

Kent Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes, Monthly Meeting
July 17, 2017

Received + Filed
July 18, 2017 11:32AM
Karen Brady, TC

Present: Jerry Decker, Dave Dunleavy, John Grant, Lynn Harrington, Jessie Rundall, director Lesly Ferris.

Public and Invited Guests: None.

Chairman Jerry Decker called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

Acceptance of Agenda: Mr. Grant made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes of June 12, 2017 monthly meeting: Mrs. Harrington made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2017 monthly meeting. Mr. Grant seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Correspondence: None.

Director's Report: In addition to the written report provided prior to the meeting (attached), Mrs. Ferris reported on Camp Kent activities: spending Mondays at Club Getaway, visiting South Kent School's Center for Innovation for "Farm Friday," and sending campers to the regional summer science camp which will be held at Emery Park this week.

Old Business: After-School Program: Mrs. Ferris shared year-end attendance figures, noting the total slightly exceeded the prior year's participation (attached). She expects to have year-end financial report at the August meeting.

Parks: Emery Park survey/stone for path: Mrs. Ferris noted if the survey is not complete before next week's Inland Wetlands Commission meeting, she would need to resubmit the application.

Emery Park tree/brush clearing: Mr. Grant said he would resume this work in the fall. Meanwhile many people have commented on the improvement the bank clearing makes in the park.

Mr. Grant also adjusted the gates at the Emery Park swimming area and will need to purchase some washers. Mrs. Ferris noted she put the Emery Park swimming area water test results on the Park and Recreation Facebook Page and will continue to do so.

2016-17 Budget: Mrs. Ferris reported the bottom line was overspent; however, revenue exceeds the budgeted amount by more than \$5000.

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

Emery Park Swimming Area; open house follow-up: Mr. Grant commented the June 30 event was "electrifying," and thinks the commission should host this event again. He noted many families came by the park but then left due to the rain and thunderstorm. Mrs. Ferris said she would put a note on her calendar and put this on the meeting agenda next March. Mrs. Ferris will remind the lifeguards to check park passes.

Sports Programs follow-up: Mrs. Ferris said the regional recreation directors would be meeting in August to

discuss fall soccer teams. She has been receiving soccer registrations, primarily for U10 girls.

Summer Concert Series update: Mrs. Ferris shared results of the survey that was handed out at the July 6 concert (attached). The commission agreed to conduct the survey again at the last concert of this season. The commission discussed the one proposal to have food trucks and agree this would not be a viable option given the potential for permits and the number of restaurants available in town. Mr. Dunleavy questioned if the commission would consider moving the concerts to the Welcome Center if the chamber next year offers to fund the concerts if they are held at the center. Mrs. Rundall said there is nothing exciting or enjoyable about watching a concert next to a bathroom. Mrs. Harrington said she agrees. Mr. Dunleavy noted the space at the Welcome Center is not that big. Mrs. Ferris reiterated that the chamber's proposal this year involved using space adjacent to the Welcome Center that isn't owned by the Town. Mrs. Ferris noted the person who said on the survey to hold a concert near the Senior Center spoke to her at the concert and said she no longer thinks this would be a good idea.

2017-18 Budget: There was no report.

Halloween event at Emery Park: Mrs. Ferris stated she believes there is some confusion about the sponsorship of the proposed Halloween event at Emery Park (Kent Center School PTO or Park and Recreation). Mr. Grant said he gave the PTO an idea for the event and asked them if they would consider holding it at Emery Park. Mr. Grant said he had been told there used to be a Halloween Event held at the park years ago. Mrs. Harrington said the way it was introduced to her as a PTO officer is that it would be a Park and Recreation event that the PTO would help with. Mr. Decker reiterated to the commissioners that proposals for Park and Recreation-sponsored events need to be brought first to a commission meeting so that each commissioner is aware of the proposal. Mrs. Harrington said she feels a cooperative sponsorship of the Halloween event would be good. Mrs. Harrington made a motion that Kent Park and Recreation co-sponsor a Halloween event at Emery Park with the Kent Center School PTO. Mrs. Rundall seconded the motion. Mrs. Ferris read a list of proposed activities that the PTO had provided: bobbing for apples, pumpkin painting, bake sale, guess how many candy corn, crafts, bean bag toss, relay race, maze. Mrs. Ferris said she feels there should be enough activities to entice people to come. Mrs. Harrington said she would like to see a haunted house. The commission discussed pros and cons of holding such an event at Emery Park, including space and lighting. Mr. Decker said he would want to see a concrete proposal that would be viable for both organizations to support. Mrs. Rundall said she could invite the fire department to participate. Mrs. Ferris said she would contact the PTO and invite them to the August meeting. The commission consensus is Kent Common Park could be a better possible location. The commission agreed to table the discussion.


