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By Kent Town Clerk at 9:29 am, Dec 14, 2020

Kent Park and Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Dec. 10, 2020
Minutes

Present: Blythe Everett, John Grant, Lynn Harrington, Diane Impastato, Julia Neff, Michael Perkins, Kate Symonds.

Chairman Lynn Harrington called the special meeting to order via Zoom at 7:05 p.m.

Elevation of Alternates: Mrs. Everett made a motion to elevate alternates Diane Impastato and Julia Neff. Mr. Perkins seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Ice Skating: Ms. Ferris provided a memo prior to the meeting about the traditional holiday ice skating at Kent School (attached) and reiterated the following:

- ♦ Kent School has ice time available for rent at \$300/hour; dates could be now until early January. The school would require participants to wear a mask at all times.
- ♦ Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association said the limit on the ice is 4 at a time.
- ♦ Torrington Area Health District Director of Health Rob Rubbo shared the state guidelines, noting the maximum number of skaters allowed on the rink would be 25. Mr. Rubbo said he does not recommend it at this time (attached).
- ♦ Danbury Ice Arena is not offering public ice skating at this time. Canterbury School and Brewster Ice Arena are offering public skating.
- ♦ This is a commission decision.
- ♦ Park pass is required to participate in holiday ice skating at a cost of \$35/family so you might have four or five people coming to skate with one pass. The cost per person would be \$12.

Mr. Grant expressed concern about potential exposure to COVID-19.

Mrs. Everett stated her concerns are two-fold:

- ♦ Does Park and Recreation stand a chance of recouping its investment?
- ♦ The health piece, noting that hockey players were the ones who got sick before other team sports' players.

She also noted that 15 minutes over the course of a day of exposure still makes a person a direct contact, according to COVID guidance.

Mrs. Neff said that an ice rink is one of the least safe places to socialize during COVID and suggested keeping in mind that an ice rink may not be the best winter environment for everybody.

Mr. Grant made a motion to postpone holiday ice skating for the safety of the Town's residents due to the potential COVID-19 exposure. Mrs. Everett seconded the motion. Mrs. Everett, Mr. Grant, Ms. Impastato, Mrs. Neff, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Symonds voted yes; Mrs. Harrington abstained. The motion carries.

The meeting ended at 7:12 p.m.

Lesly Ferris
Director

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

Kent Park and Recreation

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To: Park and Recreation Commission

From: Lesly Ferris

Date: Dec. 9, 2020

Re: Holiday ice skating

Kent School traditionally provides complimentary ice time on specific dates at the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. This year the school is offering to rent Park and Recreation ice time at \$300/hour if we want to offer ice skating in December and/or early January.

I contacted Rob Rubbio at Torrington Area Health District for guidance (reply attached).

Kent School requires all skaters to wear masks while on the ice and suggested skaters arrive at the rink, dressed to go on the ice as much as possible because the warming room area is small.

This is a commission decision. I will suggest some areas also to consider:

- Registration process to ensure no more than 25 skaters.
- Cost vs. revenue (a park pass is \$35/family and free to senior citizens so you could have a family of 4 or 5 skating that only would generate \$35 or senior citizens generating \$0 income)
- Offer to Kent residents only? If so, how would P&R confirm residency?
- Should P&R follow the recommendation of TAHD and not offer the program?

Thank you.

I will try to look this up when I have a chance. Im going to need a few days. In the meantime please go to the state site for sector rules below. I believe the cap is 25 people. It is not something I would recommend at this point.

<https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Sector-Rules-and-Certification-for-Reopen>

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