

Mount Kisco Recreation Commission
ZOOM Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2020

Attendance: {check all present}

Linda Cindrich x Kathy Feeney x Christy McGinn x
Eileen Polese x Kim Terlizzi ab Gallo Trujillo ab Bob Byrns x
George Price ex

Leonard Park Committee: None

Other: Mayor Gina Picinich, Ed Brancati- Village Manager, Ken Famulare- Assistant Village Manager

Meeting called to order @ 7:00pm

Minutes of Meeting: Review minutes of June 10, 2020(enclosed)

Motion to accept minute's by Kathy Feeney.

Seconded by Linda Cindrich.

All in favor.

⇒ ***Review of Income and Expenses (enclosed):***

Ken reported that the last day for summer pool staff is on Labor Day, September 7. He will work with Bob Wheeling- Treasure and Ed Brancati-Village Manager to report a final bottom line report including breakdown of how many campers to counselor's ratio.

Superintendent's Report:

⇒ Pool Update

Ken will have a report at the next Rec. Commission Meeting in regards to all the pool permits that were sold and the breakdown of how many youth, family, seniors, etc. Along with that breakdown he will also have a report of expenditures including chlorine and all pool supplies. Ken reported that the pool staff expenses didn't really change as we still had to have lifeguards, receptionists etc. on staff to meet the Westchester County Board of Health guidelines to operate and maintain a safe environment. Mayor Gina Picinich stated the pool is run as an investment and that less money was invested into the 2020 Pool Season. Ed stated what was budgeted was significantly less than what was spent. There should be a surplus in regards to what was budgeted. Running ahead of budget because of the way Ken ran the pool.

Superintendent's Report cont....:

⇒ Camp Update

Linda stated that Ken was at the pool all the time to oversee the operation and because of all his efforts we had a very successful summer. Linda stated that Ken did an amazing job handling the pool and camp. George Price was the Camp Director and also oversaw the additional specialty camps that were run after Camp Iroquois concluded. Linda stated that there were no real incidents and she was grateful for that. There was 1 complaint about the specialty art camp and safety during this camp. Linda would like the Camp Director to be available and present at all times regardless of who is running a program or even if it is an outside vendor. Recreation Department is ultimately responsible for the safety and wellbeing of anyone attending. The complaint was about the covid-19 guidelines not being enforced which made some people uneasy. This issue was dealt with.

Ken commended all the pool and camp staff on the new reality of how things needed to be run with covid-19 and with the absence of a Superintendent. Eileen stated that the pool employees want Ken to come back next year to manage the pool. Kathy wanted to make a "motion" to have Ken come back next year. All in favor. Linda stated that it was a great year for the pool and she also thanked the Mayor for her impute. George Robles-Pool Director and Linda ran a successful lifeguard training program. 4 new lifeguards were added to the staff. Linda commended that Beth Kear- New Pool Director for the end of the year was an asset. Linda wanted it noted that Sophia O'Connor was a great Assistant Pool Director despite of her young age of 19. She handled everything that was given to her. Linda also stated that George Robles, Pool Director was also good. Linda wants to work with him over the winter to set up a Red Cross academy for the spring. Linda received a list of items that Beth Kear says are needed to be repaired or that needed to be replaced. People want to extend the pool season a week after Labor Day.

⇒ Program Update

Linda stated that there aren't any programs as of this date. She wants programs to be offered. Linda would like to see in house offering of programs by our own staff. Ken stated that there are programs going to be offered and said that he will email her a list of some scheduled programs/events. Ken stated that we are going to have the Merchant Scarecrow, however we will not be having the Haunted House, Halloween Carnival or Halloween Parade. Fox Seniors are going to move some of their outdoor programs inside keeping in mind safety guidelines for all. Linda stated that Liz Dieter and Joanne Salvo are doing an incredible job despite The Fox Center not being open. They are keeping their seniors busy. Exercise- September Senior Fitness Challenge starting 9/14. At the end of the challenge participants will get a pin for their efforts. Ed wants to thank Felipe Galindo for filming all programs and events. Linda also stated that both Senior Nutrition employees have retired from the program. The Mayor stated that there will be no disturbing of service.

Superintendent's Report cont....:

⇒ Tennis Courts

Ken stated that the courts are at the stage that they must cure for 14 days and then to painting lines, fence etc. Ed reported that they did a good job and that they were able to come under budget. Ed is happy with the contractor at this time. Kathy suggested to have pickle ball lines put on the tennis courts as it is an up and coming sport.

