

**Kent Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes, Monthly Meeting
April 20, 2015**

Present: Jerry Decker, Mike Green, Lynn Harrington, Cathy Montemorra, Glen Nielsen, director Lesly Ferris.

Public and Invited Guests: Jim Gillespie, Brian Paliwoda.

Park and Recreation director Lesly Ferris called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Alternates: Mr. Nielsen made a motion to elevate alternate Cathy Montemorra. Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda: Mr. Green made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Nielsen seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes: Mr. Green made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2015 monthly meeting. Mr. Nielsen seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Correspondence: Mrs. Ferris shared an email (attached) from Jill Patterson, which contains a proposal for an after-school course that focuses on fitness, nutrition and yoga. Mrs. Ferris will share this with Kent Center School.

Public and Invited Guests: Brian Paliwoda shared handouts (attached) that detail a summer paintball league in North Canaan. He asked if Kent Park and Recreation would be willing to share this information in any capacity. Mr. Paliwoda is working also with North Canaan, Sharon and Salisbury rec departments. The commission consensus is to place this information on the Park and Recreation website and send to KCS families via email.

Jim Gillespie, consulting forester, reviewed for the commission the 2001 Forest Stewardship Plan for Emery Park, the timber harvest that was conducted as part of this plan, and the one-mile trail that was built. Mr. Gillespie reported there is a lot of invasive species that are out of control, i.e., Tree of Heaven, bittersweet and Japanese barberry. He explained the benefits of treating with herbicide to help eliminate the invasive trees and suggested there are several acres of the forest adjacent to the trail that should be done. The project would focus on eliminating invasive species and having another timber sale. Mr. Green made a motion to ask Jim Gillespie to submit a proposal to Kent Park and Recreation Commission for a timber harvest at Emery Park. Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Director's Report: Mrs. Ferris reported she received an invitation to the Kent Community Fund's annual Community Resources Forum. The director has had ongoing discussion with Rich Chavka of South Kent School regarding a partnership for programming at the school's farm. They have discussed a parent-child program as well as bringing summer camp youngsters to the farm once a week.

Old Business: After-School Program: Mrs. Ferris reported Brittany Pinette has been working at the program as a counselor, subsequent to discussion at the last Park and Recreation meeting. Mrs. Ferris said she is pleased with Ms. Pinette's job performance, she interacts well with the students and partakes in activities with them. Mrs. Ferris recommended the commission hire Ms. Pinette to work as a counselor for the 2015-16 school year, as well as the rest of this year. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to hire Brittany Pinette as an After-School Program counselor at an hourly salary of \$10, effective March 17, 2015, through the 2014-15 school year and to hire Brittany Pinette as After-School Program counselor at an hourly salary of \$10.25, contingent upon budget approval, effective Aug. 31, 2015 for the 2015-16 school year. Ms. Montemorra seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Parks: The Emery Park swimming area will be drained as soon as the weather permits. Mrs. Ferris also is arranging to have the electrical service turned on in the park. The tennis courts are open, but a community member left a message that people are using the courts for their dogs. Mrs. Harrington said maybe Park and Recreation need to build a dog park. Mrs. Ferris will make an effort to drive through the park at different times to monitor the tennis courts.

2014-15 Budget: There was no new report.

2015-16 Budget: Mrs. Ferris reported the Selectmen have been asked to suggest cuts to the budget proposal, totaling \$200,000. Mrs. Ferris spoke with chairman Dave Dunleavy. Mrs. Ferris told the first selectman that \$1,000 could be cut from Line 23422.

Five-Year Capital Plan: There was no new report.

Baseball coaches meeting follow-up: Mrs. Ferris reiterated commissioner and Little League coach Jerry Decker and she inventoried the baseball equipment, discarded old equipment and ordered some new equipment after speaking with Mr. Dunleavy. She has ordered the hats and shirts for the spring teams. Kent is partnering with Cornwall and Sharon this year to form a 3-Town Little League team (the tryout team).

Basketball program follow-up: surveys: Mrs. Ferris shared with the commission via email the one response (attached) to three questions sent to the parents of Adams League basketball players and the league coaches. Mr. Green said he is surprised the commission received feedback from only one parent. The commission agrees to make a better effort to ensure coaches understand and follow the Park and Recreation philosophy for this program, including the teaching of fundamentals. Mrs. Ferris said she does not see a reason to change the program.

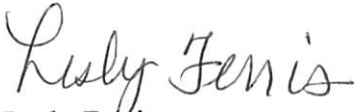
Summer Employees: Mrs. Ferris said she is advertising for a lifeguard to work part-time and a summer camp counselor. She has spoken with camp director Kevin Kalach and head lifeguard Kiera Bisenius about interview dates and would appreciate participation by at least one commission member in these interviews. She will let the commission know when she has definite date, likely sometime the first two weeks in May.

