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 June 10, 2019 in City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m.

By roll call, members present: Andrew Cota, Beverly Moran, James Butler Sr. and John Bittmann. Ronald Sill arrived at 7:30 pm. James Benanto and Bruce Sill were excused.

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell (arriving at 7:35 pm) and Athletic Director Matthew Bradshaw were present.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:
Without objection the agenda was accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
MOTION made by James Butler Sr. and second by John Bittmann. Move to accept the meeting minutes of May 13, 2019, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:
No one came forward.

CORRESPONDENCES:
Nothing was presented.

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DIRECTOR REPORTS:
High School Athletic Director's Report: Mr. Bradshaw stated that the spring went very well. He acknowledged Naugatuck High School and the Athletic Director Brian Mariano for their assistance in providing fields for Derby's programs while the baseball field is under construction.
Spring program highlights:

1. Softball made it into the second round of the state tournament
2. Cristina Carloni and Madison Koval made the NVL All-Copper team
3. Cristina Carloni and Madison Koval made the Class "S" All-State team
4. Ty Netto made the NVL All-Copper team
5. Thomas Abel made the All-NVL and Class "S" All-State teams
6. Girls' 4x800M medalists in Class "S" Championship, Sabrina Hanock, Annaly Khanthaphixay, Isabelle Chevarella, Cassidy Ngaopraseutsack
7. Boys' Track NVL-Copper Champions
8. Javan Guevara-Cragwell champion in Long Jump, Class "S" runner-up
9. Zerion Montgomery a long jump finalist at the New England Championship

10. 4x100M Class "S" Champions, Rocco Samoker, Xavier Ibrahim, Zerion Montgomery, Ja'kwan Hale
11. Ja'kwan Hale, NVL Champion High Jump, 400M, and 200M
12. Ja'kwan Hale Class "S", State Open, New England Champion 400M

Everyone is excited to be moving into the new complex soon. It has been a long two years. Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. O'Connell will be meeting to coordinate the fall schedule utilizing the new facilities.

At this time Mr. Ron Sill and Mr. O'Connell arrived. Mr. Sill asked to revisit the agenda adoption and opening of the public portion.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:
MOTION made by Ronald Sill and second by James Butler Sr. Move to add to the agenda oversight of the field house and new fields and accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

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Update on the Football/Baseball/Field house Committees
Mr. Cota reviewed the budget process. The Board of Apportionment and Taxation has received the Parks & Recreation request. It includes the costs for the new Payden facility. Included in that are new staff which has yet to be voted upon by the Board of Alderman. Additionally, the protocols with the new facility are being discussed with the Board of Alderman. Mr. Cota noted that if the great room is to be rented out, the rental rates, deposits, oversight and likely a process of selecting a preferred caterer would be necessary.

Mr. Ronald Sill pointed to the City charter that identifies the Parks & Recreation Commission having oversight of the fields and facilities. There have been questions whether the rentals may fall under the Mayor's office or the Board of Alderman but the members indicated that as per the Charter it is handled by the Parks & Recreation Commission. The Commission has been drafting rules and protocols for the new facilities and Mr. O'Connell has developed the budget for the new field house including staffing needs and cost projections.

Mr. Cota noted the confusion with setting salary for parks and recreation employees. For too many years it has bounced back and forth between the Board of Alderman and the Board of Apportionment and Taxation.

Members decided that the Parks & Recreation Commission finance sub-committee will meet and develop recommendations for the Payden Field House great room use in terms of the fee schedule, selection of the preferred caterer, etc. It was noted that the school food services director assisted in the design of the kitchen area and has the ability to provide catering services. Also, any expenses incurred by the City for these rentals such as the attendant or custodial needs should be determined and incorporated into the setting of the fees.

With the new turf there will have to be discussions with players, visitors and visiting teams about acceptable footwear on the new fields.

The new storage units for the Ryan Field Complex are being delivered tomorrow. The installation will be coordinated with the contractors preparing the football field.

The discussion on the new press box continues and pre-fabricated units are being researched.

PUBLIC PORTION:
Rob Hyder was present to request use of the new Payden Park baseball field on June 16, June 22 and June 23 for the Legion team play.

John Netto, representing the Boys of Summer program was also present seeking scheduling of the field. Mr. Netto said that the season ends July 10th and they could use Shelton facilities if necessary.

Members noted that the facilities have not been turned over to the City. There appears to be additional work yet to be done. Additionally, the availability of the restrooms was questioned. It would be premature to authorize use.

Mr. O'Connell noted that in the fall there will be at least ten teams utilizing the football/soccer field. The scheduling has yet to be drafted. Nothing has been sought for the baseball field at this time. It was stressed that the lifespan of the new turf fields is projected to be 10-12 years. It was questioned whether the revenue from rentals could be set aside to defer some of the replacement costs. Typically, revenue goes into the City's general fund.

Parks & Recreation Director's Report:
Mr. O'Connell reported the Summer Program is scheduled at Bradley School for six weeks starting July 8th. Free breakfast and lunch will also be provided at the Community Center.

The vandalism at Witek Park was discussed. The porta-potty was set on fire and the fire spread to the storage container. Currently it is estimated that costs are at $3,500 for the replacement of the trailer and contents. Costs for the porta-potty have not been submitted by the vendor. Youth Soccer will be completing their season in two weeks so no new units have been ordered. It was suggested to explore a possible insurance claim although it was questioned whether deductible would apply to the claim.

MOTION by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 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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