North Kent Community Enrichment

204 E. Muskegon Cedar Springs, MI 49319
616-696-7320 www.myNKCE.com

Minutes for Regular Meeting of Monday March 7, 2022 @ 6 PM at Hilltop Boardroom

Members Present	Member Area
Darla Falcon	City of Cedar Springs
Alyssa Ladd	Algoma Township
John Stout	Solon Township
Scott Smith	Cedar Springs Public Schools
Matt McConnon	Courtland Township Supervisor
Kevin Green	Algoma Township Supervisor
Others present:	
Jaime Gunderson	NKCE Director

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 by Matt McConnon

2. Approval of March Agenda
   Motion by Scott to approve agenda. Second by John. Motion carried.

3. Consent Agenda
   Approval of February Minutes / February Financial Statements provided. Scott motions to approve. Second by John. Motion carried

4. Public Comments
   a. Cindy Patin, Algoma resident, submitted letter on behalf of Sue Wolfe (attached). Spoke on rural townships relying on connections formed by NKCE activities. Asked if something could be considered to keep program afloat on lesser budget.

   b. Jamie Alber, City of Cedar Springs resident, spoke as a previous employee of CSAPR as well as one whose family is actively involved in current programming. She expressed her feelings that if NKCE is dissolved, it will be detrimental to the community. There is nothing in the community except club sports which is expensive. NKCE programs are affordable and help build up HS sports.

c. Tammy Kolenda, resident of Nelson township, spoke as an employee of another Parks and Rec organization. She stressed the importance of NKCE to community involvement and inclusiveness, activities that keep kids busy and out of trouble. She would like to see NKCE continue to promote and encourage sports here rather than outside of our community. She asked the board to wait to vote until after all townships have met and discussed with their boards.

d. Sharon Chambers, resident of Nelson, said she reached out to Nelson township board to voice her support of NKCE and received a favorable response. She felt blindsided tonight that some entities have already pulled out. She spoke on behalf of the seniors who play pickleball. She suggested charging much higher rates for non-paying township's residents to keep programming going. She thinks it will be difficult to run through the school system and asked the board to not make a hasty decision.

e. Randy Roest, Nelson township resident, didn't know that Nelson had pulled out last year until recently. He asked the board to postpone a decision tonight to give Nelson residents a chance to voice their support to the Nelson township board. His family has participated in many events, sports, etc

f. Kate Noorman, Solon resident, read a letter on behalf of Jenny Fisher (attached). She spoke as a former teacher of CSAPR events as well as having children who partipate in programming and benefited.

g. Julie Robinson, Algoma Township resident, has kids who have participated and has participated in programs herself. She said you can't put a price tag on the experiences NKCE has provided the community.

h. Rose Powell, Cedar Springs City resident, spoke on how she hopes there will be opportunity for people to talk to their townships prior to a vote to dissolve.

i. Eric Kolenda, resident of Nelson township, participated in Daddy Daughter dance recently with his daughter and spoke of the joy and memories they have from that event and others.

5. Information and Discussion Items

a. Mother Son Nerf War – was held 3/5/22. Amazing time was had. Great turnout. Thank you to Nonnos for providing pizzas at a reduced price.

c. Spring Events – see flyer (attached).

d. Future of NKCE –

- Matt spoke on behalf of Courtland Township board, in that they voted to not fund NKCE in their upcoming budget. He said this discussion to dissolve NKCE

has been going on for some time and is not being taken lightly. For Courtland township, they didn't feel they had enough participation to justify the cost. He believes it could be funded differently and succeed with a different model,

- Kevin spoke on behalf of Algoma Township board. He said that Algoma has their board meeting the next night (3/8/22). He said at this point, Algoma is neutral in whether to fund or not. He said it was on the brink of being dissolving prior to Jaime taking on the Director role and then COVID happened and definitely hurt NKCE participation and what could be offered.

- John spoke on behalf of Solon Township board. He said that Solon would like to move forward with it if it can. However with other boards pulling out, he isn't sure how that will work. Solon currently has the money budgeted.

- Scott spoke on behalf of the school and said the school recognizes the value of the programming with the community and providing use of the facility. The school doesn't contribute monetarily so he doesn't have a vote on whether to dissolve or not.

- Darla spoke on behalf of the City of Cedar Springs and doesn't believe the model is sustainable as is. She requested a committee be formed to research how other city's fund.

- Director Jaime agreed the model is unique but didn't feel like it has been given a chance since she has been hired. Covid hit and things are just now turning a corner on returning to normal. She has worked on creating a proposed budget that could work even with two less townships. She would need to know other township decisions in order to propose this new budget.

- Kevin Motioned to table the vote to dissolve for a month while townships meet and for Jaime to work on a new model/budget to propose at that time. Darla Second. Motion carried.

5. Action Item
    a. Confirmation of next meeting on April 11, 2022.

6. Meeting adjourned 7:05 pm

Dear NKCE Board Members and All Other Interested Parties,

I was so sad to see this letter from Mr. Womack sent at 11:40 today and then Matt McConnon's sent at 4:30 pm regarding recommendations for the NKCE organization to dissolve without discussing this during an open meeting? At last month's NKCE board meeting it was stated board members were willing to gather community input and review all options which would then be discussed at the open meeting tonight.

