Park and Recreation Commission

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

Minutes

(meeting recorded)

Monthly meeting: Monday, June 8, 2026 – held at City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

By roll call, members present: John Bittmann, Bruce Sill, Ronald Sill and Ashley Simon (ZOOM).

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell and Athletic Director Jenn Moffat were present.

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 May 11, 2026, as written. **Motion** carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Ken Marcucio of 38 Chatfield St., Derby and Little League director updated the members on the program. The regular season went well with the program playing with Ansonia. Mr. Marcucio noted the logistics of having the two cities merge, which they have not done as of yet. There are filings with the national league as well as coordinating the insurance details, equipment management, field use etc. More discussions with Ansonia are needed to determine if or how the two programs could proceed in the next season. As numbers are down in both the programs, it is beneficial for teams to have competitive play with the two cities. The annual contribution from Derby has been reduced from $8,000 to $4,000. That is in part because the City has taken over the maintenance and utilities at the field house. The financials of any proposed arrangement would have to be worked out between the two cities. Members concurred and stressed the need for written formalization of any contracts.

Mr. O'Connell indicated that further discussions with Ansonia are being planned. He has coordinated with Ansonia with other recreation programs. He sees an opportunity that could be mutually beneficial. He does see that there are a number of issues to be fine-tuned.

Town Clerk Marc Garofalo stated that he agreed that having any contracts in writing is the correct procedure to follow. He also suggested that any detailed subjects such as this should be posted on the agenda so that the public is clearly informed of the discussions.

No one spoke else and without objection the public portion was closed.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Nothing was presented.

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By Marc J Garofalo MPA, MMC, MCTC at 9:08 am, Aug 11, 2026

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Mr. O'Connell reviewed his monthly report.

Parks and Recreation Update and Report – May 2026

- Summer camp begins June 29, 2026. It runs until August 7, 2026. The hours are 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
- DVCC is in need of several minor repairs, a handyman is needed. There is difficulty locating this individual.
- Waiting to hear about the creation of a facilities supervisor. I hoped it would start July 1, 2026.
- Recreation programs are progressing without problems so far. Baseball and soccer are primary for spring season.
- Recreation Receivables: $71,531.75 as of June 6, 2026.

Mr. O'Connell reported that Little League and Soccer have finished their spring programs. The soccer numbers show a slight increase in participation. Now the All-Stars will begin. Little League and Soccer will reconvene in the fall.

Men's Soccer are playing on Sunday mornings at Witek Park. They have complained with the conditions and Mr. O'Connell is investigating the complaint.

As mentioned during the public session, the program allocations have gone down from last year. Mr. O'Connell indicated that the new budget remains flat from last year and adjustments were made to hold the number to last year's allocation. The end of year process for the 2025-2026 is resulting in transfers within the recreation budget to adjust the overages in some of the line items. The spending is within the overall budget. Mr. O'Connell indicated that the tightness of the funding is making it difficult to accomplish all the maintenance needs. He is still waiting on the request for a maintenance supervisor position.

Members discussed maintenance issues that are arising throughout the programs. Mr. O'Connell again stressed the need for maintenance supervisor. He has not heard whether the position is going to be filled. He stressed the need for a skilled person to oversee the mechanics of the facilities. He has many projects needing attention that this person could be addressing or that person could be coordinating the necessary contractors to perform the tasks. In addition, Witek Park irrigation has not been functioning. It was hopeful that mother nature would provide enough to serve the watering needs. The equipment needs servicing but funding is uncertain at this time. Public Works does the general maintenance such as cutting the grass and lining the fields. There are additional issues that need to be addressed. Mr. O'Connell will be reaching out to Mr. Piscioneri to try and coordinate additional work. There are areas needing leveling as well as applications for field health.

High School Athletic Director's Report:

Ms. Moffat reported spring season is over. The High School baseball team made the play-offs again but lost in the semi-finals. Softball had a rough season as the senior pitcher graduated last year but the teams are working hard and improving. Track was successful again. It is a young team. Many of the programs have young players so the potential is certainly there. The Middle School programs are showing potential as well.

Ms. Moffat noted that damage occurred on the track and the fencing when a large limb fell onto the area. She noted that it was very fortunate that the damage occurred shortly after an event had ended on the field so no one was hurt. Mr. O'Connell indicated that he and Mr. Piscioneri are surveying the area to verify that the area is safe.

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NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS:

The Naming Committee met to discuss Mario Tessitore field dedication. They have recommended 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. The full Board of Alderman and Alderwoman acted on the recommendation favorably. The family were very grateful for the recommendation. Mr. O'Connell is exploring the purchase of signage.

MOTION made by Ronald Sill and second by Bruce Sill. **MOVE** to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 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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