

# *Park and Recreation Commission*

---

## **Minutes**

(meeting taped)

Monthly meeting: Monday, April 14, 2014 in the City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

By roll call, members present: Andrew Cota, Beverly Moran, James Benanto, Nick Serednitsky, Ronald Sill, John Monahan and Frank Rubino.

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell was present. Athletic Director Joseph Orazetti was absent.

### **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Motion made by Ron Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to accept the agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made Beverly Moran and second by James Benanto. Move to accept the minutes of March 10, 2014, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC PORTION:**

No one came forward.

### **CORRESPONDENCES:**

Mr. O'Connell indicated that he received a bill from the Water Pollution Control Authority for sewer usage fees for the Ryan Field Complex field house. The letter states that unless it is paid by April 30<sup>th</sup>, a lien will be filed on the property. He indicated that he has never paid a usage fee and there are no funds in the budget for this expense. Generally, he thought the bill went to the Board of Education and he was unclear how they handled it. Mr. Sill recommended that the bill be forwarded to the Finance Director so as to determine how this expense would be resolved.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS:**

**Parks & Recreation Director's Report:** Mr. O'Connell reported Little League opening day was April 12<sup>th</sup>. The fence project was completed and the field looked very good. The dedication for Kenneth Marcucio Sr. was held. The Parks and Recreation Department contributed toward the purchase of the complex dedication signage with Little League also contributing funds.

There will be two men's soccer teams playing at Witek Park on Sunday mornings. They will rotate alternate weeks. Men's softball will be playing as will the Fireman's League up at Amendola Field.

Mr. O'Connell observed a quad bike and motorcycle on the trails at Witek Park. He was uncertain how they were entering as the gates remain closed when there is nothing scheduled. There is vandalism on the fields although he could not say that it was the vehicles he had observed. The incident was reported to the Police Department. He did not have a detail of the extent of the damage.

The Board of Alderman has also approved the dedication of the Ryan Complex softball field after Red Clynh. Mr. O'Connell noted that he will be exploring funding for the signage. With the lighting project last year, the Ryan Field Capital account has been exhausted. He suggested seeking funding through the

Capital Planning Commission as well as spearheading a private fundraising effort. He will keep the Commission apprised of this project.

**High School Athletic Director's Report:** Mr. Orazetti was absent.

**NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Eagle Scout Project proposal for Witek Park:** Adam Sroka of Boy Scout Troop 3 presented his proposal to construct permanent players' benches at the Witek Park soccer fields. He plans to place a bench for each team at both fields. He is considering placement of aluminum outdoor benches with backs on the upper side of the fields in the vicinity of the 50 yard line of each field. He will research the recommended distance needed between the benches and the distance from the playing surface.

Mr. O'Connell noted that the area being suggested is often wet as it was designed as a swale to manage any water run-off away from the fields. He indicated that Mr. Sroka should speak with public works to determine the ideal placement of the benches.

Mr. Benanto questioned whether these benches would impact play when the fields are rotated and used as smaller fields for the youth programs. Mr. O'Connell did not feel that it would pose a problem. Mr. Benanto recommended that the distance of separation and distance from the field be determined as per CIAC regulations. Ms. Moran noted that the referendum process specified that no permanent structures be placed at Witek Park and she suggested that this be clarified as to the description of permanent structure. It was felt that the proposed benches would not be restricted per the stipulation. Members asked the timetable for construction. Mr. Sroka was hopeful for a summer time construction schedule but he understands that he will have to go through the process of approval with the various boards.

Motion made by Beverly Moran and second by John Monahan. Move to endorse and recommend to the full Board of Alderman the Eagle Scout project of placement of permanent players' benches on the soccer fields at Witek Park, as presented by Scout Adam Sroka with the stipulation that the referendum restrictions for permanent structures does not apply to the proposed benches and further, that Mr. Sroka come back before the Parks and Recreation Commission prior to the actual construction. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ron Sill and second by Beverly Moran. Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 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.*