

RED BANK PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Minutes from August 23, 2023, 7 PM – Borough Hall Courtroom

Meeting called to order at 7:05

Attending: Maureen Dolan, Sarah Corrado, Julie Flores-Castillo, John LeFever, Pat Richter, Nicole Taetsch, Oscar Salinas, Ben Forest

The minutes from the July 25, 2023, meeting were approved following a motion by Sarah Corrado and a second by Nicole Taetsch.

Item 1: Update of current Parks and Recreation activities and events

Summer Camp: Summer camps ended last Friday and were a great success! Based on survey responses, parents were happy with the programs for younger and older campers. A new camp was organized for 6- to 13-year-olds this week to meet the needs of parents and the needs of counselors for some additional hours (they need 200 hours to earn their stipend). Within 24 hours of registration going live it was filled. His focus is sports with extra skills instruction that many kids don't have access to. Once they get to Red Bank Regional, their proficiency level becomes important, so any prior training is a plus. A new portable volleyball net was added to the fun and options for campers.

Events in the Park: The last movie is tonight (Jurassic Park). Movies are selected based on voting via social media. One concert and a couple of movies were cancelled due to the weather. Parks and Recreation has to pay for movies unless the showing is cancelled before 12 noon the same day, in which case we get credit. There were many suggestions for a movie around Halloween time (Beetlejuice, Casper, Coco, Hotel Transylvania, the Adams Family, Ghostbusters, Scooby Doo Halloween movies).

The West Side Jazz concert at Jonnie Jazz Park was terrific, although Oscar had some 'setting up' challenges. Attendees included about 60 local and non-local jazz fans, and there were four bands of very high caliber. Music was from 1:00 until 5:15 and the concert was free. The food trucks were doing well. In honor of Count Basie's birthday on Sunday, the concert received support from the NJ State Council on the Arts, Monmouth Arts, the County of Monmouth, T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center, and the Jazz Arts Project. The MC was from WBGO radio Newark.

Item 2: Upcoming activities and events

Halloween events: Plans are coming along for this October 22 event. It was suggested to invite businesses to decorate, possibly reflecting the special name and tag line for the event, and RiverCenter will be brought into that discussion. Oscar has a meeting scheduled with Bob. Sponsorship has been secured thanks to the Vin Gopal Civic Association. The School of Rock is committed to providing music. The High School marching band will be invited to be part of the parade that will set up at Hudson and E Bergen and proceed down to Broad and White Streets. Oscar is looking for groups to march in the parade, and the Boy and Girl Scouts were mentioned.

Community submissions for naming the town were reviewed, and after a motion by Nicole and a second by Maureen, the following was unanimously approved:

Boo Bank – A Trail of Fright from Broad to White.

The mayor will sign a proclamation renaming the town for the day.

There was discussion about prizes for costumes and floats, and it was suggested that a \$5 gift card to Once Bitten would be very appreciated. Oscar is engaging the Key Club from the High School to

participate in judging, with a Committee member assigned to each judging group. Committee members can send suggestions to Oscar on a simple checklist to judge the entries.

All Committee members are needed to volunteer at this event!

2nd Annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration: This will take place at Riverside Park September 23rd at 2:00 and the Committee Oscar put together is making good progress. Partners include the Red Bank Library and the Basie Theatre. Music, food trucks, and a dance group have been secured.

All Committee members are needed to volunteer at this event!

Fall Sports: Soccer is getting set up for the fall, and there are enough coaches but not enough referees. There are lots of volunteers! There will be a league for little kids K to 2nd grade and there are 67 kids already registered. John will be running clinics and there are 30 kids registered for those. There is also a Buddy Ball program for special needs children. Soccer is held at the primary school.

Item 3: New Business

There was discussion of how events/programs were promoted, and the two main platforms are the Town website and Facebook. The website is not as user-friendly as it could be, and the Committee hopes this can be improved. Oscar tries to make posters eye catching and colorful, and there was a suggestion that flyers be posted in more locations. The calendar on the Town website does not include events in future months that have been committed to. Today, the calendar only had information for August and nothing going forward. Jon will follow up with the Town Clerk.

As of today, the minutes from the previous meeting have not been posted. Jon will follow up on this as well.

Open Discussion

Attendees asked what was happening at Marine Park and East Side Park and Ben provided updates.

Next Meeting will be held – Tuesday, September 26th, 2023, 7 pm Court Room

Sarah Corrado _____ x _____ Maureen Dolan _____ x _____ Julie Flores-Castillo _____ x _____

Alberto Garcia _____ John LeFever _____ x _____

Melissa Moore _____ Pat Richter _____ x _____ Nicole Taetsch _____ x _____

Oscar Salinas (P & R Director) _____ x _____ Ben Forest (Council Liaison) _____ x _____