

Kent Park and Recreation
Minutes Monthly Meeting
Nov. 16, 2015

Present: Jerry Decker, Mike Green, Lynn Harrington, Cathy Montemorra, director Lesly Ferris

Public & Invited Guests: Katie Nordland.

Director Lesly Ferris called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. in the absence of chairman David Dunleavy.

Alternates: Mr. Green made a motion to elevate alternate Cathy Montemorra. Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda: Mr. Green made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Decker seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes: Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 21 and Oct. 19, 2015 monthly meetings. Mr. Decker seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Correspondence: Mrs. Ferris read an email letter of resignation from commissioner Brian Hastings (attached). Mrs. Harrington made a motion to accept Brian Hastings' resignation from the Park and Recreation Commission. Mr. Green seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Public and Invited Guests: Katie Nordland spoke with the commission about Park and Recreation putting a fifth and sixth grade boys' team in the Northwest Rec league starting either this year or next, saying there are exceptional athletes at this level who are interested in playing in this league. She said Adams League is not cutting it for some players, and this league would be more beneficial for players who want to play high school or prep school basketball. Ms. Nordland asked if the commission wants kids going outside Kent to play sports, also asking if it would consider joining the Northwest Rec league. Ms. Nordland also said there are five Kent players on this year's Housy Hoops team, which is a regional basketball team that plays in the Route 44 league. Ms. Nordland she is a coach for this team but would rather that her son play in Kent. Mr. Decker said he feels it is a good idea for kids who are more skilled to play somewhere competitive and to do something to keep kids playing in Kent. Ms. Nordland said she can put a team in the league herself if Park and Recreation doesn't want to be involved. Mrs. Harrington said she would favor having a travel team, especially if Ms. Nordland is willing to put this much time and energy into it. Mr. Decker said he would want to be able to offer something for kids who don't want this type program. Mr. Green said he feels it is important to get public feedback, and he would like time to think about it and to hear what the commission chairman thinks. Mrs. Ferris noted that the commission has had ongoing discussions about the basketball program and asked for parental feedback last March and got one email response. Mrs. Ferris will keep basketball on the agenda for the December meeting.

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BY *Lesly Ferris*
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Director's Report: Mrs. Ferris reported figure skating lessons begin Saturday and registrations have been coming in for this program. The Halloween Safety Program was successful with 800 glow-in-the-dark necklaces distributed. The Boys' U12 soccer team won the league championship while the U12 girls' won its semi-final game and lost in the championship round but played a good game. Mrs. Ferris shared that the area rec directors discussed the soccer trainer and have decided not to continue with this next year, citing rising costs and decreased number of players in many towns. Also, the rec directors have been working on meeting with the regional soccer club to discuss areas of concern. The rec boards in Sharon and Cornwall will be charging the soccer club for use of their respective fields, based on a per player registration fee. Men's adult basketball program begins Nov. 18. The last Goodspeed theater trip of the season is Nov. 18.

Old Business: After-School Program: Mrs. Ferris noted the attendance for November today exceeds the total month's attendance in 2014. Mrs. Ferris is very pleased with the program and said the program director is happy in her job.

Parks: The tennis court nets will come down this week and the leaves around the fence at the courts will be removed. Soccer nets have been taken off the goals, and the goals moved off the field. The small goals have been put back in storage at the Community House. Mrs. Ferris is waiting for proposal from Sean McAvoy for brush clearing at Emery Park and spoke with Rick Osborne about removal of a tree at Emery Park.

Five-Year Capital Plan: There was no further discussion of capital items. Requests are due to the Selectman by Dec. 4, 2015.

Emery Park Swimming Area: future plans: There was no new discussion.

Commission seats: anticipated vacancies: Mrs. Harrington made a motion to appoint Jessie Rundall to fill an unexpired three-year seat on the commission until Jan. 21, 2016. Mr. Green seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

New Business: Basketball program: There was no further discussion. Consensus is to place the item on the December meeting agenda.

Concussion legislation: Mrs. Ferris noted for the record that Kent Park and Recreation began complying with the state legislation on concussion with the Fall 2015 soccer season. She is emailing parents/guardians of players on teams the CDC fact sheet on concussion as now required by state law.

Proposed 2016 Meeting Dates: Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the 2016 meeting dates as proposed (attached). Mr. Decker seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Proposed 2016-17 hourly employee salaries: The commission agreed to postpone discussion on this until December.

Commission appointment recommendations: Ms. Montemorra said she is not interested in serving a new one-year alternate term. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the appointment at the Jan. 21, 2016 Annual Town Meeting the appointment of David Dunleavy and Mike Green to three-year seats on the Kent Park and Recreation Commission until Jan. 17, 2019; the appointment of Jerry Decker to fill an unexpired three-year seat until Jan. 18, 2018; the appointment of Jessie Rundall to fill an unexpired three-year seat until Jan. 19, 2017. Mr. Green seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mrs. Ferris noted this leaves the two alternate seats vacant, one of which she already has advertised.

December meeting date: Mrs. Ferris requested the date of the December monthly meeting be changed. The commission consensus is to email possible dates to commissioners and then set a date for a special meeting.

CRPA Conference: accommodation request: Mrs. Ferris requested approval for an expenditure for motel accommodation for Nov. 22, 2015 to facilitate attendance at the annual CRPA Conference. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve reimbursement to director Lesly Ferris for motel accommodation not to exceed \$55 for Nov. 22, 2015. Mr. Green seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The date of the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be announced.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 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.

briandhastings@gmail.com

6:09 PM (15 hours ago) ↕

to me

Hello Kent Park and Recreation Commission,

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve the Town of Kent. I have truly appreciated my time as a member of Parks and Rec. unfortunately at this time my life is in transition.

