



MEETING MINUTES

KENTWOOD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING INFORMATION:

Date: Monday, October 9, 2023
Time: 5:15 pm
Location: Kentwood Activities Center (355-48th St SE)

PRESENT:

Members: Bob Coughlin, James Hayes, Karmen Johnson, Ed Kape, Mimi Madden, David Moore II, Kevin Small
Staff: Val Romeo, Parks & Recreation Director
Lorraine Beloncis, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director

ABSENT:

Members: Jill Gorkowski, Dustin Moseley

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Update: Parks

- a. Jaycee Park (Community Development Block Grant project). Will be completed on October 22. Finishing the park paths, signage, and grass seeding. The gate helps keep people out of the park at night and is being well received by the neighborhood. Ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned for early November. Permanent security cameras are in place. There are 8 temporary security cameras in other parks. As parks get updated, permanent cameras will be installed.
- b. East Paris Nature Park (DNR Trust Fund project). Project should be completed within two weeks. The final punch list meeting is scheduled. Finishing up the wayfinding signage.
- c. East West Trail – No update since the tests of different seal and coating products was completed.
- d. Applied for 3 DNR grants (50% match) announcement January 2024 – Paul Henry Trail complete rehab, Bowen Station Park improvements, Rondo Station.
- e. Park bathrooms are closed for the season.

2. Update: Recreation Programs

- a. Wrapping up summer programs and starting the Fall Season. Finishing up outdoor sports leagues using temporary lighting as the days grow shorter. Putting equipment in storage.
- b. City Commission presentations scheduled: Mobile stage purchase request, FY Budget 2023-2024.

3. Update: Millage

- a. Present and discuss community center benchmarking results. Val will email pictures to the Parks & Recreation Commission of the community centers they visited in Denver, Colorado – the healthiest city in America. There are plans to visit five community centers in Chicago, Illinois in November. These benchmarking visits are extremely important to narrow down what will go into the Kentwood community center design. Community engagement events to get Kentwood residents' input are scheduled at four Kentwood elementary school conferences, Trunk or Treat, South Kent Community Expo, and at two public meetings (dates TBD). Many facilities had a design feature that incorporated two separate spaces - community center and recreation center – within the building.
- b. Community center programming pro-forma submitted to Pros Consulting. The parks and recreation staff submitted a comprehensive suggested programming schedule for the new community center to help in projecting the space, size, use, etc. of rooms needed.
- c. Community center funding. At the September 26 City Commission retreat, it was recommended that the City not borrow but fund the building internally. An RFP for a Construction Manager at Risk is currently posted as the process moves forward.
- d. 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

- 9/14/23: The Vibe - Adaptive Recreation Fundraiser. *Raised \$7,000 at event before expenses. The guest speakers "Team Agar" were very inspirational.*
- 10/7/23: Glow In The Park - *150 families enjoyed the event at Veterans Park. The event will move back to Pinewood Park next year once the new shelter is built replacing the current shelter.*

5. Upcoming: Community and Special Events

- 10/21/23: Trunk or Treat @ DPW – *Comm Ctr community engagement trunk*
- 10/24/23: South Kent Community Expo – *Comm Ctr community engagement booth*
- 11/6/23: Senior Veteran Heroes Breakfast
- 11/11/23: Fall Fling Disc Golf Tournament @ Old Farm Park
- 11/15/23: Senior Thanksgiving Lunch – *brought back per senior's request*
- 12/1-21/23: Holiday Light Display Contest
- 12/7/23: Tree Lighting & Holiday Light Parade
- 12/13/23: Senior Holiday Celebration Lunch
- 12/14/23: City Boards & Committees Volunteer Reception @ Library

6. Commissioner Reports

- a. David Moore II – Commented on the large number of Bees at September events. *Unfortunately, it is a common occurrence around outside food and beverage.*
- b. Bob Coughlin – Will be volunteering at the Thanksgiving & Holiday Senior Lunches but is unable to make the Veterans Heroes Breakfast. Reaching out to Kentwood businesses for potential sponsorships.
- c. Kevin Small – There are a lot of asphalt trucks in and out of Jaycee Park this week! *The park paths are being paved as the park improvement projects near completion.*
- d. James Hayes – Is available to help at the community engagement public events for the community center design. Will the Covenant Park trails be groomed for winter activities again this year? *Yes.*
- e. Karmen Johnson – When will they break ground for the new community center? *Summer 2024.*

7. Public Comment

- a. None.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Kevin Small, Supported: James Hayes.
Meeting Adjourned 6:11pm.

2023 Meeting Schedule:

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

- December - *Holiday gathering off-site. Date and location TBD.*

2023 Parks & Recreation Commissioners:

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