



Kent Park and Recreation
April 21, 2022
5:30 at the Old Jail

Members Present:

Steve Mitchell
Kathleen Wiler
Debbie Smeiles
Neil Dukes

Staff Present:

Angela Manley
Sam Tuttle
Megan Johns
Karen Magilavy

Council Liason

Gwen Rosenberg

Steve called the meeting to order at 5:30. Jake and Gwen had conflicts and are unable to attend. Roll was called and is listed above. Please review March's minutes. **Neil made a motion to accept the February minutes, Kathleen seconded and roll was called all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

Staff Reports

Revenue & Expenditures Angela added notes to the expense sheet to help explain items. The Newmind Group is our citywide IT security it is divided by departments. Our revenues are over this month. Angela is working with Engineering on the second part of the trail. We can't contribute financially. The city is now viewing trails as an asset for all the city and the financial burden should not be all on our department. The section from Tannery to Main St. will be 1 or 2 phases. An inclined board walk will take the stairs out and some land may need to be acquired. It will be a big project. The grant request for design was rejected.

Park Report The new stairs to the Brady Leap section of the Hike and Bike Trail are now open. The Fire Department did a water training and cut some of the trees across the river. The crew pulled a big tree out of the pond at Al Lease. It was cut up. They are attempting to start mowing, fields are very soft.

Recreation Report Kidz Club numbers are up. Preschool numbers are up too. Next school year preschool will go to school Monday through Thursday 9:00am – 12:30pm. Megan is still hiring for school year and summer camps. This has been the fastest that summer camps have filled up. People are more comfortable about going out again.

Director Report

1. The Fitness Center Lease is almost up. The online auction was a great success. We sold approx. \$45,000 and that includes the diner. The diner starting bid was \$500 and it sold for \$1300 the new owner is going to use it as a coffee shop in Deerfield. A lot of residents had questions about the fitness center. One approached Gwen and would like a meeting with Angela. He considers himself a community watchdog. He wants to discuss how much money the fitness center has lost. The board said sometimes community services are not always profitable, plus don't forget we had Covid for 2 years. We were more affordable than many places. Steve offered to join Angela at the meeting. She will give him a call.

2. Angela had her first round of interviews and plans on a second set with Marketing/Special Events interviewees. Human Resources let Megan sit with Angela for the interviews except for Garyn's interview. Steve came in for Garyn's interview.
3. The new trail section dedication will be May 20th and Angela will send out invitations.
4. The office furnace and air conditioner was replaced this month. The old one was 30 years old.
5. Doug Pearson contacted Angela about the ice arena. They talked about how difficult it was to find staffing. He asked what could we do and take over staffing. Our budget is already done for 2022. We have capped our positions and the budget is set. Our budget is set by November. We would be willing to put the jobs on our social media and spread the word. Everything at the ice rink seemed very chaotic there are many safety concerns we should have been contacted last year for the 22 season.

New Business A group has reached out to Angela about holding a set of workshops called Roots & Reeds. It will be in August. It has been held in Ashtabula County. It teaches clean living off the land workshops. They say they will have 0 trash and are sustainable. She may come to the next board meeting asking for special permission to have a controlled fire.

Old Business Neil updated the board about Juneteenth. There is another meeting next Sunday. Flora Mae Peoples will receive a lifetime award. There will be a basketball tournament, speakers, entertainment, a DJ, poetry reading. Events will be at KSU Esplanade, Plum Creek Park and Ravenna.

At 5:58 Motion made by Kathleen to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION: In accordance with ORC Section 121.22 Section G, Item (1): "To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion. Or compensation of a public employee or official." Seconded by Debbie. Motion was made by Steve to return to the meeting and seconded by Debbie. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.