

Kent Park and Recreation Commission  
Minutes Monthly Meeting  
Sept. 21, 2015

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

Public & Invited Guests: None.

Chairman Dave Dunleavy called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Alternates: Mr. Green made a motion to elevate alternates Cathy Montemorra and Jessie Rundall. Mr. Nielsen seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda: Mrs. Ferris asked to add item 9d. "Volunteer Camper Qualifications" to the agenda. Mr. Green made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mrs. Rundall seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes: Mr. Green made a motion to approve the minutes of the Aug. 10, 2015 monthly meeting. Mrs. Rundall seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Correspondence: Mrs. Ferris shared the following: thank you letter from the Kent Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the Kids Fun Run; email from commission Brian Hastings who apologized for missing meetings and offered to stay until the commission could replace his seat; copy of a letter from the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association congratulating the Kent Community Fund for being selected as the 2015 Selected Organization Award winner, for which Mrs. Ferris nominated KCF; thank you note from Barbara Egenes for the senior activities that took place Sept. 18, 2015 (attached).

Public & Invited Guests: None present.

Director's Report: Mrs. Ferris provided a written report prior to the meeting (attached) and had no additional report.

Old Business: After-School Program: Mrs. Ferris said the program attendance is keeping pace with last school year's for the first month of the new school year. Today 11 youngsters attended the program. Tanta Sue is settling into the duties of director, and Mrs. Ferris has been working with her. Mrs. Ferris reported three families still have outstanding balances from 2014-15, and one family have made a payment arrangement. Mrs. Ferris said she continues to bill these families. Meanwhile, these youngsters may not attend the program. She also is working with a parent who has a past due balance from the 2012-13 program and has been able to arrange a monthly payment plan.

Parks: Mrs. Ferris noted the Emery Park swimming area has been drained and most of the water is out of the pool area. She needs to assess the condition of the steel tower to determine if there is a crack. Mr. Nielsen said he would try to take a look at the tower.

2015-16 Budget: Mrs. Ferris reiterated that she has received a written budget report from the town treasurer. There are no concerns with the budget at this time.

Five-Year Capital Plan: Mrs. Ferris suggested the commission discuss capital projects at the October meeting in anticipation of receiving the capital plan requests from the Selectmen in late fall. Mrs. Dunleavy asked the director to send out ahead of the meeting issues facing Park and Recreation that might be considered for inclusion in the capital plan.

Emery Park Timber Harvest: Mrs. Ferris said she has heard nothing new from Jim Gillespie. Mrs. Ferris said she would remove this item from the monthly agenda until she hears from Mr. Gillespie.

Emery Park Swimming Area: Future Plans: Mrs. Ferris noted the present swimming area has a life expectancy of about another 10 years. She suggested the commission break down a discussion of a new swimming facility into specific areas over several meetings. She posed two questions: who are our users and where could a new facility be located? The commission listed Emery Park, Kent Common Park and a new (undetermined) site as options for location. Users include senior citizens, youngsters under age 3, camp youngsters, pre-teens and teens and senior citizens in addition to families. Mr. Dunleavy suggested asking someone to look at an exact location and ideas and give us an estimated cost. Mrs. Ferris said ideally she envisions a combination of pool area and splash park. Mr. Dunleavy noted the City of Danbury replaced its pool with splash parks.

Commission seats: potential vacancy: The commission agrees Mr. Hastings is willing to vacate his seat, and it would seek a replacement.

