



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held virtually using the Zoom Platform.

Kent Park and Recreation  
April 15, 2021  
Zoom Meeting 5:30

**Members Present:**

Steve Mitchell  
Jake Ferlito  
Neil Dukes  
Kathleen Wiler  
Debbie Smeiles

**Staff Present:**

Melanie Baker  
Karen Magilavy  
Megan Johns  
Karen Magilavy

Council Liaison

Gwen Rosenberg

Steve called the meeting at 5:30. Roll was called and is listed above. Sam is at his daughter's softball game. Welcome to anyone watching on YouTube. **Kathleen moved to approve the minutes of March 18, and Jake seconded. Roll called to approve the minutes, all were in favor motion passed unanimously.** Steve would like everyone to take a look at item #4 in the minutes. Everyone give some thought to people who would be good committee members for the steering committee for the Master Plan. People who are connected to the community, involved and engaged in Parks & Rec. People who truly represent of the City of Kent. We did not have a steering committee last year before Covid hit. The last Master Plan was done in the 90's. We will discuss the steering committee at the May Board Meeting. Melanie and Debbie joined the meeting.

Personal Appearances None

Correspondence None

Staff Reports

Expenditures available next month

Revenue available next month

Park Report Sam is not able to join us. We will take the park report as written.

Recreation Report Our Rec Report is a collaboration of all our staff. Garyn is doing a lot of the sports programming. We have started our Art in the Park Meetings. We are working with the Health Department and checking with other agencies on how they are starting festivals. We have a new Salsa Class starting at the

Fitness Center. We have planning meetings every month to set up our newsletter. We have another Babysitter Training coming up. We have one more Kids Night Out this school year. Summer Camp registrations are open now to current families and previous campers. The quarterly photo contest is up and running. Camps will open to the public on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The before and after school programs have opened up to 4 days a week and we have a lot of interest in next school year. Steve asked about Covid protocols, Megan said; taking temperatures, washing hands coming in and out and timing the hand washing. Small groups will play in different areas, Plexiglas at tables, limiting access to parents who must wear masks. For bussing field trips there will be 1 child per seat, no one is to sit behind the driver, we will be the only group at the pool. This written protocol is available to parents. Steve said thanks for all you do. We have fewer kids than usual, but more to do with all the protocols. Steve asked about OHTSL. It is newer league different cities than GAASA. When Steve met with Nancy they talked about a community area league, to play more than Kent teams (Brimfield, Holy Family, Ravenna, Mantua). OHTSL is travel non-co-ed teams an hour away or less. There are a lot of communities involved.

#### Director Report

1. On Monday April 5 the board met for a final review of the last 2 candidates. They had a tour of the rec, the city, and Kent State. They had an opportunity to meet a few of the staff, the city manager and the finance director. Then the board went into executive session at 2:45 and made a final decision. City Council will have to approve the board's decision on Wednesday April 21<sup>st</sup>. If authorization is granted the candidate can start April 26<sup>th</sup>. This was an excellent hiring process. The board looked at the needs of the department. Melanie is very pleased to be a part of the process. Staff can be notified after the council approves the candidate.
2. We are continuing to finalize the shop drawings and next Monday the contractor will be on site. It is still scheduled to be completed by September. This portion of the trail will be closed during construction. Detours will be posted. Melanie will recommend to the new director to set up a date for a trail dedication.
3. We can make an educational event out of the project. The Chimney Swift is a bird that migrates to and from Ohio. There are nests on top of the old police station. When we knew the building was to be demolished the chimney was closed up. The new chimney will be next to the new police station. The swift is actually on the Kent State University Seal.
4. This is a pocket park behind the new police department. We put in stone walkways and lighting and we will install a couple of hammocks. It is a new unique location park. Rhonda Boyd designed this park and chimney, Steve aske Melanie to pass along our thanks.

**Additional: The board gave Melanie their sincere thanks for being the Interim Parks & Recreation Director. Thank you for making everything go so smoothly. Melanie will be at our next meeting.**

**At 7:30 Adjourn Motion made by Debbie, and Kathleen seconded and all in Favor.**