Summer Concerts: Mrs. Ferris noted she and Mr. Dunleavy are working on funding sources. Mr. Green, Mr. Decker and Mr. Nielsen each are working on possible bands. The commission identified June 11, July 9 and Aug. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. as dates/times for three summer concerts. Mrs. Ferris will ask the Board of Selectmen at its May meeting for permission to use Town Hall for these events. Mrs. Ferris asked that at least one commissioner commit to being at each concert.

New Business: After-School Program director: Mrs. Ferris read a resignation letter from the After-School Program director, dated April 7, 2015 (attached). Mr. Nielsen made a motion to accept Dawn Moore's resignation as After-School Program director, effective April 6, 2015. Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mrs. Ferris will send Mrs. Moore a letter to note the commission's action. Mrs. Ferris reported she has been working at the program and recommended the commission hire Kiera Bisenius as program director for the remainder of the school year. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to hire Kiera Bisenius as After-School Program director at an hourly salary of \$15.50, effective May 1 through June 24, 2015. Mr. Decker seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mrs. Ferris will email parents to inform them of these changes. Meanwhile, she will begin advertising for a director to begin Aug. 31, 2015 for the 2015-16 school year.

Fishing Derby: Mrs. Ferris asked if the commission wishes to consider a date for this event? Mrs. Harrington said the KCS PTO is working with Club Getaway on a Father's Day brunch, and the derby might be a nice compliment to that event. She will speak with the PTO and report back.

The next Kent Park and Recreation Commission meeting is Monday, May 18, 2015 at 7 p.m. Mr. Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.



Lesly Ferris
Director

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BY  TZ
TOWN CLERK

Lesly Ferris, Director
Kent Park and Recreation

*Director's Report
April 2015*

From the March monthly meeting:

- I sent contracts to lifeguards Grace Herde, Jack Makris and Shannon Zidack, each of whom has returned a signed contract.
- Bruce Adams is working on scheduling the opening work on the baseball fields.
- I worked with Dave Dunleavy to create a three-question survey, sent it to the basketball parents and coaches and received one response to date. This is on the agenda.
- I notified Harwinton Swim Pool Company that the commission has accepted its bid for opening the swimming area at Emery Park.
- I spoke with the candidate for the After-School Program counselor position following the meeting. This also is on the agenda.

From the director:

After-School Program: I will have a recommendation for the program director position at the meeting and will share Dawn Moore's letter of resignation. The March monthly attendance exceeded that of March 2014, which is helping to close the gap in this school year's overall attendance. The program did not meet April 8 due to an early dismissal for parent-teacher conferences and will not meet April 13-19 for spring break. The staff and I colored eggs with the youngsters for Easter. I continue to bill the families who have balances from last year's program and did receive payment from one family. The last day of school is scheduled for June 24, and I will set a program last day when I learn the KCS graduation date. Also, the Kent Community Fund has approved an additional \$500 in scholarships for the program to help cover the remainder of this school year. I continue to receive registration forms for new students to attend the program this year.

Seniors: Leah Pullaro and I attended a workshop for senior center directors and municipal agents for the elderly DATE. We had an opportunity to network, learn about some pending legislation related to senior citizens, participated in an interactive presentation on therapeutic drumming, and heard updates from various speakers. I learned the number of senior citizens in communities across Connecticut total more than the number of students in school. Leah and I are working on the next senior newsletter. The Friday senior lunch program resumed March 27, delayed one week because of inclement weather. New Milford Hospital brought its Pilobolus program to the luncheon that day, and the seniors expressed interest in having this program, which combines exercises, balance and memory retention. I am working with New Milford Hospital on scheduling a date/time for the six-week program, which is funded by a grant so there would be no cost to our seniors. The senior outing to

the Timex Museum was interesting. There is a lot of history inside the small brick building. We learned several facts about the history of Timex and made paper watches. We plan to visit IKEA in New Haven in May after taking off the month of April as our bus driver is on vacation.

Budget: The Board of Selectmen has been asked to suggest cuts, totaling \$200,000 to the proposed budget. I contacted the commission chairman and suggested Park and Recreation cut \$1,000 from its fee program line, and he agrees. I emailed the first selectman to let him know that he could make this cut to the budget. Date reminders: the budget hearing is May 1 and the budget vote is May 15.

