

**Pending Committee Approval**  
**City of Franklin**  
**Parks & Recreation Committee**  
**May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Chairman George Dzjuna, Councilor Olivia Zink, Councilor April Bunker, Councilor Paul Trudel, Councilor Karen Testerman, and Parks and Recreation Director Krystal Alpers

Director Alpers gave the council members an update on the before and after school program during COVID-19. She stated that through the 21st century grant funding they have provided students with activity bags bi-weekly since March. Each bag has an activity in it for children to do each day. There were multiple STEM activities in addition to music lessons and Fitness lessons that were posted on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page for the children to follow along with. Additionally, staff members would read and record themselves and then post it on the Facebook page for the children to listen to. Two snacks per day we're also added to the bags and this program was funded through the CACFP program. Parks and Recreation staff would then go out and deliver these bags. We have been delivering 115 bags every two weeks. Parents have been posting pictures of the kids completing activities and this has been very well received.

Director Alpers provided an update on reopening the summer program for this year during covid-19. She reviewed the guidelines that will be put in place to ensure the health and safety of participants and staff. Councilor Trudel questioned whether refunds would be given should the program have to be closed down or if a child was required to quarantine due to possibly being exposed. Director Alpers stated it would be done as a case-by-case situation but they would likely be either a credit or a possible refund depending on the situation.

Director Alpers then reviewed the beach guidelines for this year during covid-19. She explained she is having a hard time finding a beach attendant. She was also holding off on opening the bathrooms for a little bit longer but people are utilizing the beaches even with the stay-at-home order so she has opened them and posted them as "use at your own risk". She explained trash will likely be an issue this year as well as they are stating that we should not use trash cans with lids. She is currently working with MSD to determine the best course of action. She's posting it as a "Carry In, Carry Out" for this year but we will likely put some barrels in the bathrooms as well without lids. She also explained that it would be for Resident use only. We will not be selling non-resident Beach stickers this year. This will eliminate possible community transmission in addition to eliminating the need for the beach attendant to exchange cash with customers. Councilor Trudel questioned not allowing non-residents as there are many taxpayers on the lake that are not considered residents. Director Alpers explained that that was not the intent. The folks that are non-residents but still taxpayers can obtain a sticker, the goal was really to keep folks from other local communities off of our beaches. Councilor Zink questioned how we plan to keep people socially distant. Director Alpers explained a couple of options with cones or chalk but none of those options are vandal proof and the chalk would need to be redone multiple times a day when somebody steps on it. The hope is that citizens will police themselves and be respectful of others. Director Alpers stated that from what she has observed people are being respectful of each other and socially distancing themselves from others.

Director Alpers explained she will keep the parks as is. Playgrounds will remain closed until the Governor States that it would be okay to open them. The park itself remains open as long as citizens are utilizing it in a manner that is respectful of the social distance rule.

Director Alpers explained that all other summer activities are canceled except the Farmers Market. We will implement certain guidelines to ensure the health and safety of the citizens shopping and the vendors.

Councilor Dzjuna asked if there were any budget concerns. Director Alpers explained all of her lines are level-funded except her before and after school and summer counselor wages. She explained that she's competing against local businesses like Tanger Outlets in hiring employees. For example, she has a recent college graduate who is making \$13.67 at one of the stores at the outlets and we are paying him \$10 an hour. He wants to work full time at the rec center this summer but based on the rate of pay it does not make sense for him. The grant has helped in increasing the wages but once the grant goes away Director Alpers would like to have the budgeted hourly wage more in line with a competitive pay rate. This will alleviate the need to have a huge increase in wages in one year.

Councilor Bunker made a motion to adjourn seconded by Councilor Trudel.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krystal Alpers  
Parks and Recreation Director