It is so strange there are no minutes reflecting any board discussion on all possible options for continuance with or without Courtland. Jaime has tried to meet with Ms. Falcon regarding a workable 2022-23 budget without Courtland Township's membership. That meeting never happened.

I tried to meet with Mr. Womack but he told me he wasn't available during the week of February 21-25 due to a busy schedule before I left for Texas. He also stated the city council had not yet reviewed the city budget so he didn't know what the city would do.

Perhaps, Nelson Twp. will rejoin? Perhaps, there are other ways to continue without Courtland's membership? Solon Township has expressed their desire to continue.

What did the community feedback provide?

According to the NKCE current budget there will be an approximate $35,000 fund balance at the end of this fiscal year, well above the recommended 10-15% of the annual budget.

Who started the discussion to dissolve? According to Supervisor Green's letter there is another plan in in place which has never been discussed at an open meeting which involves the City library taking over some this organization and the school doing some? The city's librarian was sent to the Daddy Daughter Dance without ever telling the current NKCE director?

I have a great deal of respect for this organization and public entities it represents. I want to believe the By Laws have been and are being followed along with professional levels of respect and integrity and transparency but I am a little confused.

I am sorry for the lateness of this letter but am only responding to the late letters received from board member's today. I would ask this letter to be read at tonight's meeting since many members may not have had time to read it before the 6 pm meeting. Since I am out of town I can not read it myself.

I will remain hopeful you have received adequate community support for continuance and will use your experience and commitment for our community to discuss all options for continuing without Courtland Township.

Sincerely,
Sue Wolfe
Nelson Township and Cedar Springs Public Schools

I am writing this as a concerned parent and CSPS teacher. Tomorrow, there will be a meeting regarding North Kent Community Enrichment (formally Parks and Rec) and continuing on with this program. I am saddened knowing that this program may be obsolete in the near future. This year my son participated in basketball with Nate Wolfe, my son now has a desire to play basketball and is looking forward to next year to playing again during the cold winter months in Michigan. It was nice getting him active 2x a week and seeing all of the players and coaches in the gym weekly. My two sons also participated in the Mother Son Nerf gun war over the weekend (we also attended the first one that was held) and we all enjoy this special time together making memories. It was sad leaving the Mother Son Nerf Gun War on Saturday thinking this tradition may not happen again.

As a CSPS teacher, so many of my young students look forward to the Daddy/Daughter Dance and Wee Hawks. So many of my students need positive role models in their lives and Parks and Rec give students the opportunity to have positive role models in their lives.

If students do not get these experiences now through Parks and Rec, they will not be in the same league as students from other districts. CSPS will not have as strong athletic programs as our neighboring districts.

The current North Kent Community Enrichment director has done a great job giving the circumstances at hand. She only had a couple months in the position before COVID happened so of course revenues dropped and she only had several months to build relationships with as many community members and townships that she probably would have made during a "normal year". She deserves a chance to continue on with this program.

I am unable to attend the meeting tomorrow, but here are some wonderings I have in regards to the possible elimination of this program:

-I am wondering how the decision was made to possibly eliminate this program? Did the community have a say?

-Has anyone in Courtland township (outside the board) say they do not want North Kent Community Enrichment?

-Where will our students go after school to keep them active and out of trouble?

-Where is the agenda that the decision was made for townships to pull out? Why was this meeting not an open meeting? Did the director write the agenda that the bi laws state is proper procedure?

-Who in CSPS is willing to pick up youth programming for volleyball, basketball, softball, and baseball?

Thank you for your time,
Jennifer Fisher

Spring 2022 CLASSES

TAE KWON DO – Mondays March 21 – May 2 @Solon Twp Hall. 6-7:30pm $35/5 wks

MOTHER SON NERF WAR – March 5th @ CSMS K-12 4:30pm

CPR Certification – March 16th @ Hilltop 1pm $60

Youth Boys 6th-8th Grade Volleyball @CSHS Mon & Wed Mar 21- Apr 20 $40

Youth Girls Volleyball @ CSHS April 12, 19. 26 May 3 $45
3rd & 4th Grade 5-6pm
5th & 6th Grade 6-7pm

78ers Ball – Jan thru April 7th & 8th Grade Travel Teams
Boys Baseball
Girls Softball

Rocket Basketball for Girls and Boys
5-6th grade travel teams play now - March

OPEN GYM

Jan 6th – April @CSMS Drop In $5
Men's 18+ BASKETBALL –Thursdays 7-9pm
VOLLEYBALL – Tuesdays 7-9pm

Jan – April @Beach Elem. Drop In $4
PICKLE BALL – Tue, Wed, & Thur 6-9pm Sat 9-12pm

REGISTERING IS FAST & EASY !
ONLINE @ register.csaparksandrec.com
MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON FB or at MYNKCE.COM