



Kent Park and Recreation  
September 16, 2021  
5:30 at the Old Jail

**Members Present:**

Steve Mitchell  
Kathleen Wiler  
Neil Dukes  
Debbie Smeiles  
Jake Ferlito

**Staff Present:**

Angela Manley  
Sam Tuttle  
Megan Johns  
Karen Magilavy

**Council Liason**

Gwen Rosenberg

Steve called the meeting to order at 5:30. Roll was called and is listed above. Please review the August minutes, are there any changes? **Neil made a motion to accept August minutes, Kathleen seconded and roll was called all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Personal Appearances** None

**Correspondence** None

**Staff Reports**

**Revenue & Expenditures** The expenditure report shows a double payment to Brandstetter-Carroll because the purchase order had to be reopened and went to Board of Control. We show increases in the Park Fees, Rentals and KYBS. The pavilions have been very busy. We did not have any baseball or softball in 2020, so we are obviously showing a big increase.

**Park Report** Sam has hired a new crew member. He is getting his degree from University of Akron in a Park related field. The boardwalk behind the Waste Water Treatment Plant had 2 boards with holes in them that they replaced. They are replacing them as needed. Down the road we should look a replacing all the boards with a different material. They can be put on the current stringers.

**Recreation** The School Age Child Care is up to 120 kids in the program up to average in past years. The Longcoy site was not open last year and Megan has renewed the license and paperwork. She filled 2 administrator positions and still needs 3pm Rec Leaders. With the 3<sup>rd</sup> staff member she can keep groups small in case isolation is needed. The Kidz Club has a special accommodations policy, but recently had to turn away 2 kids with special needs. Angela had 1 on 1 camp councilors for kids with special needs. She used grad students from Kent State. We can look in to that this summer. The Rec Center was closed last Wednesday through Saturday. 4 young kids broke into the building and did a lot of damage with spray paint and fire extinguishers. The insurance adjuster and professional cleaners have been out to the Rec. The police department found out who the kids are and Dad said he would pay for the damages, but may not have the money. He was from the neighborhood and brought the family in for a Labor Day Picnic. We are again having Cross Country with Field High School. They will have 6<sup>th</sup> graders and we are offering 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. The Photo Contest has had a lot of online voting. There are 131 boys and girls playing Flag Football. Tackle Football and Cheerleading is up and running. The Fall Session of Adult Softball started Sunday. Steve asked about the middle school soccer teams; the board had a discussion about traveling soccer and the middle school teams.

### **Director Report**

1. Art in the Park This was Angela's first Art in the Park. She said that the weather was beautiful and the attendance was strong. She is still waiting for a few bills to come in, but the budget looks good
2. Rec Center Vandalism. See Recreation Report too. ServePro cleaned Wednesday through Friday, they have special HEPA machines. Sam and the crew cleaned spray paint for several hours. The Emergency Backpack was found outside the Rec Center with the chromebooks, PlayStation and the Switch in it, covered in melted popsicles.
3. Kent City Schools are not permitting outside group's use of school facilities. They will reevaluate this in January. We will check into other venues for basketball practices and games. We will reach out to St. Patrick, Riverside and other area churches.
4. The board discussed 2022 Juneteenth Celebration. Neil would like to have a 3 on 3 tournament over the weekend like he did 5 years ago. The KPD and KFD are talking about being included; Dunk the Chief and possibly a Job Fair, minority business awareness, vendors, health info and more. This is a time we could recognize past Rec Center Staff too. If we close off that section of School Street, we could have food trucks too. Debbie said a non-profit could apply for funds from The Portage Foundation for this event. The application would have to be in by February. The P&R could assist and facilitate with community or campus groups. Invite 1-2 people from area groups NAACP and churches.
5. The repaving and striping at the Rec Center has been completed and looks great.
6. The basketball court at Yacavona will be replaced because the city is using the park as a staging area. The board also asked about putting a Pickleball court somewhere. Pickleball is super popular.
7. Angela included a budget analysis of the Fitness Center in the board report. The Fitness Center is not profitable. We do want to show the community that health and fitness are a priority for us. Does everything have to make money? The Board wants to show our mission of Health and Fitness, is important, the message is important. There is a crowded space for weight work out and group class space is great. Can we move those classes to different locations? Try to continue to provide services. Consider a 1 year lease with a

lower rent. The landlord wants us to take over the whole building. Are there any other spaces available? If we close and have to sell the equipment we would use govdeals.com and would need council approval. The lease is coming due and in November she would like the board to make a decision if we should renew the lease.

### **Old Business**

We still need spots filled on the steering committee. Angela will list the spots that need filled to the board and who has already been suggested and send it out to everyone. The survey has been mailed and Bransdstetter-Carroll was at Art in the Park with surveys.

### **New Business**

The current park impact fee is convoluted and Community Development has been caught in the middle, trying to explain it to developers. Rhonda the City Finance Director and Angela have been working on simplifying the formula and pricing.

**A motion was made to go into executive session by Debbie and seconded by Neil roll was called and all were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

After coming out of executive session at 7:44

**A motion to adjourn was made by Debbie, and Jake seconded and all were in Favor and motion passed unanmously.**