



MEETING MINUTES

KENTWOOD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING INFORMATION:

Date: Monday, June 12, 2023
Time: 5:15 pm
Location: Kentwood Activities Center (355-48th St SE)

PRESENT:

Members: Jill Gorkowski, James Hayes, David Moore II, Dustin Moseley, Kevin Small
Staff: Val Romeo, Parks & Recreation Director
Lorraine Beloncis, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director
Spencer McKellar, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director/Project Manager

ABSENT:

Members: Bob Coughlin, Karmen Johnson, Ed Kape, Mimi Madden

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Update: Parks

- a. Jaycee Park (Community Development Block Grant project)
 - Phase II – Parking lot construction is wrapping up, new automated gate is being installed, restroom and program building nearing completion, drinking fountain, picnic table seating area.
 - Phase III – Remove the small softball field, improve green space, update disc golf course, signage, path work, lighting, and security improvements.
- b. East Paris Nature Park. DNR trust fund project. Scheduled to start June 26, on track to be completed by the end of August before school starts. Trail work, benches, updated shelter, lighting, entry signage.
- c. East West Trail – section test trial maintenance work completed and will be doing other test sites.
- d. Applied for five grants: DNR grants (50% match) announcement January 2024 – Paul Henry Trail complete rehab, Bowen Station Park improvements, Rondo Station. We did not receive the following CDBG grants (25% match) – Veteran’s Memorial Park completion, Bowen Station Park additional improvements.

2. Update: Recreation Programs

- a. New Recreation Program Coordinator hired, starting June 29.
- b. Spencer McKellar was promoted to Deputy Director/Project Manager.

3. Millage Discussion – Prioritizing Park & Trail Improvements

- a. Millage discussion and work meeting postponed until Fall 2023 on a date to be determined for maximum attendance.
- b. The scope for the Community Center and Covenant Park is almost complete. Asked the Parks & Recreation Commission for their input. Once complete, the RFP for Architect design will be posted mid-June.
- c. Millage updates on park improvements can be found on our website at kentwood.us/parks and on social media.

4. Wrap-Up: Community and Special Events

- 4/18/23: Spotlight On Seniors Expo – 50 vendors, nice turnout.
- 4/28/23: Arbor Day Celebration – Planted 6 trees in Kellogg Woods Park, 300 tree saplings given out free to the community.
- 4/29/23: Hanger Clinic Limb Loss Awareness 5K – 300+ runners! Continued growth.
- 5/1/23: Senior Mother's & Father's Day Breakfast – Great sponsorship support.
- 5/18/23: Bark For The Park Fundraiser – 300+ attendees.
- 6/10/23: Kentwood Food Truck Festival – 26 food trucks, steady crowds.

5. Upcoming: Community and Special Events

- 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 – new Parade route. Volunteers needed!
- 7/6/23: Farmers Market – Bike Day
- 7/13/23: Farmers Market
Summer Concert Series – Chicago Farmer & The Fieldnotes
- 7/20/23: Farmers Market
Summer Concert Series – Good Morning Bedlam
- 7/27/23: Farmers Market
Summer Concert Series – Big Band Nouveau
- 8/3/23: Farmers Market
Summer Concert Series – Brena
- 8/7/23: Senior Magnificent Member Breakfast
- 8/10/23: Farmers Market – National Farmers Market Week
Summer Concert Series – RocknSoul
- 8/17/23: Farmers Market – Kid's Day
- 8/24/23: Farmers Market – Dog Days of Summer
- 8/31/23: Farmers Market – Charcuterie Challenge
- 9/7/23: Farmers Market – End of Season Celebration
- 9/9/23: Kentwood Food Truck Festival – Food truck spots filled with waiting list.
- 9/14/23: The Vibe – Adaptive Recreation Fundraiser

7. Commissioner Reports

- a. None.

8. Public Comment

- a. None.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Dustin Moseley, Supported: Kevin Small.

Meeting Adjourned 6:02pm.

2023 Meeting Schedule:

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

- August 7 – *Home Acres Park Shelter (145 Farnham St)*
- October 9
- December 11 (*Holiday gathering off-site*)

2023 Parks & Recreation Commissioners:

Coughlin, Bob

Gorkowski, Jill

Hayes, James

Johnson, Karmen

Kape, Ed – *Chairperson*

Madden, Mimi

Moore II, David

Moseley, Dustin

Small, Kevin

Ver. 10/6/23 LBVR