

Park and Recreation Director's Report

January 2021

From the December 2020 meeting:

- I emailed Kent Center School parents to invite them to submit their interest in joining the Playing Field Subcommittee. There is one opening.
- The director spoke with the Town Highway Supervisor about plowing the upper parking lot at Emery Park this winter.
- Ms. Ferris made some post-Haunted Halloween Drive Thru notes and shared those with the commission chairman.

From the director:

After-School Program: The daily attendance has dropped and I am expecting some youngsters to return to the program once the post-holiday period passes. The youngsters are good about following directions and enjoy free play time. The staff feel we are working with future architects and/or engineers. I have sent out the December invoices. One of the leadership team members is on vacation (they were not planning to return to the program after Thanksgiving but changed their minds and had already made travel plans). I am at the program each afternoon to help out, which provides an opportunity to interact with staff, youngsters and parents.

Budgets: I do not have yet a monthly budget report. I am emailing you the draft 2021-2022 budget with a cover memo to help explain the process for the new commissioners. I welcome your input at the meeting about projecting how we see the coming year-plus unfolding. This is on the agenda.

Five-Year Capital Plan: I have nothing new to report. This continues to be on the agenda so the commission can start a list of capital needs that it wants to propose to add next budget season.

Parks: I am working on the beaver permit. I am talking with Connie Manes of the Land Trust about the possibility of using the Land Trust's seasonal worker to help with Park and Recreation's park work/projects.

Playing Field Subcommittee: This item is on the agenda so the commission can consider any applicants to fill a vacancy on the subcommittee.

Fee Programs: We still are in a holding pattern until an indoor space opens or spring weather arrives.

Regional Recreation Directors: We continue to stay in contact through email and phone calls.

Sports Programs: Some winter sports programs can begin January 19. We still do not have access to the school gym so we continue to be unable to offer winter basketball programs.

Summer Camp: I participated in a Zoom meeting of the Summer Camp subcommittee of the Connecticut and Recreation and Parks Association. These meetings are usually in far distant towns and it doesn't seem worthwhile to go. Zoom made this possible and it was good to listen to what towns are thinking about summer camp this year and modifications they are considering – many

who are planning to offer camp are cutting out field trips. There also was talk about the possibility of the state legislature voting to require all camps in the state to be licensed. Currently, municipal camps are exempt from licensure. I will be following this closely.

I also heard from Art Leary of Slamma-Jamma Basketball Camp who would be interested in offering basketball camp in Kent this summer if that is possible. We are staying in touch.

I also am talking with Ms. Manes about the summer concert series.

Election of chairman: the commission votes on naming a chairman for the calendar year at the January meeting.

I am working on the Plan of Conservation and Development update and will email that before the meeting.

Looking ahead ...

- The Annual Town Meeting at which commission appointments are voted upon is January 21, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Information will be posted on the Town website: townofkentct.org
- Town Hall offices are closed for business January 18, Martin Luther King Day.