

Kent Parks and Recreation
November 16, 2017
Kent Parks & Recreation Office

Members Present:

Peter Orlando
Kelley Labajetta
Jack Neuzil
Kim Ball
Debbie Smeiles

Staff Present:

John Idone
Nancy Pizzino
Karen Magilavy
Megan Johns
Sam Tuttle

Council Liaison
Melissa Long excused

At 7:04 Kim called the meeting to order. Roll was noted Melissa is excused. **Jack moves to accept the minutes and Debbie seconded and all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

Personal Appearances None

Correspondences None

Monthly Revenue Looks like a good year.

Monthly Expenditures We pay 20% and the state 80% to Eclipses for the Hike and Bike Trail work.

Park Report John handed out the park report and the board looked it over. The restrooms are closing down because the cold weather is coming. We have planted 4 new memorial trees.

Recreation Report The Turkey Trot currently has 290 enrolled, we should get another 200. Nancy is working on the calendar. Megan has field trips and trainings coming up.

Director Report

1. Before we look at going back for the fitness center we need to convince voters of the financial operation costs, membership fees, and doing a better job of describing the project. May is too soon to take it back to the voters. We need to make changes because the concept didn't fly. We need to have greater support from the city administration, service clubs and more citizens working on a larger campaign. The project budget cannot be reduced without impacting revenue potential. Our consultants estimated the project at \$18M - \$21M. We asked for only \$17.5M. We need to identify and list interest groups. John said the article in the Record Courier by Diane Smith was fair. The Tea Party "robo" call hurt. People wanted a pool and were not willing to vote for the project without one. We have worked hard at our relationship with the schools, and even though their pool is losing money and is very outdated, they are not interested in closing Roosevelt's pool. Also. We need to firm up the relationship with our future hospital partner. We also have to find out what is coming up on the ballots; The Portage Park District, the schools? We need to market the campaign and get fund raising increased from \$2,000 to \$10,000 minimum. Our senior programming must be increased and developed with hiring a part time Senior Coordinator. Through expanded wellness programs at the current fitness center we can have more senior advocates for the project.
2. The work on the Portage Hike & Bike Trail is winding down and Tannery Park is now open.
3. John is going to a workshop on Cuyahoga River as a water trail and to raise awareness of the connections.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40