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, August 13, 2018 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 Clerk Jennifer Moffat arrived at 7:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
MOTION made by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to accept the minutes of June 11, 2018, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:
No one came forward.

CORRESPONDENCES:
Nothing was presented.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:
Parks & Recreation Director's Report: Mr. O'Connell advised that he approached the Board of Apportionment and Taxation requesting a carryover of the 2017-2018 surplus funds in the Parks and Recreation Department as well as the capital account for Ryan Field totaling $21,163.53. He explained that the football field improvements budget is very tight and the committee has identified a number of different accessory projects that will likely not have funding. Two important benefits to the facility that currently cannot be done are a new press box and storage bins for the sports and maintenance equipment. The current press box, which is in poor condition, will align with the 20 yard line of the new field. For the amount of sports events that will take place at the new facility it is imperative to operate a presentable and functional press box.

Members discussed the progress of the Ryan Complex/Payden Park projects and funding issues. Mr. Butler noted that there is no tax board representation on the committees. Further, he noted that the Board of Apportionment and Taxation paid for engineering fees previously even though it was understood that the field improvements would not require any City funding. He noted that the Board of Apportionment and Taxation does not often encourage carryovers. He suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission needed to detail the request and explain that it is accessory to the construction. Further, he suggested that the Board of Apportionment and Taxation may consider a new capital line item be created for maintenance and capital purchases for the complex.

Mr. Cota noted that Ms. Payden's generous donation has broadened the project. Her initial contribution has increased significantly. The funding that Mr. O'Connell is seeking would be for projects that are more a function of the facility rather than the primary construction project. The surplus was accumulated by thoughtful savings throughout the year in anticipation of these budgetary shortfalls.

Mr. O'Connell noted that the new field house is fully funded through Ms. Payden's contribution but the design does not include storage for city maintenance equipment or recreational equipment. Ideally, the Public Works would like a two-bay garage. He has not fully identified the storage needs that will arise but currently it is clear that there will be a need for additional storage space.

Mr. O'Connell stated that it was a rough year for the Summer Playground program. The excessively hot weather as well as the rainy days affected the attendance.

Pop Warner has started their season. Their numbers are down. There are not enough players for the flag team but the four other divisions are filled.

High School Athletic Director's Report: Ms. Moffat indicated that High School athletics will start practicing this week. Oxford and Ansonia are very supportive in field use needs. The schedule has been created with Derby only listed with four home games. There is great hope that the field will be completed and the last one or two games can be played on the new surface within the new complex.

Ms. Moffat noted that the indoor track championship team players have received their rings. The outdoor track championship team players have not yet received approval for the purchase of rings.

NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:

Update on the Football/Baseball/Field house Committees

The matter was discussed within the director's report.

Mr. Cota noted that a joint meeting of the Baseball/Field house Committee and the Football Field Committee is scheduled for August 15th. He noted that the Baseball/Field house Committee has been discussing excavation issues that are arising. As the soil is removed it is being tested and there are some materials showing contamination. The contaminated materials are being stockpiled and their disposition will be discussed.

Basketball rules and regulations for programs at the Derby Veteran's Community Center

Mr. Cota and Mr. O'Connell presented outlines to be considered. Mr. Cota suggested:

- Teams must be accompanied by a coach and/or parent(s)
- Prohibited activity – any fighting, violent or threatening behavior
- Interference with another person by disorderly conduct by annoying, inconveniencing or causes alarm is prohibited
- Unreasonable noise is prohibited
- Tossing food or other items onto the court is prohibited
- Playing basketball between games without permission is prohibited
- If an individual(s) are asked to leave the building and either refuse to leave or return after being told by an authorized person, he/she can be subject to arrest for trespassing.

Mr. O'Connell suggested:

- No food, soda, coffee, chewing gum or sunflower seeds will be permitted in the gymnasium.
- Water or sports drinks (Gatorade) will be permitted
- All trash and debris must be properly discarded prior to exiting the gymnasium
- In order to enter the Derby Veteran's Community Center for Youth Basketball League play any person 14 years or younger must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or coach and they will sit with the parent, guardian, coach or team while awaiting their scheduled contest.
- Any person engaged in disorderly, unruly or inappropriate behavior will be asked to leave the premises. If one (1) request is unsuccessful the Derby Police Department will be contacted.

Mr. O'Connell said the Youth Basketball is up to eighth grade. Biddy Basketball is generally played at Irving School. Members discussed the age limit. Ms. Moffat noted that the schools have said that Middle School age and younger must be accompanied with an adult. Mr. O'Connell indicated that the disruptive behavior of their teams and/or visitors is resulting in other towns hesitant to come to play in Derby and they are hesitant to invite Derby to their facilities.

Mr. Benanto indicated that there must be written standards for the coaching staff as well gymnasium rules. He felt the participants should sign the rules prior to the start of the season and then as the rules have been defined in advance, they must understand the repercussions. He fully agreed that no one should have to deal with disruptive players, parents, coaches or visitors.

The members will consider these proposals and the final format will be developed for the Commission to review.

MOTION by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 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.