New Business: PTO Days: Mrs. Ferris submitted a request for Paid Time Off Days. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve July 19, July 24, July 31 and August 21-25, 2017 (8 hours each) as PTO days for Lesly Ferris. Mr. Grant seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

CRPA Conference: Mrs. Ferris asked that the commission approve her attendance at the annual Connecticut Parks and Recreation Conference in November. Mr. Dunleavy made a motion to approve director Lesly Ferris' attendance at the Annual CRPA Conference November 20-21, 2017 at Mohegan Sun. Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Pumpkin Run Sponsorship: Mrs. Ferris noted Mr. Dunleavy asked if the commission again would be a sponsor of the Kent Pumpkin Run. Mrs. Harrington made a motion that Kent Park and Recreation make a \$500 sponsorship donation to the 2017 Kent Pumpkin Run. Mrs. Rundall seconded the motion, and the motion was

Mr. Grant thanked the commission for the thank you note to he and his family for their donation of corn hole boards to the Camp Kent youngsters.

The next Kent Park and Recreation Commission meeting is Monday, August 14, 2017 at 7 p.m.



Lesly Ferris
Director

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

2016-2017 After-School Program

Week of	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	wk/mth total	2015-16	IGA bill	cost pp
8/29-9/2	7	11	4	12	NS	34			
9/5-9/9	H	11	9	12	9	41			
9/12-9/16	8	10	9	14	9	50			
9/19-9/23	10	12	10	12	9	53			
9/26-9/30	11	10	ED	15	12	48			
Total	36	54	32	65	39	226	156	\$ 143.00	\$ 0.63
10/3-10/7	9	14	8	NS	NS	31			
10/10-10/14	H	10	9	13	11	43			
10/17-10/21	11	15	12	9	10	57			
10/24-10/28	11	13	ED	12	10	46			
Total	31	52	29	34	31	177	230	\$ 150.19	\$ 0.85
10/31-11/4	9	14	10	14	7	54			
11/7-11/11	14	ED	ED	14	H	28			
11/14-11/18	11	15	9	12	9	56			
11/21-11/25	9	12	ED	H	H	21			
Total	43	41	19	40	16	159	155	\$ 147.99	\$ 0.95
11/28-12/2	15	15	7	16	9	62			
12/5-12/9	14	19	7	15	8	63			
12/12-12/16	SD	17	8	12	13	50			
12/19-12/23	10	13	9	ED	H	32			
12/26-12/30	H	H	H	H	H	0			
Total	39	64	22	43	30	207	197	\$ 140.84	\$ 0.68
1/2-1/6	H	11	7	15	10	43			
1/9-1/13	11	12	7	7	8	45			
1/16-1/20	H	ED	11	13	8	32			
1/23-1/27	WD	NS	ED	9	11	20			
Total	11	23	25	44	37	140	198	\$ 150.33	\$ 1.07
1/30-2/3	9	ED	12	11	7	39			
2/6-2/10	15	WD	5	SD	2	22			
2/13-2/17	11	10	9	11	6	47			
2/20-2/24	V	V	10	12	9	31			
Total	35	10	36	34	24	139	173	\$ 108.73	\$ 0.63
2/27-3/3	12	8	8	10	9	47			
3/6-3/10	9	10	7	13	SD	39			
3/13-3/17	8	SD	SD	10	NS	18			
3/20-3/24	13	5	5	10	4	37			
3/27-3/31	10	6	ED	7	3	26			
Total	52	29	20	50	13	167	161	\$ 60.23	\$ 0.37
4/3-4/7	10	ED	11	10	10	41			
4/10-4/14	V	V	V	V	V	0			
4/17-4/21	13	10	7	12	11	53			
4/24-4/28	12	12	12	15	12	63			
Total	35	22	30	37	33	157	145	\$ 165.76	\$ 1.14
5/1-5/5	18	15	14	15	Closed	62			
5/8-5/12	16	12	7	11	9	55			
5/15-5/19	13	15	13	12	10	63			
5/22-5/26	11	6	ED	10	5	32			
Total	58	48	34	48	24	212	176	\$ 184.18	\$ 1.05
5/29-6/2	H	8	8	13	7	36			
6/5-6/9	10	7	6	14	5	42			
6/12-6/16	12	7	8	13		40			
Total	22	22	22	40	12	118	70	\$36.15	\$ 0.52

