

Kent Park & Recreation

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RECEIVED

By Darlene Brady at 9:36 am, Jan 19, 2023

Park & Recreation Commission

Special Meeting

Tuesday, 1.18.2023 – 7:00p

Meeting Minutes

Present Commissioners: Julia Neff, Abigail Smith Hanby, Blythe Everett, Michael Perkins, John Grant, Rufus DeRham, Kate Symonds

Also Present: Director of Park & Recreation Jared Kuczenski, Alternate Commissioner Elizabeth Bernard

Call to order: Julia Neff calls the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m.

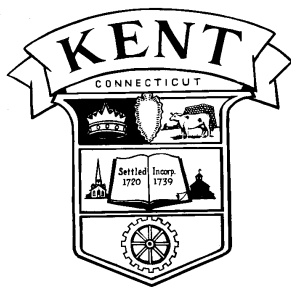
Motion to approve agenda: made by Michael Perkins, seconded by Abigail Smith Hanby. Carried unanimously.

Jared leads discussion regarding FY 2024 budget proposal (included in the supporting documents folder for this meeting), going through each GL Code and corresponding income or expenses.

Discussed specifically on the revenue side were the increases in expected revenue from sports programs, ASP and our summer camps, which Jared attributes to increased registration fees over the past year as well as increased program participation.

Discussed specifically on the expense side were:

- 1) The addition of a full-time recreation leader (or similar position) to replace the ASP Director, Camp Director, and assist with all aspects of other programming.
 - a. Jared notes that in his proposal this position was budgeted for at a rate of \$20.00 per hour for 40 hours per week with the cost of benefits expected to be somewhere between \$20,000 and \$25,000.
 - b. The board felt more detail was needed with respect to the responsibilities of this position, but ultimately agreed to keep it in the budget request.
- 2) The addition of a Community Day fair-style event for all residents to take place on or near July 4th.
 - a. Jared explains that in his vision this event would include inflatable amusements, vendors, food vendors, climbing walls, pony rides and similar attractions.
 - b. Jared discussed the budget of \$10,000 by explaining that to have an event with a variety of attractions the cost quickly adds up. He referenced his experiences running similar events at his previous place of employment.
 - c. The proposal met with much support from the Commission and it was agreed to leave this request in the budget.
- 3) The request to increase the playing field budget from \$20,000 to \$30,000.
 - a. Jared reminded the Commission that they originally requested \$30,000 in FY 2023 but that it was cut back to \$20,000 by the Board of Selectman.
 - b. He explained that his rationale behind continuing to push for \$30,000 is that proper general maintenance of the fields alone costs just about \$20,000 and that the additional \$10,000 would go



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towards other necessary improvements including top dressing certain sections of the fields, additional clay for the ball fields, and the erection of a new backstop for the main recreation (the second closest field to the school).

The discussion concluded with the Commission having made no changes to the proposed budget.

Motion to populate the FY 2024 budget worksheet with the line items that have been discussed and laid out in the budget workbook contained in the backup for this meeting: made by Rufus De Rham, seconded by Kate Symonds.

Motion carries unanimously.

Motion to adjourn meeting: made by Julia Neff at 8:47 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Jared Kuczenski, Director of Park & Recreation

Signature: _____

Date: 01.19.2023 _____

Minutes are not considered final until approved. Refer to the minutes from the ensuing meeting for any changes and/or corrections.