

Kent Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes, Monthly Meeting
Aug. 10, 2015

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2015 AUG 11 P 1:32

BY *Dan Bradley*
TOWN CLERK

Present: Jerry Decker, Dave Dunleavy, Mike Green, Lynn Harrington, Glen Nielsen, Jessie Rundall, director Lesly Ferris

Public and Invited Guests: None

Mr. Dunleavy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Alternates: Mr. Green made a motion to elevate alternate Jessie Rundall. Mr. Decker seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda: Mr. Green made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Rundall seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes: Mr. Decker made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2015 monthly meeting. Mrs. Rundall seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Correspondence: Mrs. Ferris read an email from Connie Manes, chairperson of the Kent Conservation Commission, thanking the director for announcing the location of the new recycling bin at the Aug. 6, 2015 summer concert (attached).

Public and Invited Guests: No one was in attendance.

Director's Report: In addition to the written report provided prior to the meeting (attached), Mrs. Ferris reported a resident spoke with her regarding establishing a dog park in Town. Mrs. Ferris recommended the resident attend a commission meeting or send a written request. Mrs. Ferris has registered for the annual CRPA Conference, taking advantage of \$100 savings by registering before Sept. 1. She will attend a regional recreation directors' meeting the next day where the directors will discuss fall soccer and the trainer's schedule. Mrs. Ferris sent a thank you note to Club Getaway, sharing what a positive day the camp youngsters had there. Camp Kent director Kevin Kalach has shared his interest in returning for summer 2016.

Old Business: After-School Program: Mrs. Ferris is meeting Aug. 12 with new director Susan Vizzari. Mr. Dunleavy requested a background check on Ms. Vizzari. Mrs. Ferris has put the After-School Program handbook and registration forms on the Park and Recreation website. She will announce news of the new director after the Aug. 12 meeting. School opens Aug. 31, and Mrs. Ferris will cover the first seven days of the program as Ms. Vizzari will be out of town.

Parks: Mrs. Ferris reported there is a hole in the bottom of the tower in the Emery Park swimming area from which water is leaking out. The lack of rain has resulted in less water coming into the swimming area and, therefore, the water level in the pool has dropped. Mrs. Ferris said she will drain the swimming area when the park closes Aug. 21 after which time a plan could be made to address this leak. There also are algae in the pool. The water tests have

been fine. Mrs. Ferris asked the commission to begin thinking about how to proceed regarding the future of the pool and swimming. The commission agreed to begin discussing this at its September meeting. Mr. Dunleavy asked the director to speak with the first selectman about his thoughts on how best to proceed. Mrs. Ferris also discussing dredging the feeder pond and will speak with the road crew foreman about possible subcontractors for such work. This would require a wetlands permit. Mrs. Ferris reminded the commission she plans to have a board put across the doors to the building at Emery Park once the park closes to help deter vandalism of the building.

2015-16 Budget: There was no report.

Five-Year Capital Plan: The commission will discuss including funding for a swimming facility to put in the out years of the plan.

Summer Concerts: Follow-up: Mr. Dunleavy said the concerts exceeded his expectations. He asked Mrs. Ferris to send a thank you letter to the Kent Chamber of Commerce to let the Chamber know the praise received following the concerts. The commission discussed having a weather contingency next summer. Mrs. Ferris said the first two bands have not received their payment yet, and she had contacted the Chamber secretary regarding this. Charter Cablevision filmed the Aug. 6 concert which will air Aug. 22-23 and Aug. 29-30 at 2 p.m. Commission members agree a concert should be scheduled for the Thursday of the Sidewalk Sale Days.

Emery Park Timber Harvest: There has been no new report from Jim Gillespie.

In other discussion, Mr. Dunleavy asked the director to send letters to the two commission members who have been absent from repeated meetings to ask if they wish to continue serving.

The next Kent Park and Recreation Commission meeting is Sept. 21, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Mrs. Rundall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.



Lesly Ferris
Director

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



Lesly Ferris <parkandrec@townofkentct.org>

Thanks for calling attention to the Recycling Bin!