1772 total attendance/163 days = 11 daily avg.; \$1287.40 = \$.73/day snack

The Regulators
July 6, 2017

Kent Park and Recreation

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The Kent Park and Recreation Commission appreciates your interest in the "Concerts on the Lawn" series. Please share your feedback and thoughts below to assist the commission in planning the 2018 concert series.

Scale: 1 poor, 2 fair, 3 good, 4 very good and 5 excellent:

Quality of the music	1	2-2	3-1	4-16	5-32
Weekday concerts held	1	2-1	3-3	4-12	5-32
Time of the concerts	1	2	3-1	4-10	5-40
Concert location	1-1	2	3-1	4-3	5-45
Ease of parking	1	2	3-1	4-7	5-38
Choice of bands	1	2-2	3-2	4-10	5-31
Restroom facility	1	2	3-1	4-5	5-42
Quality of sound	1	2	3-1	4-8	5-42
Variety of music	1	2-1	3-1	4-10	5-31

Where did you hear about the concert series? Please circle all that apply:

13 Town newsletter
4 Park and Recreation website
10 Newspaper
18 Road sign/poster
9 Facebook

6 Friend
3 Band

The commission welcomes other comments/suggestions

Concerts on the Lawn

The Regulators: July 6, 2017

Comments:

- Love seeing the kids running around and welcoming environment for all. Thanks!
- Great contribution to the community – Thanks!
- Don't stop!
- Great evening
- Excellent time by all
- This is great – Thursday or Friday
- Keep up the good work
- Food trucks!
- Great to have one at Templeton Farm for seniors
- Don't change!
- Keep concerts on Town Hall green
- Love the concerts!
- We enjoy the concerts very much. Thank you!
- Love this thank you!
- Thank you! Kent is the best town!
- Would like to see some of the concerts at the new welcome center
- Thank you!! Love them!
- Town Hall is a great location. Keep up the good work
- Would love to see it moved to Falcon Field
- More reggae
- Thank you for providing local music! Would be fun to add a jazz and classical music evening to the schedule
- Total delight. Example of small town pleasures.
- Food truck or hot dog guy
- Keep USA flag up if you can
- Great idea
- Friday would be even better to get more “weekenders”

Park and Recreation Director's Report

July 2017

From the June 2017 meeting:

- I created a survey to distribute at the summer concerts and emailed this to the commission. Commissioners and I handed out the survey at the first concert. I will share those results at the meeting. The first concert was a great evening – the weather held and the music and crowd was great. Thank you to the commissioners who attended and helped.
- Megan Leach has accepted the position at the After-School Program for the 2017-18 school year.

From the director:

After-School Program: The program ended the school year on positive notes with two end-of-year parties to accommodate the staff schedules. I have sent out final bills as well as the first of the past-due invoices. I am waiting for one invoice after which I can finalize the year-end figures. The total attendance exceeded last year which is encouraging. The program resumes August 28. I will have the program handbook and registration forms available in early August online, outside the office and at Kent Center School.