Parks: I expect Jim Gillespie will attend the April meeting to discuss a second timber harvest at Emery Park. This would be beneficial to clear out some invasive species. I have reviewed the 10-year forestry plan that Jim prepared for Park and Recreation when the first timber harvest was done. The tennis courts will open next week. I will start draining the swimming area at Emery Park in two weeks and will make arrangements to turn on the electrical service.

Fee Programs: Tang Soo Do classes continue to meet. The next session would begin in May.

Baseball: Jerry Decker and I inventoried the baseball equipment, discarded old and broken equipment and created a list of equipment needs, which I have ordered after consulting with the commission chair. Cornwall, Kent and Sharon are partnering to form a major Little League team (tryout team), "3 Town Baseball." There are optional practices April 15 and 16 in Sharon, followed by tryouts April 20-21, also in Sharon. I am trying to identify impartial person(s) to help with the player evaluations. The Minor Little League team will play out of Kent and starts practices next week. I am working with three parents who hopefully will oversee the Farm (coach pitched) team. This team likely will practice Thursdays, starting the week of April 20. The K and first grade programs will also start the week of April 20. Game schedules are being created, and I have ordered hats and T-shirts.

Regional Recreation directors: The four of us met this month. We discussed this spring's baseball programs, came up with the name for our combined Little League team and discussed possible start and end dates for games. The directors of the region's summer camps are working together on special events and trips that might be offered as shared programs. This is something that hopefully would grow in future years and could include trips to Rock Cats baseball on camp day and use of the technology building at the high school. We also confirmed details of the regional senior luncheon June 5 in Salisbury. We are working with Hotchkiss School on the food.

Summer Employees: I have received several applications for a part-time lifeguard position; deadline for applications is May 1. Camp counselor John Grusauski will not be returning this summer. I have advertised the counselor opening; deadline for applications is May 1. I have spoken with the head lifeguard and summer camp director about interview dates for the two positions, which we plan to do on one night. I emailed commissioners and would appreciate if one or two of you would be willing to participate in these interviews. The Kent Community Fund has authorized \$2,000 in scholarships for summer camp programs.

Summer Programs: I have confirmed the dates of Camp Kent, June 29-Aug. 21 and Kevin and I are working on themes for these eight weeks. I will send out an overview of the summer camp programs after the school vacation. I am working with IncrediFlix on its flyer.

Summer Concerts: Two commissioners have been working on the summer concert series. I have asked The Kent to let me know the level of potential funding it would donate to the program but have not received an answer.

Looking ahead ...

- I will be out of the office April 13-17, 2015.
- Will we be hosting a fishing derby?

Lesly Ferris

From: Julie Saxton
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 11:04 AM
To: Lesly Ferris
Subject: Fwd: season feedback

Hi David, Lesly, and the P&R Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the basketball season. There were some issues in Adams League basketball this winter. My daughter is a 9 year old 4th grader in town and this was her first year in the league, and I don't think it was a successful season for her.

There becomes a bigger difference in athleticism and athletic assertiveness between the boys & the girls at this age (as compared to 1st and 2nd graders). Sometimes girls need encouragement to go for it, and reminders that they are an important part of the team. When a team was losing a game this winter, the coaches pulled all of the girls and only put the boys in. A number of games started with only boys on the court, implying that they'd help "get the team ahead" before the girls went out. I don't think this sent a good message to the girls in the program.

Also, I had issue with the coaches coaching their own son. Many times, we'd see the kids playing and then, as it was nearing time for a switch, we'd hear, "Everyone but Car out." I understand the way a parent sees the good in their child and knows that more playing time will give him more experience and skill, but this was out of balance this winter to an extreme. Their son would be sweating and panting on the court and yet 4 kids would be sitting quietly on the bench not rotating in. We're not talking about the final championship game and pushing your best players to bring home the gold, we're talking about a mid-season intramural game.

I have been on town boards (nursery school & PTO) and want to offer some suggestions here instead of just gripes. I was an athlete -- crew was my sport but I also loved playing coed IM hockey in college. We had a simple, great rule -- at least 2 girls on the ice at all times. It keeps everything balanced and makes the girls feel like they are an important part of the team. I wasn't a hockey star, but there's nothing like having the stars excited to see you show up for a game because they needed you (or would have to play man-down). I'd love to see Adams League adopt this as a mom of both a daughter and a son.

Second, I think parent coaches are sometimes needed in a small town like Kent, but I'd like to suggest we look around for non-parent coaches before the season starts. If we must use a parent coach, I suggest that they place their child on the other team to keep some equity in playing minutes, attention in drills, etc.

Thanks for doing what you do. My husband and I believe that sports are so important in the life of a child.