New Business: Youth Basketball Program 2015-16: travel teams?: Mrs. Ferris reported a basketball coach/parent asked the director if Park and Recreation would sponsor travel teams for fifth and sixth grade boys' and girls' teams this winter. Mr. Dunleavy noted the commission discussed the basketball program following last season and invited parent feedback and received only one communication. Mr. Dunleavy said he feels the problem is numbers, saying a travel team would dismantle the Adams League program. Mr. Decker said he also feels a travel team would impact the Adams League program. Mrs. Harrington said she feels bad for the kids who want to play at the travel level. Mrs. Ferris said this coach feels players would participate on both the travel and Adams League teams. Mr. Nielsen made a motion that Kent Park and Recreation sponsor travel team for fifth and sixth grade boys' and girls' teams. Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion. Mrs. Harrington voted yes; Mr. Decker, Mr. Dunleavy, Ms. Montemorra, Mr. Nielsen and Mrs. Rundall voted no. The motion failed 1-5.

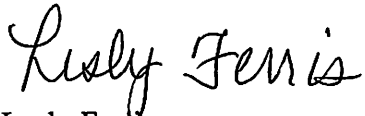
Soccer coaches: Mrs. Ferris shared recommendations for fall travel soccer coaches. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to accept Tim Sneller as U12 boys' coach; Garrison Smith as U12 girls' coach; Katie Nordland as U10 girls' coach and Heather Darby as U8 coed coach. Mr. Decker seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Emery Park Swimming hours: Mrs. Ferris shared a request to change the Emery Park seasonal swimming hours from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. to 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. She noted the request comes from both parents and lifeguards, noting there are few, if any, swimming between 6 and 7 p.m. Mr. Decker made a motion to change the hours of seasonal swimming at Emery Park to between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mrs. Rundall seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Volunteer Camp Counselor Qualifications: Mrs. Ferris said there is a successful volunteer camp counselor program in place at Camp Kent. The qualifications currently require volunteer counselors be Kent residents. The director requested this be changed to include former camp counselors. Mr. Nielsen made a motion to revise the qualifications for the Camp Kent Volunteer Program to "Kent resident and/or former Camp Kent participant," effective Sept. 21, 2015. Mrs. Rundall seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The next Kent Park and Recreation Commission meeting is Monday, Oct. 19, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lesly Ferris".

Lesly Ferris  
Director

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

Sept. 5, 2015

Ms. Lesly Ferris, Director  
Kent Park & Recreation  
P.O. Box 678  
Kent, CT 06757



Dear Lesly,

Thank you so much for returning as a sponsor of the 2015 Kent Kids Fun Run, a companion to the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Kent Pumpkin Run! These events have become our Town's largest annual sporting event, attracting over 900 participants last year from both the local area and throughout the region. We're delighted to welcome Kent Park & Recreation again to the KPR family! Our Race Committee, our Chamber of Commerce, and a team of some 50 volunteers representing a cross section of our community, come together annually to transform the streets of our Town into one of the most scenic 5 mile race courses in New England. The generous support of our sponsors is a key ingredient in creating a safe, fun and memorable experience for all involved.

The Kids Fun Run helps to create a true family event. In 2013 the Kent Chamber of Commerce assumed full management of the Fun Run and instituted some enhancements that made the race enjoyable for all. The race is now divided into two age groups with commemorative shirts for the first 100 registrants that feature sponsors' names and prizes are awarded for costumes.

We look forward to working with you to make this a positive and rewarding experience for your organization. Whether it be through our e-mail marketing and website, our social media, our on-site signage, our commemorative shirts, or any of our other many sponsor benefits, we're dedicated to helping you derive maximum value from your sponsorship.

Please send the following information to Lyn Stirnweiss, Administrative Assistant, at [info@kentct.com](mailto:info@kentct.com):

- **The current contact name & e-mail address of the person to whom we should send your allotted complimentary race entries**
- **The current contact name & e-mail address of the person(s) to whom we should send an invitation to our Pre-Race Sponsor Reception (to be held on Wed. Oct. 21)**

Thanks once again for your support!

Sincerely,

  
Ellen Correll

Race Chairman and Board member  
Kent Chamber of Commerce

**briandhastings@gmail.com**

Sep 8 (9 days ago)



me

Hi Lesly,

Sorry I have not been at our summer meetings. I had lacrosse on Monday nights throughout the summer and a couple vacations scattered in there to boot. As far as my involvement in the Park board, I feel that my duties at school and more importantly at home are getting in the way of my participation on the board. I am a father to be and need to prioritize my time. I am willing and able to remain a member until the board finds a replacement.