1 message

Connie Manes <connie@manes-consulting.com>
To: parkandrec@townofkentct.org

Thu, Aug 6, 2015 at 9:21 PM

Hi Lesly – Thanks for your work in putting on the concert outside Town Hall this evening. My family had a great time and hope you will do it again. What a wonderful thing for the Town to do.

Thanks also for your announcement specifically referencing the recycling bin the Conservation Commission put out this morning. I'm sorry that we left it in a bad place and am grateful to you for moving it – and such an excellent thought to have it right next to a regular trash bin – studies have shown that people are reluctant to use the receptacles (or use them properly) if not placed next to a regular refuse bin.

Tomorrow I will be moving the bin to another home during the Sidewalk Festival – near the Patco.

Best, Connie

Connie A. Manes, Esq.

Chairperson

Kent Conservation Commission

(860) 488-6320

connie@manes-consulting.com

*Note new phone number

Lesly Ferris, Director
Kent Park and Recreation

Director's Report
August 2015

From the July monthly meeting:

- I sent a contract to Susan Vizzari and contacted in writing the other applicants for the After-School Program director.
- I have visited the tennis courts a few times and haven't seen or received any more reports of scooters and trikes on the courts. I did speak with the resident trooper about driving through the park periodically.
- I requested the \$250 check to be sent to the Chamber of Commerce for the sponsorship of the Kids Fun Run.

From the director:

After-School Program: There are 8 families still who have balances due the program for the 2014-15 school year. I continue to bill them every other week and, again, have reminded them that their children cannot participate in the program until these balances are paid in full. I am meeting with the new program director Aug. 13. I will be covering the first seven days of the program, which begins Aug. 31. I have put the program handbook and registration forms on the Park and Recreation Website.

Seniors: The visit to the Trolley Car Museum in East Haven was a lot of fun and there was much to see and learn. The Friday senior lunches resume Sept. 11.

Budget: Park and Recreation returned about \$3,000 in the hourly salary line in the 2014-15 budget.

Parks: Sean McAvoy continues to do maintenance work on the Emery Park trail. There has been a lot of algae in the swimming area at Emery Park in recent weeks. The water tests, however, continue to be good. I believe this may be due to a combination of factors: heat and humidity and the rain we had or maybe lack of rain. The water coming into the swimming area appears to be clear.

Fee Programs: A new eight-week session of beginning dog obedience class begins Aug. 12. The participation in the tennis lessons was minimal. Two adults took classes, one for one session due to a subsequent injury and the other took two classes. There were two youth participants. Jim Mauri was very gracious and willing to work with us. We would need a committed group of youngsters if we were to offer this program again. A new session of Tang Soo Do begins Aug. 17.

Regional Recreation directors: Our regular monthly meetings resume in September although we are trying to schedule a meeting to discuss fall soccer as well as the potential for a regional soccer program for ages 3-5, working with the trainer.

Summer Employees: The summer staff continues to do a good job. We have coverage for the gaps in the lifeguard schedule. We have had water rescue drills and camp staff meetings.

Summer Programs: I canceled film class. We had four registrations but needed five and two of the four decided at the last minute that they did not want to participate. The second week of basketball camp is Aug. 17. Camp Kent youngsters spent July 23 at Club Getaway where we had a great time. I wrote a thank you note to owner/director David Schreiber. The theme this week is "Time Travelers" and we plan to put items into a "time capsule" and bury it in the park. The youngsters seem to be enjoying themselves. The Friday barbecues continue to be popular. Park and Recreation received an anonymous donation which funds a camper for a week of summer camp. I have written a thank you letter to the donor.

Summer Concert Series: Our first concert was a success – the weather cooperated, people attended, nearly 70 by the end of the evening, and the music was enjoyable. People brought chairs and blankets and food and drink. Youngsters danced on the lawn. It was a lot of fun. The second concert, unfortunately, was canceled due to thunderstorms and a lot of rain. The band needed to begin setting up at 2 p.m. and I left the decision up to the band. This time frame made the decision easier to make and the weather lived up to the forecast. Our third and final concert is Aug. 6, 6-8 p.m. Charter Cable television plans to film this concert and has secured permission from the band to do so.

Looking ahead ...

- The Park and Recreation office will be closed Aug. 24-28.

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