My wife and I are expecting a child in December and as a result I feel it is in the best interest of my family and the commission to officially resign as a board member. I hope I am given an opportunity like this again one day, maybe you will even see my boy out there in the coming years. Until that day, I wish you all the best.

Be well,
Brian

Kent Park and Recreation

Lesly Ferris, Director

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2016 Kent Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Dates

Meetings are held in Kent Town Hall, 41 Kent Green Boulevard, at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 25

Monday, February 22

Monday, March 21

Monday, April 18

Monday, May 16

Monday, June 13

Monday, July 18

Monday, August 15

Monday, September 19

Monday, October 17

Monday, November 21

Monday, December 19

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Lesly Ferris, Director
Kent Park and Recreation

*Director's Report
November 2015*

From the October monthly meeting:

- I have advertised for an anticipated opening for a commission alternate seat.

From the director:

After-School Program: The program attendance in October was over 100 more youngsters than last October, which is great news. Some of this increase is due to soccer practices and practices for the third and fourth grade play. I have covered the program a few times this month when either the director or counselor could not be there. I am pleased with the overall operation of the program and the youngsters and parents seem happy.

Seniors: This month's senior outing is to Danbury for the annual visit to the Christmas Tree Shops and the Danbury Fair Mall for shopping and lunch. I have 16 passengers, which is a full bus. There is a Veterans Day luncheon Nov. 9 at the Senior Center. The center will be closed Nov. 27. The first selectman has arranged for local restaurants to provide lunch on the dates The Kent was scheduled for the Friday Senior Lunch program. As you may be aware, The Kent is closing soon. We had Halloween parties Oct. 28 and 30 at the Senior Center.

Budget: I have let the treasurer know that the participation at the After-School Program reflects an increase over last year for the first two months of the program, and, therefore the Park and Recreation anticipated revenue for this program would show an increase if this trend continues.

Parks: I met with Sean McAvoy at Emery and Kent Common Parks. He removed the tall grass at Kent Common that did not grow and moved another one to take its place on the right side of the sign. Sean will be giving me a price to trim some brush down the path and behind the building. He can trim the apple tree near the playground and suggested someone else remove the tree by the lifeguard table (it is beyond his capability) which I will do.

Fee Programs: I am receiving registrations for figure skating lessons which begin Nov. 21. A new session of Tang Soo Do began Nov. 2. Theresa Krepil emailed me photos from the martial arts classes' Halloween classes which I posted on the Facebook Page. I listed the holiday ice skating times in the Selectman's monthly newsletter.

Regional Recreation directors: We met Nov. 3 in Sharon and discussed basketball and soccer. The directors are hoping to have a meeting with the regional soccer club to discuss field usage and a new fee structure. The club primarily uses town fields in

Cornwall and Sharon for its practices and programs and has done so without cost for years. The commissions in those two towns have recommended that the club pay for the cost of the time and material to line and maintain the soccer fields that the club uses. The directors have discussed this at length as well as some other concerns we share about the club. The proposed fee structure would be to charge the club the town's resident soccer registration fee for the club's rostered players that live in that town and a non-resident fee for the rest of the players per team once a year. The recreation directors agree to follow the same format for each of our towns in the event the club seeks to use a field in a town that it presently doesn't use. Kent has hosted only a couple of games or practices during my tenure. It is unlikely that this would impact us but want to share this in the event we receive a request to use our playing fields for club games or practices. The recreation directors also have discussed the soccer trainer and the increasing costs versus lower number of soccer players. Cornwall and Sharon are not interested in continuing with the trainer next year which means Lakeville and Kent would not either because we could not afford to do this on our own.

Sports: The U12 girls' soccer team won its semi-final game and lost in a close game in the championship game on Oct. 31. The boys' U12 team won both its semi-final and championship games to bring the trophy back to Kent. Congratulations to both teams. The girls' U10 jamboree was a nice event and the U8 coed team ended its season with a game in Roxbury. I have sent out registration information for Adams League basketball which is scheduled to begin Dec. 1 and 2. I have had two conversations with parent/coach Katie Nordland regarding basketball. She tells me that several Kent youngsters plan to try-out for the Housy Hoops boys' grades 5-6 team. The players who are not chosen for this regional team would be interested in putting a team in the Northwest Recreational Basketball league, according to Ms. Nordland. She said she did receive the letter which outlines the commission's decision to continue with Adams League and not participate in the Northwest Basketball program. She asked about gym time for a Northwest team which she is willing to coach and pay for uniforms. I asked her about waivers and insurance. She plans to come to the November commission meeting to talk with the commission about basketball and this year's program. The Northwest League already has asked about team commitments and plans to put out its game schedule the week before Thanksgiving. Meanwhile, another parent spoke with me this week about her daughter's concerns from last year's basketball program. I shared with this parent that the commission solicited parental feedback following last year's season and only one parent responded. I listened to her concerns, which mostly focused on coaching and her perception of lack of equal play for the girls.

Conference: I am registered to attend the CRPA Conference Nov. 23-24. I may request authorization for reimbursement for accommodation for Nov. 22 as I did last year. I have placed this on the agenda.

Capital Projects: Bruce and I had another conversation about the Emery Park swimming area and he is looking into another alternative.

Meeting dates: I am attaching a list of proposed dates for 2016 meetings which is on the agenda.

Commission appointments: I also am attaching a memo regarding commission appointments for your consideration and discussion at the meeting.

Hourly employees: The commission last year reviewed the hourly employee salaries in advance of the budget request. I am attaching a proposed outline for hourly employee salaries for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year. Please keep in mind that the minimum wage is scheduled to go to \$10/hour in January.

Looking ahead ...

- Town Hall offices will be closed Nov. 26-27.
- I have a conflict with the December meeting date and appreciate if we can discuss alternate dates at the November meeting.

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