

Red Bank Parks and Recreation Committee
Minutes from August 24, 2024 - Borough Hall Courtroom

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

Minutes from prior meeting were approved.

Attending: Kathryn O'Brien, Richard Blache, Julie Flores-Castillo, Melissa Moore, Oscar Salinas, Ben Forest, **Itzel Perez**

Item 1: Update of current Parks and Recreation activities

Movies

Movies in the Park faced cancellations this summer due to heat, with Finding Nemo playing as a makeup date. Concessions, music and additional activities bring more patrons to movie nights in the park.

Concerts

Last Sunday was the final jazz concert of the season as part of the summer jazz series. There were electrical issues, but the band continued acapella. These events are sponsored through Monmouth Arts. The concerts are scheduled for select Sundays at 3pm, which may be a difficult time for patrons to attend. Approximately 40-50 people attended each show. Suggestions for future shows included tables, string lights, and more restrooms.

The summer youth rock and roll concert was held with low attendance at Riverside Gardens. This was the first show in the park for the organization and Parks and Recreation plans to hold it again next year, hopefully with better attendance. **Red Bank School of Rock**

Summer Camp

Summer Camp is over after 6 weeks of programming. The program hosted 50 children and the staff did an excellent job. The program consisted of 4 weeks of general recreation camp and 2 weeks of sports-focused programming. Suggestions for next year included enhanced off-site trips.

Item 2: Upcoming Activities and Events

Dog Days - Volunteers

Dog Days will be held on Saturday September 7, from 12pm-4pm at Riverside Gardens Park. The event will include pet adoptions and activities for families. Volunteers are needed for the event.

Fall Recreation Soccer

The teams for fall recreation soccer are filled. There will be a 7th and 8th grade COED team and two boys teams for the same age group. Coaches are still needed.

Hispanic Heritage Event

This event will be held on September 15 at Riverside Gardens Park and will include food vendors, a DJ, and more. **3-7PM**

Halloween

The 76th Annual Halloween Parade will be held on October 20th, with an October 27 rain date. The parade will begin at 2pm from Broad Street to the White Street parking lot for the Community Celebration. RiverCenter is planning this event and the Fire Department will be giving out awards to the three best floats in the parade. There is a need for more floats and suggestions included enhanced marketing, incentives, using floats from previous years as inspiration and better flyer distribution. Volunteers are also needed for this event and suggestions included reaching out to the Y Initiative.

The Nightmare Before Christmas will play at Riverside Gardens Park on October 18th at 6pm. RiverCenter will be hosting activities on-site.

Last year, the town was designated “Boo Bank,” on Halloween, and concerns regarding costs were considered to offer this again in 2024. Name **Boo Bank** will continue until our next big Anniversary.

New Business

The new Community Coordinator may attend some Parks and Recreation meetings moving forward, as their position includes event planning. Some events include the 9/11 Ceremony, and Memorial and Labor Day Celebrations.

Pickleball Clinics

Recreation is considering hosting beginner pickleball clinics for 4-weeks from 9:30am-11:30am for residents only at East Side Park. Other options included weeknights. Other pickleball court concerns include dogs on the court, scheduling and security.

Open Discussion

Improvements to Marine Park will finish Phase 1 over the next 6 months.

The 2025 Juneteenth Celebration is in its beginning planning stages. Event planners are considering expanding outside of Red Bank.