

# *Park and Recreation Commission*

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Andrew Cota, Chairman

Beverly Moran  
James Benanto  
Ronald Sill  
James Butler Sr.  
Bruce Sill

## **Minutes**

(meeting recorded)

Monthly meeting: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 in City Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

By roll call, members present: Andrew Cota, Beverly Moran, James Butler Sr., and Bruce Sill. Ronald Sill arrived at 7:08 p.m. James Benanto arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis O'Connell arrived at 7:15 p.m... Athletic Director clerk Jennifer Moffat was absent.

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

MOTION made by Ron Sill and second by James Butler Sr. Move to accept the agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOTION was made Beverly Moran and second by Bruce Sill. Move to accept the minutes of September 11, 2017, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC PORTION:**

No one was present.

### **CORRESPONDENCES:**

The Chair reported that long time member John Monahan has submitted his resignation. The Commission commended Mr. Monahan for his years of service to recreation in the City of Derby. His wisdom and expertise has been beneficial to both this Commission and to the many participants of Derby's recreational programs.

### **NEW or OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Cota noted that as of late it seems that much is bypassing this Commission. Many recreational decisions are being made without communicating with this Commission. Members discussed how important it is to clarify the authorization process especially now with the new facility at the Ryan Field Complex in the planning stages. In the past as per ordinance, the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed and took action on all recreational outdoor facility use as well as determined the scheduled use of the recreational facilities in the City of Derby. If a request was presented by an outside group seeking use of a facility, then that use would be discussed by the Commission and a recommendation would be forwarded to the Board of Alderman for their consideration. As Mr. Cota has attended Board of Alderman meetings, many times issues were presented and decided upon without Parks and Recreation Commission involvement. Often the use would be presented as information only as the determination had already been made. Use of the fields has become unclear as things are occurring without Parks and Recreation director Dennis O'Connell's knowledge. Throughout the years, Mr. O'Connell and the Athletic Director worked together determining the use of the fields and the gymnasiums. This often times was very difficult due to the factor that there was limited time and space. Overuse was not an option as the fields could quickly go into disrepair if weather conditions were unfavorable. With the new turf surface this will become less of a problem in terms of usage but there will still be a timing factor. It was strongly recommended that the protocols for recreational facility use be clearly defined and implemented. Further, it was encouraged that the ordinance be forwarded to the Ryan Field Building

Committee so that they may take into consideration the oversight and maintenance issues that will come with this wonderful new facility.

**Update on the Football/Baseball/Field house Committees**

Currently, the Ryan Field Complex is the home of Lou DeFlippo Field, the Cirrillo press box, Charles DiCenso Way and William “Red” Clynch softball field. Mr. O’Connell indicated that he is very conscience of continuing the heritage of these dedications as well as preserving those involving the Little League complex. The architects are working on final designs with hopes of bringing the plans forward for final determination in the near future.

**DIRECTOR REPORTS:**

**Parks & Recreation Director’s Report:** Mr. O’Connell reported that all fall programs are going well. He has been attending numerous Ryan Field Committee meetings. He is in the process of moving forward with the winter basketball program at the Derby Veteran's Community Center. It will once again be coordinated with Ansonia.

**High School Athletic Director’s Report:** Ms. Moffat was not in attendance.

MOTION by Ronald Sill and second by Beverly Moran. 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.*