Yours,
Julie Saxton

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Master Admin <Notification@leagueathletics.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 10:50 AM
Subject: season feedback
To: saxtonj@gmail.com

The Kent Park and Recreation Commission appreciates your interest and participation in its Adams League Basketball program. The Commission welcomes feedback about the 2014-15 season:

- Do you feel your child learned/improved his/her basketball skills?
- How was your child's experience?
- Do you feel there are any way(s) the Commission could improve the program?

Please share your comments via email to: parkandrec@townofkentct.org

Thank you for your time.

David Dunleavy, Chairman

Lesly Ferris

From: Jill Patterson
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 5:52 PM
To: parkandrec@townofkentct.org
Subject: Children's Program for Kent Parks & Recreation

Dear Lesly,

My name is Jill Patterson and I would like to offer an after school program for elementary school students in Kent through Parks & Recreation. Each session would include six 1-hour classes that meet one time per week after school.

Through participation in this course, which is filled with games and excitement, students will build a solid foundation of wellness. The classes are packed with fun fitness activities, nutrition education, yoga, and connection with other children.

As a registered dietitian nutritionist, I have taught a variety of wellness programs to students in K-12 Connecticut schools for the past 10 years. I also have been teaching group fitness classes for adults through Newtown Continuing Education for the past 8 years.

Please let me know if a program like this for elementary school students would be of interest to offer through Parks & Rec and if there is any additional information you need from me. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,
Jill

--

Jill Patterson, RDN | Registered Dietitian Nutritionist | AFAA Certified Personal Trainer | AFAA Certified Aerobics Instructor | 203.292.0237 | jillpattersonwellness@gmail.com |

April 7, 2015

Lesly Ferris
Parks & Recreation Director
PO Box 678
41 Kent Green Boulevard
Kent, CT 06757-0678

Dear Lesly,

I am writing to inform you of my decision to resign from my position of Director of the After School Program, effective immediately.

I appreciate the opportunity you have given me and wish you and the program all the best in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dawn" and last name "Moore" clearly distinguishable.

Dawn Moore

Enclosure: set of keys/security tag



What is tournament paintball?

Paintball tournaments have been played in the woods since the mid 80s, but since all each field has different terrain there was no way to make regional or national events that were all equal, until...In 1996 the first inflatable paintball field was released as a way for many field to all have the same exact playing field. Most people in the sport regard this as the beginning of tournament paintball as it is known today.

- Today there are three major tournaments in the world;
- NCPA—National College Paintball Association (High school divisions too)
- PSP—Paintball Sports Promotions
- Millennium (Europe)

They all play with a similar format and rule book:

- Teams consist of 12 players and a coach
- Five players from each team take the field per point
- The field is 170 ft long by 130 feet wide and is filled with inflatable bunkers. The layout of the bunkers is set prior to the tournament to allow for practice on the layout but changes from one event to the next to keep the game challenging and fresh.
- There is a flag in the center of the field, to win the point the team must get this flag to the opposite end of the field they started on without being eliminated.
- The team with the most points at the end of the timed match wins. Or the first to a set number of points wins.

