



MEETING MINUTES

KENTWOOD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING INFORMATION:

Date: Monday, September 11, 2023
Time: 5:15 pm
Location: Kentwood Activities Center (355-48th St SE)

PRESENT:

Members: Bob Coughlin, Jill Gorkowski, James Hayes, Karmen Johnson, Ed Kape, Mimi Madden, David Moore II, Dustin Moseley

Staff: Val Romeo, Parks & Recreation Director
Lorraine Beloncis, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director
Spencer McKellar, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director/Project Manager

ABSENT:

Members: Kevin Small

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Update: Parks

- a. Spencer McKellar, Deputy Director, is the park projects lead with the new City project manager, Susan Arnold.
- b. Jaycee Park (Community Development Block Grant project)
 - Phase II – Complete. Restrooms are open.
 - Phase III is underway and progressing – 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). Going well. New paths complete with chips & fines surface. Updated drinking fountain and grills next to the shelter. Project should be complete within the next month.
- c. East West Trail – Testing different seal and coating products along with different crack sealing techniques.
- d. Applied for 3 DNR grants (50% match) announcement January 2024 – Paul Henry Trail complete rehab, Bowen Station Park improvements, Rondo Station.

2. Update: Recreation Programs

- a. Fall 2023 / Winter 2024 Brochure – live on web and mailed.

3. Update: Millage

- a. City Commission approved hiring Spark 43 Architects for the community center design. Funding will be a topic of discussion at City Commission Committee of the Whole Strategic Planning meeting on September 26.

- b. Community Center - In the process of benchmarking similar facilities. Currently in the programming phase.
- c. Millage updates on park improvements can be found on our website at kentwood.us/millage and on social media.

4. Wrap-Up: 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 was good and will remain the same for 2024. Easy to walk and participants liked ending up where they started.*
- 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 End – RocknSoul
Gathering price quotes for the possibility of purchasing a stage instead of renting one every year for significant cost savings.
- 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. *The 2024 season will host 10 markets that align with the Summer Concert Series. The new market manager is Sherry Barnum, Recreation Program Coordinator.*
- 9/9/23: Kentwood Food Truck Festival – *52nd St. was still closed and other weekend events around GR impacted the attendance. Food trucks were happy with sales.*

5. Upcoming: Community and Special Events

- 9/14/23: The Vibe – Adaptive Recreation Fundraiser – Buy your tickets now!
- 10/7/23: Glow In The Park (Veterans Memorial Park)
- 10/21/23: Trunk or Treat (Department of Public Works)
- 10/24/23: South Kent Community Expo
- 11/4/23: Fall Fling Disc Golf Tournament
- 11/6/23: Senior Veteran Heroes Breakfast
- 11/15/23: Senior Thanksgiving Lunch – *brought back per senior requests.*
- 12/7/23: Tree Lighting & Holiday Light Parade – *reindeer this year!*

- 12/13/23: Senior Holiday Celebration Lunch
12/14/23: City Boards & Committees Volunteer Reception

7. Commissioner Reports

- a. Ed Kape – Is the Old Farm Park path scheduled to be repaired? *Yes.*
- b. David Moore II – Announced he is running for City Commission.
- c. James Hayes – What time do park restrooms open in the morning for use by early morning runners? *Automatic locks open the doors at 8:00am in all the parks.*
- d. Karmen Johnson – Noticed that many programs are filled when trying to register. It must mean that program participation is growing strong!

8. Public Comment

- a. None.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Dustin Moseley, Supported: James Hayes.
Meeting Adjourned 6:00pm.

2023 Meeting Schedule:

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

- 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

Ver. 10/6/23 LBVR