Old/Unfinished Business:

⇒

New Business:

⇒

Linda reported that Joanne Aquilino retired as Superintendent of Recreation as of August 31. Ed Brancati-Village Manager-stated that they are canvassing lists to replace the employees who are no longer with the Village.

⇒

School Program

The Mayor stated that this program is totally Ken's idea and wanted him to be acknowledge for that. Ken stated that he wanted to be able to offer a program for the residents of Mt. Kisco grades 3-8 for a safe environment during the school day and at the park. A decision to have change the location and have it at the Library with an affordable rate. Capacity would be 30 participants per day, only 1 family signed up. We are offering Covert 1(In school Monday and Tuesday, remote learning Thursday and Friday and alternate Wednesdays) Going to offer it for the first month and reevaluate to see if the enrollment goes up. Christy suggested to offer this program through September and into October. Ken was in agreement. Christy stated that if the school goes totally remote this may be a big necessity for working parents. Ken stated that we wanted to be in sync with Bedford Central Schools but wants to be as fixable as possible. Ed stressed that this program is primarily for our Mt. Kisco families to provide affordable child care during this pandemic.

⇒ Project in the Park

Ed reported that East of Hudson has being doing projects at the park. Removing old metal storm pipe and replacing them with sand filters going from Wallace Drive and 172, along the baseball fields, and also around the camp building and the ball field. East of Hudson is bearing all the expenses. This work is being done so that we are compliant with the DEC. This is an ongoing project. Bob questioned when it would be done and Ed will reach out to the company doing the work and will have that information at the next meeting.

⇒ Reorganization of the Recreation Department

Linda stated that the past years has been very difficult. We were disappointed with some of the things that should have been done that were not done. Linda has made suggestions to the Mayor and Ken on how the department should be run going forward. A suggestion not to have a Superintendent but instead to have an Assistant Superintendent or a Recreation Supervisor who could possibility work into a Superintendent position. Linda submitted a job description document that would break down everyone's duties into areas and to hire 2 people. Linda stated that Gail basically runs the Rec. Office and that she does a good job handling and she makes sure that bills are paid, payroll done, posting on the website etc. Fox Senior Center is another part Rec. and Liz Dieter-Senior Recreation Supervisor along with Joanne Salvo are doing a great job and there is no concerns when it comes to the center. Linda stated that Rec. Supervisor 3 needs to be hire and their job would be to run special events, Food Truck Festival, Scarecrow Competition, Egg Hunt, Haunted House. Bicycle Safety, mini camps, and create and develop other programs to be run in house. Office Administration position is Gail Hall. Recreation Supervisor 1- George Price - some issues but they were worked out. He is to be responsible for all programing, summer camp, also hiring all camp summer staff and work with a supervisor or assistant supervisor to achieve this. He must be present in the field and visible. The Mayor stated that there also needs to be someone who has online experience so we can tap into that avenue so as to get the information out as to what we are offering. The Mayor would like to canvas all the potential candidates on all Civil Service list to see who may be interested. At this time Ken continues to oversee Rec. Ed stated that letters have been sent out on the superintendent list, assistant superintendent list, and the rec supervisor list. Want to have people who are passionate about their job. Want to make sure that we get the right person to grow the department. Interviews will be set up after we receive the response letters. Bob stated that it would be beneficial to have the jobs description email to the Rec. Commission ahead to time. Ed said that he could send the civil services job qualifications to the Rec. Comm. While Ed is concerned about the price point he wants to make sure that Recreation gets the right person for each position. There is some flexibility in the salary. Probation period is no less than 12 weeks and up to 52 weeks. It was suggested to have a 52 week probation as there are different issues for each season and that recreation is always changing.

Good and Welfare: Thank Ken for a great job this summer. Everything went well. Mayor Picinich stated that currently the Commission is responsible for the hiring and direct management of the entire staff. It is difficult to manage people. Very challenging to consider changing that structure commission responsible for rules and advising of staff and then it would go to the village hall. Parks Commission instead management would be with Village Hall. Just a suggestion and structural perspective. To discuss this at the next meeting. Linda stated the Rec. Commission would have to be disbanded-something to think about. Commission has been in existence for a very long time. If anyone has suggestions for the next meeting regarding this or any other matter.

Thank you to Linda for all your help with the pool and being on hand.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by: Eileen Polese.

Seconded by: Bob Byrns.

All in favor.

Respectively submitted by: Gail Hall

Date: 9/9/2020

Time: 8:06pm

Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm