

Kent Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes, Monthly Meeting
June 13, 2016

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KENT TOWN CLERK

2016 JUN 16 P 3:49

BY *[Signature]*
TOWN CLERK

Present: Jerry Decker, Dave Dunleavy, John Grant, Lynn Harrington, Glen Nielsen, Je Randall, Lesly Ferris, director.

Public and Invited Guests: None.

Chairman Jerry Decker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Elevation of Alternates: Mrs. Harrington made a motion to elevate alternate John Grant. Mr. Nielsen seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Acceptance of Agenda: Mrs. Ferris asked that approval of the May 18, 2016 special meeting minutes be added to agenda item #4. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to add approval of the May 18, 2016 special meeting minutes to agenda item #4. Mrs. Rundall seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mrs. Rundall seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes: Mr. Dunleavy made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2016 monthly meeting and May 18, 2016 and May 23, 2016 special meetings. Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Public and Invited Guests: There were no public or invited guests present.

Director's Report: In addition to the written report sent to the commission prior to the meeting (attached), Mrs. Ferris reported on the ADA Compliance and Summer Camps workshop she attended June 8, 2016. She noted the registration numbers for Camp Kent have improved for all but one week; the week of July 4 has only 10 youngsters registered at this time. Mrs. Ferris met with the Camp Kent staff for orientation and will be meeting next week with the lifeguard staff.

Old Business: After-School Program: Mrs. Ferris said the program ended June 9, 2016 for the school year. She will have a report next month on the attendance and financial figures for the school year. She has sent out final bills. One family still has a past due amount. The program director has signed and returned her contract for next school year. Mrs. Ferris has sent out notice of opening for a counselor to work at the program next year. The program resumes Aug. 29, 2016.

Parks: Mrs. Ferris recognized commissioner John Grant who planted flowers (at his own expense) in the tabs in the parking lot at Emery Park and who has been painting the building at the park. The tree work is complete at Emery Park, the cleaning of the swimming area is finished, and the pool is filling with water. Mrs. Ferris suggested purchase of benches for the tennis courts at Kent Common Park to replace those that were placed there without permission

by some unknown resident or user of the courts. There are still funds remaining in the tennis court project that could be used for this purchase. Commissioners agreed to look at the benches at the courts and discuss this further at the July meeting.

2015-16/2016-17 Budgets: There was no new report.

Five-Year Capital Plan: There was no report.

Emery Park Swimming Area: public input: Mrs. Ferris reported on conversation with Harwinton Swim Pool Company, which did the cleaning work of the pool. The owner noted a new concrete pool could be placed inside the present footprint and then the area outside that new footprint could be filled in. Mrs. Ferris has asked him to give a ballpark price so the commission would have an estimated cost to use for discussion purposes at a fall town gathering to discuss such a proposal. Meanwhile, Mrs. Ferris will ask the lifeguards to solicit feedback from park patrons this summer about a new swimming area. Mrs. Ferris will contact other area pool companies to try to get at least one more estimated cost.

Summer Concerts: Mrs. Ferris confirmed the Community House would be available as a rainy-day site and noted she has let the bands and the chamber know this. She has sent out press release and emailed the chamber with the concert information. The commissioners took signs to put around town. Mrs. Ferris noted Charter Cablevision may be taping the July 7 concert. She is awaiting confirmation of this possibility.

Sports Programs follow-up: Mr. Decker reported he placed a follow-up phone call to Karen Casey following last month's meeting. Mr. Decker has arranged for Owen Finberg of South Kent School to hold a coach-the-coach clinic in early August for Park and Recreation's soccer coaches. Mrs. Ferris said she has contacted last year's coaches, asked if they are interested in coaching this year, let them know the soccer trainer would not be working with the region's soccer teams this year and that there would be a training session in early August. She has confirmed one coach and has another possible coach if there is a U10 boys' team this fall. Mrs. Ferris noted there is the possibility of a regional soccer program in the fall for kindergarten age and another for pre-school age through Challenger Soccer. Mr. Grant suggested the commission do something for the kindergarten and first grade baseball programs. The commission agreed to purchase popsicles and deliver them to the field on the last days of the respective programs. Mrs. Ferris will let the coaches know, and Mrs. Rundall will take care of Friday night while Mrs. Ferris will do Thursday.

New Business: Director PTO: Mrs. Ferris requested PTO days. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve June 15, 17 and 20-24, 2016 as PTO days for the director. Mr. Grant seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Emery Park swimming area floor bids: Mrs. Ferris reported she has received one bid to date on the proposed cement work for the Emery Park swimming area bottom. Another contractor

declined to bid as the scope of the work is beyond his capabilities. Mrs. Ferris will continue to solicit bids and asked to keep this item on the agenda.

In other discussion, Mr. Grant suggested the following:

- The local boy scouts would be willing to do work at Emery Park. There was discussion about installing a bridge over the stream that would connect to the upper field. Also, the scouts asked about camping overnight in the park. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to allow the boy scouts to camp overnight at Emery Park while doing repairs at the park. Mr. Grant seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mrs. Ferris will speak with the land use administrator re permits that may be required before this project could begin.
- Putting a handicap access sign at the top of the side access road at Emery Park.
- Sanding and spray painting a rusting piece of equipment on the playground at Emery Park and replacing the hand railing at the park.

Mrs. Ferris will contact alternate Katie Norland to ask if she wants to continue as an alternate.

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting is July 18, 2016 at 7 p.m. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Lesly Ferris
Director

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Lesly Ferris, Director
Kent Park and Recreation

*Director's Report
June 2016*

From the May monthly meeting:

- Jerry Decker has confirmed with Owen Finberg that he will conduct a soccer coaching clinic in early August.
- I asked on behalf of the commission and received permission to use the Kent Community House as a rainy day site for the summer concert series. I notified the bands and the Chamber.
- I emailed the 2015 fall travel soccer coaches to let them know we would not be having the trainer this fall and that there would be a coaching clinic in early August and asked them to let me know if they are interested in coaching a team this fall. I have heard back from one potential coach for U10 boys if we are able to field a team at that age level this year
- The 2016-17 proposed Town budget was approved May 20
- I spoke with the fire chief who directed me to the first selectman about protocol for the access road alongside the Kent Greenhouse to Kent Center School. Mr. Adams said he would address this with emergency management director.
- I spoke with the pool cleaning company about potential construction of a new swimming area.
- I have mailed a contract to Susan Vizzari for the 2016-17 school year for ASP director.

From the May special meeting:

- I contacted the summer camp counselor whom the commission approved to hire and sent her a contract and packet of information. I also contacted the other applicants in writing.
- The registration numbers for Camp Kent have grown since the meeting and now the July 4th week has 10 youngsters; another week has 12 and the other six weeks have at least 16 with the last week having 22 (24 is the max).

From the director:

After-School Program: The May attendance exceeded the prior year's monthly total as has been the norm for the year. The last day of the program is June 9 and there will be a party that day for the youngsters. The program will resume Aug. 29. I have sent out the May bills which included a notice of the last day for payments due to coincide with the close of the Town's fiscal year.

Seniors: The regional senior luncheon was a great success with some 75 participants, including many from Kent. Hotchkiss School prepared the meal. We had some door prizes and played bingo. Also, we recognized the oldest persons in

attendance – a gentleman who is 100 and a 99-year-old woman. The couple married the longest is celebrating 62 years of marriage. This month's trip is a mystery trip June 9. I am saddened to report that Yvonne Wasser, one of the seniors who participated in many of our programs, including the most recent session of exercise class, passed away May 26.

Budget: The budget hearing was May 1. It was uneventful with only question from the public about the proposed education budget. The budget vote is May 15.

Parks: The pool cleaning work is complete. I have been working on securing bids for concrete work on the bottom of the pool and so far have one bid and one person who declined to bid. The tree cutting work was done June 3 at Emery Park. There is fire wood in the park if anyone is interested. Thank you again to John for painting the building at Emery Park – it looks great. Also, John planted flowers in the tubs in the parking area. I have ordered a new sign for Emery Park since we have changed hours for swimming area. I would like to discuss purchase of benches for the tennis courts – there are two small wooden benches on the courts that someone put there. I propose we purchase something nice for our new courts.

Fee Programs: There has been a good response to the dog obedience class, and it is meeting Thursday evenings at Kent Common Park. Kelvin Jefferson, coach runs the summer basketball camp with Park and Recreation, contacted me several weeks ago to let me know he has accepted a new coaching position and would be moving out of the area. He offered to hold the June session of his camp if there was sufficient enrollment. Unfortunately, the numbers are low and Kelvin had to make a decision in time to put everything in place so the camp is canceled. I have taken down the information on the Park and Recreation website and notified Kent School where the camp takes place. Kelvin has notified those who registered and is returning their payments. Kelvin and his wife Chiquita have been great to work with and I know the families who attended the camp will miss as will I.

Regional Recreation directors: We are working together on several summer camp programs that are open to youngsters across Region One. Lego camp will be offered in Kent. There are soccer camps, lacrosse camp, baseball camp and camps at the high school. Nine youngsters, including at least two from Kent, came to the first practice of the four-town Summer Babe Ruth team. We hope this team will be able to move forward. We likely will coop on a summer Little League team unless Kent has sufficient interest and coaching to field its own team.

Camp Kent: The camp staff meeting is June 9. The registration numbers have improved and there is some interest in the summer science camp that is being offered six Wednesdays at the high school. A bus will go from camp to the high school and back. The program will cost \$10 (additional) for camp youngsters who wish to

participate. We will send one camp staff member on the bus with the youngsters. Families seem to be excited about the Club Getaway opportunity this summer.

Baseball: The travel teams had picture day on May 21. Games will end June 18. The instructional programs will run through the end of the school year.

Soccer: I am sending out registration information for fall travel soccer this week. The recreation directors will get together in early August to determine teams and league information.

Summer Concert Series: Reminder – the commissioners will take signs at the June meeting to put out in town. I have confirmed day of the concert contact information with each of the bands.

Looking ahead ...

- I will be out of the office June 6 for PTO day and am attending a workshop on ADA compliance at summer camps on June 8.