Seniors: I have been able to book trips for July and August. We will be visiting Wickham Park in Manchester next Thursday and August's trip is to Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme. Waiting now for status of future trips.

Budget: I will report at the meeting on the status of the 2016-17 budget and I expect that we will have expended the majority of the budget. The new fiscal year began July 1.

Parks: The work at Emery Park looks great and many people have commented on the bank clearing project. A Kent resident volunteered to spray (organically) the playground equipment after the safety fabric was installed. I offered twice to compensate him for his time and materials but he declined. I have sent him a thank you note as well as thanked him in person. I believe he is going to be helping John Grant install the new fencing at Emery early this fall. The Open House was a success in spite of the weather. Several people attended even though most left as the rain started to come down heavily. Those who stayed enjoyed the BBQ dinner served inside the camp side of the building. The music continued inside until a large clap of thunder and bolt of lightning deemed it inadvisable to continue doing anything that involved electricity. Some of us have a new found respect for thunderstorms!! I sent thank you notes to Heather and Tobias who emailed to thank us for allowing them to play at the event; Bartlett Tree Experts for distributing tree saplings and the Grant family for its donation of corn hole boards and bean bags for the campers. The boards feature the Town seal, painted by John's son. The campers have been playing the game after pool time this week. Thank you to the commissioners who attended and helped with cooking and clean-up. A huge thank you to John Grant for his work to make the beautification of the park possible.

Fee Programs: I was at the first of six summer sessions of Qigong Class this Wednesday. There was a good turnout for this session, and instructor Chris Kiely plans to return to an eight-week session in September. The class attracted a couple of new participants.

Regional Recreation Directors: We will not meet again until sometime in August to discuss fall soccer but in the meantime are staying in contact via email and phone. Three players are participating on the joint "Babe Ruth" summer league baseball team that also includes players from Cornwall, Sharon and Salisbury. I emailed Little League players to let them know about the availability of summer Little League but did not receive back any interest. There is a co-op team that is playing in this league.

Camp Kent: Camp will enter its third week July 14. The program is going well and the daily themes have been a hit with the staff and the campers. The staff is doing a great job carrying the theme through the day and has been dressing for the themes (including Pok-e-mon and dinosaur T-shirts). The counselors created a hula hoop-sized coin for "flip-a-coin" day, and we let the campers flip the "coin" to determine which craft project they did that day. Friday barbecue lunches and Thursday story hour with the library are back. Five youngsters participated in summer science camp July 6 in North Canaan. Each of four towns are taking a turn hosting the science camp while the high school is undergoing construction projects this summer. Kent will host the program July 20. Also, the four towns that have summer camp programs will be going together to the Connecticut Science Museum August 4. There is grant money that is expected to cover the cost of this outing.

Campers will spend their first of six Mondays at Club Getaway July 10. Drop-off and pick-up are at Club Getaway which helps streamline these days. Campers will be visiting South Kent School's Center for Innovation July 14 for two hours in the morning. I have arranged bus transportation from and to Emery Park for this outing. There is a nominal cost of \$3/camper for this outing which I am asking families to contribute if possible. The staff and I are looking forward to "Farm Friday."

The youngsters seem to be having fun and we have met some new children as well as welcomed back several who are spending their last summer at camp (they age out this year). A huge thank you to the Kent Community Fund for its generous support of summer camp programs with a donation of \$2,500 in scholarships to assist families in need. The fund has helped six families with the cost of camp, making it possible for their children to participate in the program.

Kent Pumpkin Run: Dave Dunleavy has asked if the commission would be interested in continuing its sponsorship of the Kids Run at the Kent Pumpkin Run, and I have placed this on the agenda.

Story Hour: The Kent Memorial Library is continuing its Thursday lunchtime story hour at Emery Park. Some of the books coincide with the theme for that day. Thank you to Sara Marshall for continuing this tradition.

CRPA Conference: I have placed this on the agenda to ask the commission to approve my participation in the annual conference in November.

Looking ahead ...

- I will be requesting PTO days August 21-25.