Northeast Conference

A. Penn State University Nittany Lions

B. West Point Black Knights

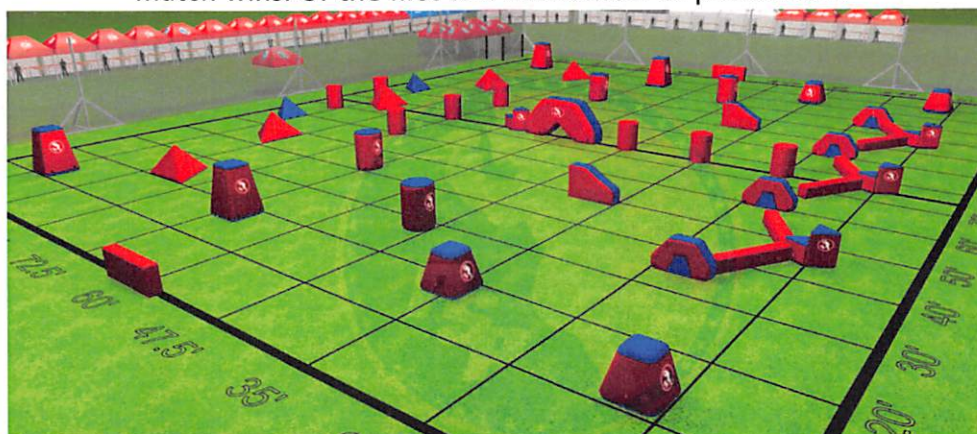
C. Temple University Owls

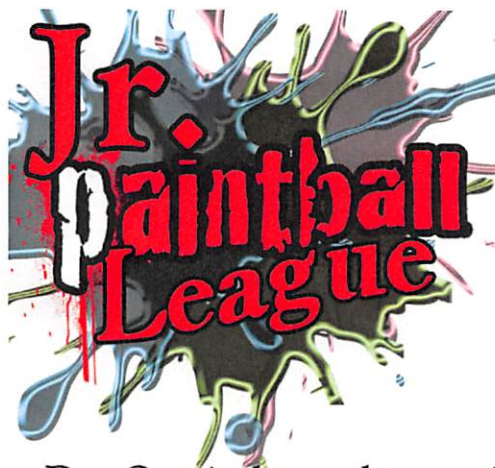
D. University of Connecticut Huskies

E. United States Naval Academy

F. Cornell University Big Red

G. Northeastern University Huskies





Daily Description of the Jr Paintball League

Dates:

Registration Deadline:
June 13, 2015

Every Saturday
June 27 - July 25

Time:

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Day 4: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Day 5: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Day One:

Saturday, June 27, 2015

'Introduction to Paintball through Fun + Games'

Day One is devoted to teaching players the proper techniques and basic safety of the sport. Using games like 'dodgeball' and 'duels', players will utilize skills required to conquer not just paintball, but other challenges they may face.

Day Two:

Saturday, July 6, 2015

'Reinforce Knowledge + Hone Skills Through Scrimmage'

Day Two reinforces skills learned the prior week by adding on new drills and mini-games. After a short break, players will begin to scrimmage with their designated 3-Man Team playing on our CQB Shipping Yard themed fields; 'Suppression + Containment + Killbox'

Day Three:

Saturday, July 13, 2015

'Brief Instruction + League Play Begins'

Day Three begins with a brief instruction focusing on proper pit routine and other quick hints. After we split you up into your teams, you will play a few league games. This team will be the team you will be paired up with for the rest of league play and playoffs.

Day Four:

Saturday, July 20, 2015

'All Day Jr. Paintball League Play'

Day Four will continue with League Play. This means all wins and losses will be counted towards determining your seeding in the playoff. We will begin at 10:00 AM and finish at **3:00 PM**.

Day Five:

Saturday, July 27, 2015

'Jr. Paintball League Playoffs'

Day Five is devoted to wild card games, playoffs, and the championship series!!!

Rankings will be posted prior to Saturday, April 4, 2015.

Teams must be ready to play at **9:00 AM** and there will be an awards ceremony at **4:30 PM**

MODERN
Paintball
(860) 453-6025

MODERNPB.COM



1 UNDERMOUNTAIN RD

FALLS VILLAGE, CT - 06031

MODERN PAINTBALL IS A PRIVATE CLUB, OPEN TO INTRODUCTORY TRIAL MEMBERS, MEMBERS, AND THEIR GUESTS



PAINTBALL!

RECORDED FOR RECORD
KIM TOWN CLERK
2015 APR 21 A 11:11
BY *Deborah R*
TOWN CLERK

TECHNICALLY, YES.

IN CANAAN?

5-DAY LEAGUE

1000 **FREE** PAINTBALLS PER DAY

35% OFF EXTRA PAINT PURCHASED DURING
LEAGUE PLAY

FREE RENTAL

INCLUDES: GOGGLES + GUN +
PODS AND PACK

GREAT BALANCE OF INSTRUCTION, MINI-GAMES, & DRILLS
3 DAYS OF 3 HOUR SESSIONS
2 FULL DAYS OF PLAY INCLUDING

PLAYOFFS!!!

INCLUDES **FREE GOLD MEMBERSHIP**
GOLD MEMBERSHIP COSTS \$250

1 YEAR EXCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP

FREE T-SHIRT + FREE ALL DAY AIR
10% OFF PAINTBALLS AND GRENADES

NO GROUNDS FEE (ENTRANCE FEE)
FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR (DURING OPERATIONAL HOURS)

OTHER GOLD PERKS FOUND ONLINE
MODERNPB.COM

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?
ONLY \$250 + TAX

WHAT DO YOU GET?

5000 TOTAL PAINTBALLS

-- Gold Membership --
RENTAL EQUIPMENT

COMPETITION

ADVENTURE

DATES: JUNE 27 - JULY 25
REGISTRATION:
SATURDAY, JUNE 13

NORTH CANAAN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MODERN PAINTBALL IS A PRIVATE CLUB, OPEN TO INTRODUCING TRIAL MEMBERS, MEMBERS, AND THEIR GUESTS

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