Connell noted that new energy efficient lighting is being installed throughout the Derby Veteran's Community Center. They have certainly brightened the areas.

The complaint from John Sonsini of 323 Hawthorne Ave, raised at last month's meeting, has been referred to the building committee and members understood that it is being addressed.

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

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Update on the Football/Baseball/Field house Committees

Mr. Cota understood that the Board of Alderman is intending to oversee the rental of the field house. It is still in the Operations and Procedures Sub-Committee for discussion. It is unclear whether the Parks and Recreation Commission or Parks and Recreation Department will have any involvement. Members felt that it should still be brought to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Board of Education will also have events that they will be allowed to schedule under the definition of an athletic event. For clarity, it was felt that an established procedure should be in place. Further, there should be clarity on what is an athletic event, a park and recreation event, a city event or a third party outside event. What will also have to be assessed is the need for staffing. If the facility use is significant, then current hours of custodial service must be reviewed. The attendant positions should be revisited. If hours are increased, it was questioned whether the cost of this increased staffing should fall upon the users of the facility rather than the Parks and Recreation Department budget. Another consideration is the kitchen and food services portion of the facility. That use could also be a labor intensive use in terms of clean-up.

MOTION by Ronald Sill and second by John Bittmann. Move that the Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman and the Parks and Recreation Director meet with the Superintendent of Schools to develop a protocol on the use of the JR Payden Field House and Leo F Ryan Complex. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 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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