



Kent Park and Recreation
July 15, 2021
Zoom Meeting 5:30 at the Old Jail

Members Present:

Steve Mitchell
Debbie Smeiles
Neil Dukes
Jake Ferlito

Staff Present:

Angela Manley
Sam Tuttle
Karen Magilavy
Megan Johns

Council Liaison

Steve called the meeting to order at 5:30. Roll was called and is listed above. It is nice to see everyone in person. Gwen was not in attendance and Kathleen is out of town. **Jake made a motion to accept June's minutes, Neil seconded and roll was called all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

Personal Appearances None

Correspondence None

Staff Reports

Revenue Angela reconfigured the revenue report to show year to date revenue.

Expenditures Buzzoodle is our website designer company. All the individuals that are listed on the expenditure report are probably umpires or referees, can we show that in the expenditure reports? Yes, Angela can add that line.

Park Report Sam said they are keeping up with all the mowing and there has been a lot of rain. Kayaking and canoeing have exploded. Park use is way up. The crew has to empty the trash at the Middlebury Ramp and all the parks every single day. We can indicate how much the parks are being used by the number of trash cans. We do not know when the city is closing Middlebury Road. The Brady Leap section of the trail has been poured all the way to the Adams Factory. Footers have been poured for the stairs by us and this saves a lot of money. The stairs have been redesigned because using the sandstone did not work out. They are using a different stone.

Recreation _Jake asked if we have had any Covid problems at the camps. Megan said the camps wear mask on the bus, and in the classroom. We have not had any outbreaks. Volleyball camp had a problem the school was closed on July 5th the janitors were on vacation and the school was not open. The board really wants to work on communication with the school. We had a contract with the school for the indoor sports camps. We were able to find someone to open up for us. Currently we have registration for soccer and flag football. The tackle & cheer deadline has been extended. Tennis and Lacrosse also starting. Meryl spoke with Craig Foreman who runs the high school Expedition program. They decided to do more adventure activities, like tubing, ropes course and to have special guest speakers geared toward older kids. We are taking registration for the before and after school program and preschool. This year preschool parents can choose what days of the week their child attends M/W/F, T/H, or all 5 days. We are hoping this will increase the preschool numbers. Megan thanked Angela for the new iPhone 11's at all the sites. They can use the maps for field trips and take pictures at all the activities. Megan will have 10 school year positions to fill at all the sites. The jobs are being posted on social media our website and indeed. Steve will pass the info to Kent State. These are tough positions to fill, because of the split shift.

Director Report

1. Angela included the press release for the board members regarding the banned Individual. No board action is necessary. The registered letter that Angela sent to him was returned.
2. At the Rec two deceased longtime staff member's families made donations for memorial plaques. A third long time employee family is very upset that she did not get recognized, they wanted to know how the recognitions were chosen and not their mom. Neil told the family that none of the plaque came out of the park budget. We let them know that the parks did not pay for the memorials and the families donated the money. We have had memorial trees and benches donated for many years. The board discussed the idea of a memory tree for past staff or a wall of fame. We could do presentations for the parks, families, and the media. Some places have memorial bricks when they build new facilities. We can look into a Friends of Parks type of award and accept nominations, these are possible future programs. We would have to think about vandalism.
3. Angela submitted all the changes to the survey that were discussed at the last meeting and Pat Hoagland of Brandstetter-Carroll has sent the proof of the survey to Angela, he is just waiting for a high resolution logo. Debbie and Neil will send in ideas for the steering committee. We could use 10-12 people on the steering committee.
4. Everything Angela is hearing about the outdoor seasonal ice rink from Central Maintenance & the Service Department is very exciting. They have been having meetings for quite a long time before Angela even started here. This looks great for the community. Steve said that KSU President Diagon was President at UMass and they had an ice rink. It would be a great addition to the downtown area. We can staff it and run it, but cannot fund it. Angela has called Cuyahoga Falls and Akron to set up a meeting with them to get ideas because those cities have ice rinks. If we have to hire seasonal people, then we would need to get an increase for our allocation of seasonal people. The number of seasonal employees is capped, and it is a difficult time for hiring. Angela is hearing that the Ice Rink is happening regardless if we run it or not. She and Doug Pearson from Kent State met at the site. The businesses on Erie such as the Health Department and the little shops will lose parking spaces. The Hotel is not very happy, the ice rink will be

very loud. KSU Rec and Wellness did not want to run it. They probably had the same questions and concerns we do. We will need to know if we are running it, we have to start hiring now. Steve said to embrace this; it is a cool idea, but we cannot cover the cost. We can do it, but we cannot pay for it. The hours will need to be adjusted. What if our winter is warm and wet, who will run the Zamboni, and do they need certification? We will also need training, first aid, secure Wi-Fi for payments, protocols for opening and closing, because of weather. There may be a food truck. KSU is bringing in a big company to get sponsorships for the rink. Angela needs to be included in future meetings. The board is telling Angela to let the city and Kent State know we need to be brought up to speed, and to convey the board's positivity, but she needs to be involved if we are running the rink.

5. Angela is working on P&R budget with the Finance Department. She will need the board to approve the budget and will have an executive meeting next month. She anticipates the budget will be similar to 2021.
6. It would be great to have a Juneteenth celebration at the park next year. Neal will reach out to Dr. Nelson and the members of Black United Students to see if they want to put together a celebration. They need to form a committee to plan for 2022. If it is a heritage type event or commemoration we should offer one of our parks. Neil says if they just want to party, where can they have it? Temporary liquor licenses are available if we decided we want to allow alcohol. Neil wants to bring it back the meeting next month as a positive event. Debbie thinks Fred Fuller would be a better park for a big event. Al Lease has 2 exits, thinking about that too? Angela says we should not run the event, but give us an advisory seat and have a group run it. Angela will be working on having rules for events and parks. We will have a check list for events that will include; security, porta johns insurance, parking. Debbie said can we put this on our website? Jake had to leave and was excused. She will have rules available for 2022.

6:47 a motion to adjourn was made by Neil, and Debbie seconded and all in Favor.