

KENTON COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Via Zoom

M.I.N.U.T.E.S

May 12, 2021
12:00 PM

- I.** Attendance: Mark Reitzes, Mike Litzler; George Sparks, Brian Halloran, Adam Davey, Rhonda Ritzi, staff
- II.** Call to Order – Mark called to order the May 12, 2021 meeting of the Kenton County Parks & Recreation Commission.
- III.** Meeting Minutes: 2/17/2021 (BH, ML) Approved.
Discussion took place regarding the posting of draft minutes on our website based on a citizen’s request due to the meetings being quarterly and the time between each meeting. Upon approval, the draft version will be updated with the approved version.
- IV.** New Kenton County Park Master Plan Update
 - a) Rhonda shared that Human Nature hosted the first public meeting in April. The meeting was hosted by Zoom with the video currently being posted on our website for citizens that could not attend the live version.
 - b) Rhonda shared the goals and objectives and discussed the program elements of the meeting. A public survey was conducted during the meeting and was posted on our website for public feedback. The survey remained open until April 30th with Human Nature compiling the results and presenting them at the next public meeting. Features with the most interest included restrooms, disc golf course, dog park, playground, multi-use trails, mountain bike trails, community gardens, stream restoration, pollinator garden or meadow and forest restoration.
 - c) Adam asked about the prospect of a dog park since locations for a dog park were previously discussed. Mike asked if there is a local organization that we could connect with to maintain a dog park to decrease maintenance costs.
- V.** Park Projects Updates
 - a) Rhonda shared some of the projects being completed this summer, such as a playground at Richardson Road, volleyball court at Mills, Swing Set at Lincoln Ridge and bridge #1 at Doe Run Lake. Doe Run Bridge #2 was completed by Groundworks Ohio River Valley. Rhonda shared pictures of the bridge project completed.
- VI.** Discussion of rental house at Middleton-Mills Park
 - a) Rhonda shared that this property is being evaluated due to the high costs of utilities, significant repairs and upgrades. The house is outdated with numerous repairs needed. The current tenant has been notified that the County is not exercising a renewal of the current lease ending February 2022.
 - b) A recommendation was made to demo the house since it would not be cost efficient to update. Mark asked if anyone had any objections to demo the house. Mike asked if we should table to the 4th quarter to see if an opportunity would be presented. Mark made a motion stating there are no objections to demo the house unless an equitable opportunity was presented. Mike seconded. All approved.

VII. Seasonal Staff & Maintenance Schedule

- a) Rhonda shared that Parks had experienced a lack of applicants for seasonal positions. Last month the Fiscal Court approved a \$2 per hour increase for the seasonal positions, which has increased the number of applicants. We expect to be at full staff in the next two to three weeks. Unfortunately this has caused some projects to be delayed.

VIII. Recreation Programs Updates

- a) Recreation Programs are beginning in-person. Wild Wednesdays and Science Thursdays will be held in June and July. Kids Fishing Derby will be held on June 5th in partnership with the Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers (NKFF). Parks has reached out to NKFF to partner on some additional projects as well.

IX. Budget & Capital Projects

- a) Rhonda shared that the first reading of the budget was held by the Fiscal Court. Proposed Capital Projects included property improvements at New Kenton County Park, a sidewalk connection to Meadow Glen Subdivision, resurfacing of tennis courts at Richardson Road, entrance signs at Pioneer and Mills Parks, Lincoln Ridge #3 playground with safety surfacing, and equipment needing to be replaced.

X. Youth Sports Partners Meeting & Updates

- a) Rhonda shared that a meeting will be held in the Fall for our Youth Sports Partners to evaluate their needs.
- b) An update on the Pioneer Soccer fields was given. Due to COVID-19, Independence Soccer (ISC) and FC Fusion were delayed in their plans to expand the soccer fields at Pioneer. They are meeting in May to put together a plan to move forward.
- c) Mike asked if we have had any further issues with sports registrations and capacity limits. Rhonda shared that no issues have been expressed at this time. Northern Kentucky Baseball (NKB) did mention that the enrollment was slightly down from what they had anticipated. George suggested that we revisit this discussion at the Youth Partners Meeting.

XI. Discuss Meeting Locations (Virtual or In-Person)

- a) All agreed that virtual meetings have been more convenient due to schedules or access if out of town. Mike suggested to have a hybrid format. Adam asked if these are open meetings and how are they accessed. Rhonda shared that the Zoom Link is listed on the calendar. Adam suggested that we continue with virtual meetings when the agenda is in a report out discussion format and in-person/hybrid meetings when the agenda has a guest or presentation given that warrants an in-person meeting. All agreed with Adam's suggestion. Mark stated the August 18 meeting will be virtual.

XII. Other Discussion

- a) No discussion.

XIII. Adjournment: Mark asked to adjourn the meeting. All Approved.

Meeting Dates for 2021:

3rd Wednesday quarterly: August 18, November 17.

Minutes submitted by: Rhonda Ritzi