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By Kent Town Clerk at 10:00 am, Jun 24, 2021

Kent Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes, Regular Meeting
June 21, 2021, 7 p.m.

Present: John Grant, Lynn Harrington, Diane Impastato, Michael Perkins, Abigail Smith-Hanby, Kate Symonds, Miranda Lovato, Interim Director.

Public and Invited Guests: Connie Manes

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

Elevation of Alternates: Mr. Grant made a motion to elevate the alternates. Mr. Perkins seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Grant added item 8c. STEAP Grants to the agenda. Mr. Grant made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Ms. Symonds seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes of June 8 Special Meeting: Mr. Grant made a motion to accept the minutes of June 8th Special Meeting. Ms. Symonds seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Harrington noted that the minutes for the May 17th Regular meeting and the June 2nd Special Meeting were in progress and would be on the agenda for approval at the next meeting.

Correspondence: Ms. Harrington brought up a survey/petition that was published on change.org gauging public support for opening the Emery Park pool. Ms. Lovato received an email from a community member with a link to the survey. The petition contained information that was not accurate regarding Emery Park and Summer Camp. Ms. Lovato communicated that the petition was not accurate to the author, and it was changed.

Old Business: Park and Rec Director Search, Job Description: Ms. Harrington stated that she thought the job description is too detailed and needs to be reviewed. Ms. Lovato mentioned that it might be good to look at the commission by-laws and constitution at the same time as the job description to make sure there are no contradictions between the documents. It was discussed and determined by the commission that a 5-person search committee would be better than a 3-person search committee. Mr. Perkins stated that he thought that the people on the interim director hiring committee should be considered for the new hiring committee because they are already familiar with the process and what has already transpired.

Mr. Perkins made a motion to disband the current Interim Director search committee and form a full-time director search committee. Mr. Grant seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business: Parks: Projects, Pool Opening: Ms. Harrington said that the pool is almost ready to be filled, but there is still a little bit of cleaning work to be done, and that she would contact the contractor responsible for that again. Ms. Harrington also mentioned that David Schreiber of Club Getaway has offered some of his lifeguards to work at Emery Park and that he asked us to come

up with a schedule for the pool. Ms. Harrington mentioned that Club Getaway would be holding a lifeguard instructor class and asked if Park and Rec could help promote that class.

Old Business: Fall Soccer Ms. Smith-Hanby mentioned she thought that having instructional soccer for younger kids would be worthwhile as some kids/families might not want to commit to the travel team. Ms. Lovato mentioned she had not heard from other regional park and rec directors regarding the travel soccer program and needs to reach out to check the status of the program. Ms. Harrington mentioned that it might be difficult finding enough players to expand instructional soccer to more grades.

Mr. Perkins made a motion to establish the instructional kindergarten soccer program in Kent. Ms. Impastato seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business: After School Program Ms. Harrington mentioned that the commission has spoken about preschool eligibility for the program many times, and in past discussions, had determined that preschool students were too young to participate. Ms. Harrington stated that she still supported that determination. Ms. Smith-Hanby mentioned the difficulty in finding childcare in Kent and that she thought we should be as inclusive as possible and help as many people as we can.

Ms. Smith-Hanby made a motion to change the language to be inclusive of kindergarten eligible for the afterschool program. Ms. Symonds seconded the motion, and the motion carried with 4 yes votes and 1 no vote.

Old Business: Slamma Jamma Basketball Ms. Lovato summarized that the only gym that was available this summer for use is the Kent School gym and that we would be charged \$50/hr for use. The commission discussed how much they were comfortable charging campers and decided that \$225 would be suitable, with Park and Rec subsidizing the cost of the gym rental if camp registration was low.

Mr. Perkins made a motion to run the Slamma Jamma basketball camp for the last week of July at \$225 per camper. Ms. Impastato seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

New Business: Tennis in the Park Program Mr. Perkins summarized a new program, through the USTA, that he and Ms. Neff have been researching. The program could run in the fall and would be available to youth and adults. The programs run six weeks and cost \$55 for youth and \$65 for adults. Participants would be provided a racket. The USTA pays the coach. In order to run the program in the fall the commission would need to communicate its intent to the USTA and enroll the town by July 31.

Ms. Smith-Hanby made a motion to sign the town up with USTA Tennis in the Park. Ms. Impastato seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

New Business: STEAP Grant Mr. Grant summarized the STEAP grant program. STEAP stands for small town economic assistance program. Mr. Grant stated that Park and Rec has applied for grants in the past but has yet to receive funds. He stated that last year the state handed out a significant amount of money and he thought that Kent still qualifies. Mr. Grant believes applying for this grant would be worthwhile and could help with improvement projects. Ms. Lovato stated

that she would do some research and figure out what Park and Rec needed to do to apply for the grant. She stated that she would present any new and pertinent information about the grant at the next commission meeting.

Mr. Grant made a motion that the commission investigate the STEAP grants available through the State of Connecticut under an economic assistance program. Mr. Perkins seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Miranda Lovato
Interim Director

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