

RED BANK PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Minutes from November 19, 2024 - Borough Hall Courtroom

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

Attending: John LeFever, Oscar Salinas, Pat Richter, Nicole Taetsch, Maureen Dolan, Melissa Moore

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved once a quorum was present with a motion by Nicole, seconded by Maureen.

As a follow-up to the community pickleball player who attended last month's meeting, there is now Open Play on Tuesdays at the Eastside Park courts. Discussions are ongoing with the contractor to repair damage to the court surface. One approach would create visible patches in the court surface.

Item 1

Update of current Parks and Recreation activities and events

Adult soccer at Count Basie field has 15 to 20 people participating Saturdays at 6 pm. It's a co ed opportunity.

Adult basketball at Red Bank Middle School is ongoing, from October to March, Monday and Tuesday at 7 pm. This is a co ed opportunity. It's not as well attended as soccer.

Item 2

Upcoming activities and events

Winter Sports

There are about 80 kids registered (with an extended registration period) for basketball with Fusion, a subcontractor with the town. About half of the registered players are Red Bank local kids. Many registered late. Fusion creates a serious sports culture with high standards and strong discipline. There was some discussion that maybe a Recreation Basketball program would offer an alternative for kids that want to play, but don't want to compete at a higher level. Two River Basketball might be an alternative.

Holiday Events update

Westside Tree Lighting is 6 pm on December 6th. There is still interest in having the Shade Tree Commission take a look at the tree in Jonnie Jazz Park. Lots of activities are planned during the tree lighting and Lunch Break will provide free hot chocolate.

Calls from the North Pole will be December 10 and 11 at Borough Hall and bilingual volunteers are needed. There are committed volunteers from the Key Club, Spanish Honor Society, and the Rotary Club.

The two mailboxes for letters to Santa will be upgraded! One local family will do the construction, and another family will do the artwork. Thank you letters will be sent to both families from the Committee.

Holiday House Decoration Contest will occur December 16 as usual, judged by students from the Middle School and the Charter School.

There will be a Chanukah celebration by Rabbi Harrison on December 30th at Riverside Park.

Item 3: New Business

Expiring PARC terms

There are three open seats and two alternative seats open. Representation from the Westside is desired. The two current members who have terms coming to an end will both continue to serve.

Westside Outreach

Westside outreach is desired for a number of reasons. The Parks Department would like to see increased participation from Westside kids and to expand offerings so there are programs of interest to them. There was a suggestion to do a community survey and get an idea as to what sports, activities, and programs are of interest to young people.

PARC monthly meetings

While there was some interest in meeting less frequently, this Committee is obligated to meet monthly according to governance documents with the Town. However, the December meeting date may be changed to accommodate the holiday.

Open Discussion

Oscar shared that security cameras are being installed in many sensitive areas around town and are already in Borough Hall. The parks are next. Cameras will be monitored by the police.

There will be turnover in the position of Town Clerk.

The Mayor's Wellness Initiative will have an event at the Middle School Saturday November 23.

There has been some turf damage at Count Basie Fields. This was vandalism, not wear and tear.

Work at Marine Park will pause for the winter. There will be a fence around the Marina when the project is completed.

The new Branding Committee will make sure everyone is using the same Town logo and not develop their own.

Maureen moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Nicole Taetsch seconded the motion.

Next Meeting is **tentatively Tuesday, December 17, 2024**, at 7 pm in the Court Room.

John will explore with Committee members if this date will work.