

Kent Parks and Recreation
May 21, 2020
Zoom Meeting 5:30 497 Middlebury Rd

Members Present:

Peter Orlando
Neil Dukes
Jake Ferlito
Debbie Smeiles
Kathleen Wiler

Staff Present:

Kevin Schwartzhoff
Nancy Pizzino
Megan Johns
Karen Magilavy

Council Liaison

Gwen Rosenberg

The meeting started at 5:30, roll was noted. Sam is not in attendance. Welcome to our new board member Kathleen Wiler

Personal Appearances None

Correspondences None

Revenue April revenue had a lot of refunds including Soccer, Spring Break Child Care, and the Adult Egg Scramble.

Expenditures Expenditures were low.

Park Report Sam only has 2 seasonal crew working. Signage is up on the trails about social distancing. People are expected to adhere to safety guidelines and take personal responsibility. Playgrounds are closed, we keep trying to tape them off, but the tape gets removed. Jake is joining the meeting.

Recreation Report Nancy has held off on hiring seasonal people too. Baseball and softball (youth and adults) are moving forward. They will start practice next week and the season in mid-June. We must require masks except when on the field and there must be social distancing. We refunded all the tickets to the Adult Egg Scramble, Drum Fit and tennis lessons. Soccer has been cancelled, hopefully it will start back up for the fall season. We have over 50 adult teams excited to play. We have to wait to see when the schools and KSU will allow use of facilities, then we can start tennis, sports camps and other summer activities. Baseball and softball players will get gators of their own to have when not on the field. Parent must also maintain social distancing in the stands or they can stay in their cars. Nancy has been meeting with Marcus Wright about starting tackle football and cheerleading. They have inventoried old equipment and been cleaning the shed at Davey. Tackle and Flag Football may not run this year; we are waiting on the state recommendations. The Fitness Center opens on Tuesday it has been thoroughly cleaned, sanitized and repainted. Class size is limited and the floor has been marked to keep social distancing. We will have summer camp with limits of 9 kids per room the ratio was lifted from 6 children per room. Megan and Nancy will discuss having the camp at Plum Creek. We have 2 camps at Rec and Davey and 1 at Longcoy. We will have the same 9 kids all 9 weeks. We will run the preschool camp with a maximum of 9 children. Parents, children and staff will have to follow the state recommendation such as temperature checks, hand washing, staff wearing masks, individual sign in sheets, cleaning toys and playground equipment. The price have to be increased, we have called other day cares and found that everyone has to raise their prices because of the smaller class sizes.

Director Report

1. We have reduced our budget and the rest of the city is also making cuts. The master plan has been suspended. We can't talk to people at events and will look at the plan next year. We have reduced operations, and capital projects such as playgrounds. Seasonal crew is reduced.
2. We have closed all facility reservations, playgrounds and the skate park and reduced staff. We can open as soon as the state allows.

3. We have been allowed to start non-contact sports with proper guidelines. We keep watching the Governors guidelines to see the next steps.
4. City Council was going to vote on Parks & Rec impact fees last night, but did not. There will be a vote next month. Kevin said they are not trying to get rid of the fees or the city matching of the fees. Kevin said they are concerned with lawsuits, but we haven't had any problems in 21 years. Debbie asked, what's the concern about lawsuits? Kevin found a court case that stated that if you charge a developer then the city must match the fee the developer pays. Pete said the Developer Impact Fee Policy we have is because of lawsuits. That is why we have our current formula. He said John Idone has had to defend the fee a number of times. We had a lawsuit because a developer was never told about the fee and Pete said that was not the fault of the Park & Rec Department. If you look at Ohio Revised Code it; is a bit different in each county. Several counties had lawsuits and revised their formulas because of the lawsuits. The City Manager has reassured us we don't want to get rid of the cities matching funds. Are issues temporary because of the pandemic? We use the formula and if we can't come to terms we can take land instead of the fee. The land would be for parks. We try to preserve green space. Do we have a dysfunctional relationship with the city? How can we better nail this down? We get services from the city and we spend money. If we were under the city and not under the Parks & Rec Board then we must go to the city for approvals. Possibly when going to council for example would the Fire Department have priority over Parks and Recreation. We don't want to be separate we get along really well; we use Budget & Finance, Central Maintenance, Engineering, Human Resources, Police, Fire, Health and other departments. Are they asking us to not give the city matching fees because we use their services? Other City departments have their own boards. Pete said we don't want to be a separate department because we do get a lot of support from the city. Gwen agreed that the city does provide many services for example the law department's billable hours. There are real costs. She does agree there is a real financial value. Debbie said if we continue to pursue city match will they bill us for city services? Gwen said council respects that there is a Parks & Rec Board and Charter. Any change would come from the Parks & Rec Board. Pete feels we have a good relationship with the current City Council. The plan is for Kevin to go to council to address the issue. Kevin said the goal is not to get rid of city share. It has not been decided yet. According to Hope it is a legal issue. It may be because of the current financial crisis or possible lawsuits. Jake asked, is this downtown issue? It is for any housing including downtown apartments. Gwen said there is a moratorium to evaluate how the impact fees are calculated. Pete said City Council will intelligently study this and may need outside council. The board will not need to make an official statement, we don't want to change the impact fees and to just take the time see what they decide. Gwen the developer fee will be paid will the city is reviewing the impact fee. The developer fees will continue to be paid by the developer and the for city matching fees; they may ask for an exemption or other possibility. The city is trying to prepare for financial crisis and they will continue to study this. We may be setting up for a lawsuit if we pick and choose or change the City of Kent matching funds for the lack of consistency. It is not a requirement to have the park fees but if you do have them you have to set it up to according to the formula. Kevin will keep in contact with Hope and Dave Rueller.

5. Additional: Kathleen may want to get on City website and look at codified ordinance and also the City Charter to see what everybody's job is.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:40