



MEETING MINUTES

KENTWOOD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING INFORMATION:

Date: Monday, April 17, 2023
Time: 5:15 pm
Location: Kentwood Activities Center (355-48th St SE)

PRESENT:

Members: Jill Gorkowski, James Hayes, Karmen Johnson, David Moore II, Dustin Moseley, Kevin Small

Staff: Val Romeo, Parks & Recreation Director
Lorraine Beloncis, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director
Spencer McKellar, Lead Recreation Program Coordinator

ABSENT:

Members: Bob Coughlin, Ed Kape, Mimi Madden

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Budget FY 2023-2024** – Presented to City Commission April 13, 2023
 - a. The Mayor recommended budget was presented to the City Commission and will be voted on at the public hearing on April 24, 2023. One additional full-time staff was requested, with minimal operational budget changes.
 - b. The Parks and Recreation Department operates out of three budgets: General Recreation (691), Community Events (693), and SCI (Schedule of Capital Improvements).

2. **Update: Millage**
 - a. Working on the scope of the community center and initial phase of Covenant Park. Once complete, an RFP will be created to hire a firm to design identified projects.
 - b. The Parks and Recreation Commission will identify and prioritize park and trail improvements throughout the next 5-10 years.
 - c. The millage will generate approximately \$2.3 million per year to operate, improve, and maintain Kentwood parks, trails, and recreation programs. The community's millage support enhances our residents' quality of life and ensures that the City of Kentwood continues to be a great place to live, work and play.
 - d. Millage updates on park improvements can be found on our website at kentwood.us/parks and on social media.

3. Update: Parks

- a. Jaycee Park (Community Development Block Grant project)
 - Phase II – Parking lot is under construction, water main is installed, new automated gate will be installed, restroom building nearing completion, tree maintenance complete.
 - Phase III – Spring 2023. Going before City Commission on April 24 for approval. Remove the small softball field, improve green space, update disc golf course and signage, path work.
- b. East Paris Nature Park. Trail work, benches, updated shelter, lighting, entry signage. DNR trust fund project to start in mid-June and be completed by early September.
- c. Applied for five grants: DNR grants (50% match) – Paul Henry Trail complete rehab, Bowen Station Park improvements, Rondo Station. CDBG grants (25% match) – Veteran’s Memorial Park completion, Bowen Station Park additional improvements.

4. Update: Recreation Programs

- a. Spring/Summer 2023 program brochure. Program registrations are booming.
- b. Michigan Recreation & Parks Association (mParks) honored and awarded our department with two state awards at the annual conference and trade show in Lansing:
 - **Excellence in Therapeutic Recreation Programming Award**
Award given for innovation and breadth of service in therapeutic recreation program development. It recognizes accomplishments and consistently high standards in clinical and community settings. The Kentwood Parks & Recreation Department provides the most comprehensive adaptive recreation programming in Michigan. Kentwood’s adaptive recreation offerings are designed to encourage health and wellness, socialization and excellent quality of life for all and include adaptive programs such as archery, bowling, water skiing, and much more.
 - **Integrated Marketing Campaign Award**
The award recognizes an individual or organization that has developed an outstanding campaign using a variety of coordinated mediums to effectively deliver a message to key audiences. In January 2022, the City of Kentwood launched a seven-month campaign to educate residents on the park millage proposal set to appear on the August ballot. The campaign included web pages, social media, digital media, printed materials, direct mailings and more to show voters all the benefits of a permanent parks millage. The millage passed with 63% of voters in favor.

5. Wrap-Up: Community and Special Events

- 2/16/23: Winter Concert Series – Kevin Brewster Trio
Snowstorm! Rescheduled for 3/23/23.
- 2/18/23: Freeze Fest Disc Golf Tournament – 180 golfers, generous food donations collected for the Little Free Pantry.

- 2/25/23: Unity Walk to Honor MLK - *Mayor welcome and proclamation, music, coffee & refreshments, African American Live Museum. Attendance doubled due to moving the date and start time later.*
- 3/4/23: Frozen Frenzy Relay Fat Tire Bike Race – *CANCELLED due to weather. Rescheduled for January 20, 2024.*
- 3/16/23: Winter Concert Series – Lighting Matches
- 3/23/23: Winter Concert Series – Kevin Brewster Trio (rescheduled from 3/16)
- 3/29/23: Senior Volunteer Appreciation Lunch “Under The Sea”. *Special thanks to Mayor Kepley, City Commissioner Ron Draayer, and program coordinator Katelyn Bush for being great sports and braving the dunk tank!*

6. Upcoming: Community and Special Events

- 4/18/23: Spotlight On Seniors Expo
- 4/28/23: Arbor Day Celebration – Kellogg Woods Park
- 4/29/23: Hanger Clinic Limb Loss Awareness 5K – Veterans Memorial Park
- 5/1/23: Senior Mother’s & Father’s Day Breakfast
- 5/18/23: Bark For The Park Fundraiser
- 6/10/23: Kentwood Food Truck Festival
- 6/15/23: Farmers Market Opening Day
Summer Concert Series – Ass-Izz Band
- 6/22/23: Farmers Market
Summer Concert Series – Wity Sound Band
- 6/29/23: Farmers Market
Summer Concert Series – Cabildo
- 7/4/23: 4th of July Celebration!!!!!!!

7. Commissioner Reports

- a. James Hayes: Are the beach volleyball courts being moved? No, not at this time.

8. Public Comment

- a. Shea Abby: The Parks and Recreation Department and Commission are doing an awesome job. Appreciates the optimism and great communication with the community.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Kevin Small, Supported: James Hayes
Meeting Adjourned 6:04pm

2023 Meeting Schedule:

Kentwood Activities Center (355-48th St SE) | Mondays at 5:15pm

- June 12 (*Prioritize park & trail improvements*)
- August 7 (*VMP Shelter–possible community engagement event*)
- October 9
- December 11 (*Holiday gathering off-site*)

2023 Parks & Recreation Commissioners:

Coughlin, Bob	Gorkowski, Jill	Hayes, James
Johnson, Karmen	Kape, Ed – <i>Chairperson</i>	Madden, Mimi
Moore II, David	Moseley, Dustin	Small, Kevin