

Kent Park and Recreation Commission
Jan. 25, 2016 Monthly Meeting
Minutes

Present: Dave Dunleavy, Jessie Rundall, director Lesly Ferris

Public and Invited Guests: None.


Mrs. Ferris noted commissioner Jerry Decker called to say he is unable to attend the meeting due to illness. She did not hear from other commissioners.

Due to lack of a quorum, a meeting did not take place.

The next Kent Park and Recreation Commission meeting is Feb. 22, 2016 at 7 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.

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Lesly Ferris, Director
Kent Park and Recreation

*Director's Report
January 2016*

From the December monthly meeting:

- I wrote a memo to the Board of Selectmen regarding the commission's recommendations for alternate appointment to the commission.
- I received an email from John Grant in which he expresses his interest in serving as a commission alternate. This item is on the agenda.

From the director:

After-School Program: The program attendance continues to exceed last year's. December showed another increase and this week we will exceed the January 2015 monthly participation. The staff and I collaborated on a holiday party for the youngsters. Homework continues to be a priority and arts and crafts opportunities are offered most days. I am working with Care4Kids for financial assistance for one of two families who applied. I continue to send out monthly bills. One family has not kept up with its past due payment arrangement and has been asked not to participate until the past payments are paid. The program will not meet Jan. 18.

Seniors: The holiday lunches were a lot of fun. The Kent Center School student council members brought a holiday card, created and signed by the student body, and led us in a carol sing-along. The Friday senior lunch holiday luncheon included a grab bag and lunch was provided by Shanghai Restaurant. The Friday lunch program is on break until April 1 although we are going to offer a lunch (bring your own) and movie afternoon in February. The visit to Hubbard Park was enjoyed by all – we drove through the white light display twice! This month we are visiting the Westfield Mall in Trumbull. I have booked dates from March through August and now am working on destinations for these trips. One will be a mystery trip. We may participate in Senior Suppers at New Milford Hospital this winter if the weather cooperates.

Budget: I continue to receive monthly printed budget reports from the town treasurer. I have sent you a proposal for the 2016-17 budget. I added some funding to the conference line and reworked the hourly salary worksheet. I have not received any direction about salaries for the town employees. Please let me know if you need any other information before the meeting.

Parks: I have a proposal for trimming brush at Emery Park which I will bring to the meeting. I had a visit from a Kent resident who shared with me that there is an interest in the community to create an area for paddle tennis courts. I asked her to provide me with a written proposal that I could share with the commission and then told her I would invite her to speak with the commission at an upcoming meeting.

Fee Programs: The second session of figure skating lessons begins Jan. 16. The new

session of Tang Soo Do classes begins Jan. 25.

Regional Recreation directors: We met Jan. 5 in Sharon. I shared with the other rec directors that Kent would be joining the Northwest Basketball league next winter and they were excited. We are working on a June date for the regional senior luncheon. Also, we met with representatives of the soccer club. We unfortunately did not find any common ground at the meeting. The club shared information about new rules from the Soccer Association about field and goal sizes. The Sharon Rec board has informed the club in writing about user fees for the Sharon field that the club uses for its games and practices, starting this spring season. I understand the soccer club met with the Sharon recreation board and they are trying to negotiate a user fee.

Sports: Basketball programs are meeting. The instructional programs for kindergarten through third grade began this week. Kent School is having a week of service the week of Jan. 18 and has inquired about sending some of its varsity basketball players to help with practices next week. The fourth through eighth graders are practicing and playing as one group. I order green and white reversible pinnies for them. The first game was Jan. 9, and there are going to be some Saturday games and some weeknight games. I have contacted the KCS head custodian to confirm use of the gym on Saturdays and the building alarm code.

Summer employees: I will propose at the meeting that the commission offer contracts for summer employment to the camp director and head lifeguard. I have spoken with both and know the camp director would like to return this summer.

Club Getaway Proposal: I have spoken with Nate at Club Getaway, both at the CRPA conference and again this week, about a summer program. Club Getaway is willing to host the Camp Kent youngsters at its facility Mondays at a cost of \$10/camper. I suggest we try this four times or every other week this year. Nate said Club Getaway is open to having us as many weeks as we would like. I propose Park and Recreation would pass on this cost to the campers by raising the cost of camp \$10 for those weeks we identify as ones we would go to Club Getaway. I have placed this on the meeting agenda. I also would propose we increase line 23422 in the budget by \$500 to cover this cost and increase our projected revenue by \$1,000. I have emailed the camp director to get his feedback about this proposal.

Paddle Tennis Proposal: I will share with you via email a letter outlining a proposal for paddle tennis courts. I suggest we have an initial discussion this month and then we could invite Sally to the February meeting for further discussion.

Looking ahead ...

- Town Hall offices will be closed January 18.
- The Annual Town Meeting is January 21.

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