

**KENTON COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Via Webex**

**MINUTES**

February 17, 2021  
12:00 PM

- I.** Attendance: Mark Reitzes, Mike Litzler; Kathleen Carnes; George Sparks, Rhonda Ritzi, staff
- II.** Call to Order – Mark called to order the February 17, 2021 meeting of the Kenton County Parks & Recreation Commission.
- III.** Meeting Minutes: 11/18/2020 (GS, KC) Approved.
- IV.** Meeting Change of Date
  - a) Change the May meeting date from May 19 to May 12. (MR, KC) Approved
- V.** Fox Run Property – “New County Park”
  - a) Master Plan
    - a) Rhonda reported that Human Nature was awarded to complete the master plan. The contract was approved. The total cost of the contract is \$70,623, which includes \$60,000 to Human Nature and \$10,623 to Dirt Artisans for the trail portion of the project. We received a grant of \$60,000 from the Durr Foundation to cover most of the cost. The estimated completion date is 9 months with a final report to the Fiscal Court in October 2021. There are 3 phases of the master plan: Awareness, Exploration, and Vision. An Interest Group was formed including 13 people that have different interests to share. The first meeting will be held on February 24.
    - b) Discussion: Mike asked if we reach out to regional entities such as other parks departments in cities and counties to look for opportunities to help us maximize our resources. These may be financial or programmatic. Financially coming together to partner when making purchases or to acquire grant monies. Rhonda shared that we have and will continue to reach out to learn from each other. Mark suggested looking into Private donors or families wanting to leave a legacy to help offset costs for new amenities. Kathleen suggested that we reach out to our State Parks as well for resources. George suggested the Horizon Funds could also be a funding resource.
- VI.** NKYA Field Signage
  - a) Rhonda shared that the Northern KY Youth Association requested to hang sponsorship banners on the fence line at Richardson Road Park. According to the lease, they can hang signs with County approval. Approval will be given by Parks Staff. Discussion included duration of display, type of banner, and approval process. George referred to signage at Mills Baseball Park that already exists. Kathleen suggested that they follow any guidelines set forth by the County. Mike asked if staff were the ones approving this request. Rhonda stated that Staff would approve the request and advise about guidelines.

**VII. Parks Projects**

- a) Doe Run Lake Trails & Bridges Update
  - a) Rhonda shared that Groundworks Ohio River Valley has been working on invasive removal along the trail. They plan to build/replace Bridge #2 and reroute the trail at Bridge #3 once the weather breaks.
  - b) Parks is building Bridge #1 offsite and plans to install it in the spring.

**VIII. Capital Projects**

- a) Rhonda shared a list of capital projects suggested to present for the FY22 Budget.
- b) Capital Projects included unknown improvements at the Fox Run Property based on master plan recommendations, resurfacing the tennis and basketball courts at Richardson Road Park while adding Pickleball features, replacing entrance signs at Pioneer and Mills with new Branding, and replacing Lincoln Ridge #3 playground and synthetic turf surfacing.
- c) Discussion:
  - a) Tennis Courts: Mike expressed interest in the Pickleball additions as a growing opportunity in the area. He shared that he has seen where you can put 2 Pickleball courts in 1 Tennis court using portable nets. Mark asked what the usage was on the tennis courts. Rhonda shared that 5 High Schools in the area use the courts between February and June for Tennis practices and matches. Mark asked if consideration to give exclusivity to the courts through a lease opportunity with the high schools for cost-sharing and that they maintain the courts.
  - b) Funding Suggestions: Mark suggested that we consider funding options of having naming rights on signage or amenities, such as Pioneer Park Presented by: “A Family Donor” or “Company” Playground. This would provide revenue to help offset projects.
  - c) Additional Items: Pelly Road Property – Trails: George inquired about the intention to sell the property and future land and green space opportunities. Discussion took place on potentially not selling due to its topography and location.

**IX. Other Discussion**

- a) Rhonda followed-up on the paddleboard business request at Doe Run Lake. Due to the nature of the activity, this activity violates the ordinance of no swimming at Doe Run Lake. All agreed.

**X. Adjournment: Mark asked to adjourn the meeting. All Approved.**

Meeting Dates for 2021:

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday quarterly: May 12, August 18, November 17.

Minutes submitted by Rhonda Ritzi