Please let me know what you decide!

Be well,  
Brian

Sent from my mobile phone, so please excuse the brevity and/or typos.



CONNECTICUT  
RECREATION & PARKS  
ASSOCIATION

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Newington, CT 06111  
Phone: 860.721.0384  
Fax: 860.529.8708  
Email: info@crpa.com  
Website: www.ctcrpa.org

September 15, 2015

Kent Community Fund  
Attn: Ruth Epstein, President  
P.O. Box 262  
Kent, CT 06757

Dear Ruth,

On behalf of the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, Inc., congratulations on having the **Kent Community Fund** selected as the **2015 Selected Organization Award winner!** This year's awards selection committee reviewed many deserving nominations and had the difficult task of narrowing down each category to just one nomination and our selection committee chose your nomination above all others. This is truly a testament to your hard work and dedication within the field of Parks and Recreation.

The awards luncheon will take place on **Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, from 12:20 - 2:20 pm**, at the **Mohegan Sun Hotel & Convention Center**. **Award recipients should arrive by 12:00 pm** and check in at the conference registration desk located in the Uncas Ballroom pre-function area. The luncheon is free for all award recipients and one guest. Any additional guests will be required to pay \$45.00 per person.

Please RSVP to CRPA with the total number attending by **Thursday, October 15, 2015** via the enclosed form.

Once again, congratulations on your selection as a Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, Inc. 2015 award winner! We look forward to honoring you on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

CRPA Awards Committee Co-Chairs:  
Dale Izzo, *Branford Parks & Recreation*  
Eileen Cicchese, *Town of Groton Parks and Recreation*

Friday Sept. 18.

Dear Leslie:

Thank you so  
much for a lovely

Friday.

The Glen Appeal  
The Luncheon  
Planting of Bulbs.  
It was all much  
appreciated.

Best.

Barbara Agnew

Lesly Ferris, Director  
Kent Park and Recreation

*Director's Report  
September 2015*

From the August monthly meeting:

- I contacted commissioners Brian Hastings and Cathy Montemorra regarding their repeated absences from meetings and asked what their status is. Cathy will be more diligent about her attendance until her term expires in January. Brian apologizes for missing meetings and said he would try to attend until the commission could replace him.
- I have placed the swimming area on the agenda for discussion as planned at the August meeting. Please bring your ideas, suggestions.

From the director:

**After-School Program:** The program is off to a great start in the new school year. Our attendance numbers are good with a mix of regular participants and drop-ins as well as new students to the program. Our new director Sue Vizzari has been able to start her duties sooner than expected and we shared the director duties the first two weeks of school. She is enjoying being with the youngsters and is doing a good job. Counselor Brittany Pinnette returned for her second year at the program and has been very helpful with the day-to-day operation of the program, especially the first week when I needed to be at soccer practices and the program simultaneously. Four families have balances due from last year's program while a fifth has contacted me and is making ongoing payments to clear the balance. I also was contacted by a family with balance due from three years ago and that is being paid in monthly installments.

**Seniors:** This month's senior outing is to the Tanger Outlets at Foxwoods. The Friday lunch program resumed Sept. 11. The Kent, one of the Friday lunch providers, is expected to close in the coming two months and did provide lunch on Sept. 11 and is uncertain at this time about being able to provide the meal in October. The first selectman is overseeing the scheduling and plans to speak with the local restaurants about providing a meal for the other weeks. The Kent is on the schedule for this school year. There are 13 participants for the AARP Safe Driving Course Sept. 16 at Town Hall. The Flex Appeal exercise program for seniors begins Sept. 18 and the annual planting in the Memory Garden at Kent Common Park also is Sept. 18. The latest edition of the bi-monthly senior newsletter was mailed and/or emailed last week. I have some other guest speakers scheduled in conjunction with the Friday lunch program in the coming month.

**Budget:** The treasurer has provided a written budget report for July and August.

**Parks:** The swimming area at Emery Park has been drained although some water remains in the bottom of the pool. We should be able to get into the area to assess

the leak in the drain pipe. I plan to meet with Sean McAvoy to look at tree and trimming work at Emery Park. I asked surveyor Gary Hock to mark the four corners and mid-field of the soccer field that Park and Recreation uses for its travel team games. The four corners are pinned and marked on his map so layout of the field will be easier and more accurate. I would like to thank Benjamin Ferris for his assistance with layout and marking of the field. The town crew continues to do a good job mowing the playing fields. I have given Rick Osborne a copy of the home game soccer schedule.

**Fee Programs:** Participation in Tang Soo Do martial arts classes remains steady and continues to meet Monday evenings at the Community House. Lee Sohl had only two registrations for the late summer dog obedience class and canceled that session. I have received the tentative schedule for the ice rink and Kent School and am working on the schedule for figure skating lessons.

**Regional Recreation directors:** We met Sept. 8 in Cornwall and the soccer trainer joined us for lunch. We each provided the trainer with the practice schedule for our respective towns. I did cancel the first practice with the trainer due to the heat last week. We also discussed game schedule, set times for those games we have with each other's towns and talked about the future of soccer in our towns given the declining numbers in some of the towns.

**Summer Programs:** Camp Kent ended Aug. 21. The youngsters and staff staged the annual talent show, which included the annual camp poem, penned by camp director Kevin Kalach. We had a group barbecue lunch and sat together at tables placed end-to-end. The first selectman joined us for lunch. The park closed that evening as two lifeguards already had left for college and a third was leaving the next day. The lifeguards have requested (based in part on feedback from families) if the park hours could be changed to 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (currently 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.). I have placed this on the agenda. The second session of Hoop-it-Up Basketball camp was successful. I visited camp and was pleased to see many familiar faces. Kent School also has given us dates for next summer's programs.

**Summer Concert Series:** The Aug. 6 concert aired on Charter Public Access television two weekends in August. I have been told that we will be receiving a copy of the tape.

**Soccer:** The programs practice Tuesday afternoons and each team has a 30-minute session with the trainer. Games began Sept. 12 for the travel teams except U8 teams which have their first games Sept. 19. I have been able to identify referees for the home games and have two back-up refs if needed. I will be lining the fields each week. We have 14 players on the U12 girls' and boys' teams and 13 on the U10 girls' team. We do not have a U10 boys' team this year. I am still getting registrations for

the U8 coed team and continue to work to identify parents to coach Saturday games. I have put the game schedules on the Park and Recreation website. I have provided parents with the biography of the soccer trainer (attached) and the CDC fact sheet for parents on concussion in youth sports, which recreation departments will be required to provide to parents of youth travel programs beginning Jan. 1, 2016 (attached). I will provide a list of coaches at the meeting. I am working with Positive Images Photography to schedule picture day for the travel soccer teams.

**Basketball:** One of the coach/parents has asked if Park and Recreation could register fifth and sixth graders for travel basketball teams this year. This coach said she is willing to coach and believes players would play travel and Park and Recreation. The commission agreed last spring to leave the program as is. I have placed this on the agenda in response to the verbal request I received.

**Miscellaneous:** I was asked by the first selectman to share the Park and Recreation director job description and list of programs the director oversees with the Goshen first selectman. Goshen is in the process of hiring a new recreation director and was interested in this information because the two towns are similar in population. I sent this information and answered a couple of questions via email that the Goshen first selectman asked.

Looking ahead ...

- Town Hall offices will be closed Oct. 12.

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KENT TOWN CLERK

2015 SEP 22 A 11:47

BY

*Mark Brady, TC*  
TOWN CLERK