

Kent Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes, Monthly Meeting
April 18, 2016

Present: John Grant, Mike Green, director Lesly Ferris.

Public and Invited Guests: None.

The meeting did not take place due to lack of a quorum, and those present left at 7:15 p.m.

The next Kent Park and Recreation Commission meeting is Monday, May 16, 2016 at 7 p.m.

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.

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BY

Anna Brady TZ

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Lesly Ferris, Director
Kent Park and Recreation

*Director's Report
April 2016*

From the March monthly meeting:

- I have contacted Harwinton Swim Pool Company to let them know their bid is approved for the pre-season work on the swimming area.
- I have sent language to Textile Graphics for yard signs for the summer concert series.

From the director:

After-School Program: The March attendance again exceeded the prior year's monthly total. I have suspended use of the program for two families who have not paid their bills for more than three months. While the total due is not significant, Park and Recreation policy allows this, and I do not want them to continue to accrue charges without paying. The program will not meet April 11 when there is early dismissal; April 18-22 when school is closed. Also, the school canceled after-school activities April 4 due to the weather (it was snowing!). I have put ASP director 2016-17 on the agenda. Director Sue Vizzari is interested in returning next school year. We will be looking at end of program date once we know graduation date.

Seniors: There isn't an outing this month and May will include a return to the Senior Suppers at New Milford Hospital as well as a trip to Wesleyan Potters for a tour. Kent Center School student council members visited the senior center March 23 to color Easter eggs with the seniors and eat lunch. This is a great group of young people who have visited twice this year and plan to come one more time before school ends. The students each lunch with the seniors and have been sharing great conversations, especially the boys. The selectmen's administrative assistant Joyce Kearns deserves thanks for finally finding a new chair for the senior center (we have been looking for a chair with specific qualities for years) and ordering chairs which are now in use at the center. The Friday Senior Lunch program resumed April 1 and it is nice to welcome seniors to the center each week. This program will run through May. Leah and I are working on the May/June senior newsletter. Kent School has agreed to print the newsletters, starting with this edition. This will help reduce costs.

Budget: The budget goes to town hearing May 1, and the budget vote is May 15.

Parks: The road crew foreman is arranging for the tree company to spend part or all of a day at Emery Park to do tree work. Kent Center School is offering a tennis program this spring which is being held at Kent Common Park (when the weather has permitted). Someone has put two benches inside the tennis courts. We had discussed purchasing benches but didn't take any action on this. We may want to consider getting something that is more visually pleasing than what someone has

placed there. I understand the need to want a place to put your personal belongings while you are using the courts.

Fee Programs: There are two more ice skating sessions at South Kent School, April 10 and 17. The Tang Soo Do class held its grading recently and instructor Keith Krepil emailed me pictures which I posted on our Facebook Page. The new session of the martial arts class has moved to May 2 because we had to cancel the April 4 class because of the snow.

Regional Recreation directors: We met April 5 in Sharon. Cornwall, Kent and Sharon formed a tri-town Major Little League team. There are three players from Kent. The team will be housed in Cornwall. Schedules are being created and games will start after April vacation. The farm and minor league team games typically begin the first or second week in May. We also continue to work on the spring regional senior lunch which is June 3 in Lakeville. I attended a meeting of regional summer camp directors to discuss the summer science enrichment program which began last year. This year's program will run for six Wednesdays and is held at the high school in the science/technology center. The program is open to first through eighth graders. There is a fee of \$10 for youngsters who are part of a recreational summer camp program; higher cost for residents of the region. Several rec or summer camp program directors are working to identify funding sources to cover school bus transportation to and from the program, which runs 9:30-11:30 a.m. I spoke with the Kent Community Fund and secured a \$500 grant toward the bus costs. I will open up this opportunity to our Camp Kent families with a limit of 10 students (the ratio of campers to staff) per session. We would send one staff person with the youngsters. This person could rotate and likely would be one of the counselors or myself. The rec directors and/or summer camp directors also are working on coordinating attending a performance at Tri Arts in Sharon.

Camp Kent I will be meeting with camp director Kevin Kalach April 20. I have heard from the other camp counselor who worked last summer. She will not be applying for a counselor position this summer. The position is advertised in several places, and we already have received three applications and a request from a fourth person for an application. Kevin and I will be finalizing dates that camp will spend at Club Getaway. He and I had discussed getting a camp T-shirt that the campers could wear while at Club Getaway to make it easier to keep track of the youngsters.

Summer Concert Series: I have booked four bands for the summer concert series: July 7 – Last Good Bender; July 21 – The Regulators; July 28 – The Joint Chiefs; Aug. 4 – Mojo Nectar.

Looking ahead ...

- I will be out of the office April 11-15.
- Summer camp registration opens May 18.

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