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By Darlene Brady at 2:02 pm, Jul 22, 2021

Kent Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes, Regular Meeting
July 19, 2021, 7 p.m.

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

Public and Invited Guests: Ed Matson

Chairman Ms. Harrington called the meeting to order via Zoom at 7:04 p.m.

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

Approval/Amendment of Agenda: Ms. Harrington added the minutes of May 17 and June 21 to item 4 approval of minutes. Ms. Harrington also added item 9c. Camp Kent at Club Getaway under new business and item 8o. Soccer under old business. Ms. Everett pointed out that the date for the next meeting, under item 10 is incorrect and should be amended to August 16. **Ms. Everett made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Mr. Grant seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Acceptance of Minutes of May 17 Regular Meeting, June 2 Special Meeting and June 21 Regular Meeting: Ms. Symonds stated that, in the May 17 meeting, in the motion to install a key punch locking system on both the front and back entrance to the Kent Commons Park Tennis Courts her name was mistakenly left off and should be included as voting yes for that motion. Ms. Symonds also stated that, in the June 21 meeting, in the motion to accept the quote from Connecticut Fencing her name was mistakenly left off and should be included as voting yes for that motion. **Mr. Grant made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 17 Regular Meeting, June 2 Special Meeting and the June 21 Regular meeting as amended. Ms. Everett seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Correspondence: Ms. Lovato stated that she had received correspondence from Catherine Bachrach potentially offering some plants to the Kent Commons memorial garden once she has thinned the beds at Templeton Farms in the fall. She received correspondence from a family looking for a scholarship opportunity for the Slamma-Jamma basketball camp and would follow up with the Kent Community Fund and Leah Pullaro. She received correspondence from Matt Mette with Sharon Park and Recreation who was looking for a venue for the Northwest Connecticut Prevention Network to set up a table and was wondering if we would be interested for our concert series. In reaching out to Connie Manes, it was decided that logistically, it would not make sense to do that at this time due to the setup of the concerts. Some other events were suggested for possible collaboration. Ms. Harrington also noted that if we allowed one organization to advertise then that would open the door to other organizations wanting to advertise as well. Ms. Smith-Hanby suggested to look into providing more resources for general health and wellness on our website in addition to possibly creating a document or page focused on how people can use our parks throughout all seasons.

Director's Report: Ms. Lovato reviewed her upcoming schedule with members and days she would need off as well as changes to her schedule. She requested to work remotely for two weeks August 9-20. **Ms. Everett made a motion to approve Ms. Lovato's requested vacation time provided notice is given to the community. Ms. Smith-Hanby seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Old Business: Park and Rec Director Search, Job Description: Ms. Harrington stated that a five-person sub-committee would be utilized for the director search and stated that three of those five would be commissioners. One member would be Ed Matson. Mr. Grant, Ms. Neff and Ms. Harrington volunteered to be the commissioners on the sub-committee. A fifth member would be asked to join from within the Kent community. Ms. Neff suggested Marci Saunders be considered, who is the physical education teacher at Kent Center School. There was question to whether the community member needed to be a resident of Kent. Ms. Smith-Hanby mentioned Lara Hanson, a Kent Resident, who has been vocal about programming for children and Kent Park and Recreation, might be interested in participating in the hiring sub-committee. **Mr. Grant made a motion to form the committee with the members. Ms. Symonds seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Old Business: Parks: Projects, Pool Opening: Ms. Harrington said that the pool was filled, but the aerator did not get installed so the water quality is poor. Members discussed the situation and decided that the aerator should be installed asap and see if that clears up the water. If not, it may need to be drained and refilled.

Old Business: Parks: Lifeguard Instructor Class: Ms. Harrington mentioned that Club Getaway is currently running a lifeguard instructor class and mentioned that we might consider offering an incentive to those who complete the course to come and work at Emery Park. One incentive might be to reimburse them for the class as a bonus upon working for several weeks. **Ms. Smith-Hanby made a motion that Kent Park and Recreation would cover the cost of the lifeguard training course, which is \$125, for the lifeguards that sign up to work at Emery Park during the summer of 2021 and is contingent upon the lifeguards staying for 6 weeks or until the end of the season. Ms. Everett seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Old Business: Parks Master Plan Members discussed the current status of the master plan. Ms. Smith-Hanby stated that she thought that implementing a master plan should be included in the discussions with potential director candidates when the sub-committee is doing their search.

Old Business: After School Program Members reviews and discussed two job advertisements, one for the director of ASP and one for a counselor. **Mr. Grant made a motion to publish the job advertisements for an After-school program director and counselor as amended by the commission. Ms. Everett seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Old Business: Halloween Bash 2021: Members discussed having the Halloween bash at Club Getaway again this year. Dates were discussed and it was determined that Club Getaway is available the weekend of October 30 and 31.

Old Business: Fall Soccer: **Ms. Smith-Hanby made a motion to offer instructional soccer Tuesdays and Thursdays for six weeks starting the week of September 9th for groups of 4 and 5 year olds and 6 and 7 year olds and for Ms. Lovato to publish and promote. Ms. Impastato seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

New Business: Tai-Chi Ms. Lovato stated she had been communicating with Chris Kiely about potentially running a Tai-Chi class in the community house. Members had lengthy discussion about how to handle an indoor class while following proper covid protocol. There was not a consensus on how to proceed and it was suggested that Ms. Lovato reach out to Jean Speck to see what her feeling is on how the town wants to proceed and to look for guidance or language of a waiver to have participants sign in order to participate.

New Business: Mountain Bike Camp Ms. Lovato mentioned she had been in communication with a company that runs mountain bike camps for youth. They are interested in partnering with Kent Park and Rec to offer 3-4 weeks of camp. It was mentioned that we would probably be utilizing the Kent School mountain bike trails and would need to partner with them. Upon initial discussion the camp was deemed too expensive but the commission would like to hear from the owners to answer questions. Ms. Lovato stated she would reach out to the company and see if they would be willing to come to the next commission meeting.

New Business: Camp Kent at the Club Ms. Harrington stated that Club Getaway has offered to allow up to 20 kids to attend providing we supplied at least two counselors. Club Getaway would provide a chaperone. Timing/hours/price is unknown at this point. **Ms. Everett made a motion to allow Ms. Harrington to reach out to get details about a possible summer camp at Club Getaway in August. Ms. Symonds seconded the motion, and Blythe Everett, John Grant, Lynn Harrington, Diane Impastato, and Michael Perkins voted yes. Ms. Smith-Hanby abstained from the vote.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 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.