

RED BANK PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Minutes from September 23, 2025 - Borough Hall Courtroom

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm

Attending: Oscar Salinas, Pat Richter, Maureen Dolan, Melissa Moore, Dana Ian Farley, and Joe Simon. Ben Forest, Committee Liaison, also attended.

The notes from the august meeting were unanimously approved.

The Committee would prefer to keep its current structure rather than creating a combined Committee representing the Senior Center and Community Engagement.

Item 1:

Update of current Parks and Recreation activities and events

Update on current programs and activities

Recreational Soccer started September 6 with sixty young people registered. The K to second grade group has a trainer from FC Monmouth. There will be a game with Northern Monmouth after the second week. The 7th and 8th grade boys were playing aggressively, and strategies are needed by the coach to discourage such behavior.

Both the STEM program and dance were Postponed due to insufficient registration. They will be offered again in October.

Marine Park Update

Phase 2 has started and will continue pending weather conditions. The grading of the playground is part of this Phase, and the Park is closed. Phase 3 will start Spring 2026. There is a landing page for Marine Park where progress can be tracked. There was a suggestion that handicap parking be designated on the Boondock's side of the park. There are some residents that want to get near the benches.

Finding new committee members

The Committee can use 3 or 4 new members. Several Committee members had some ideas within their social networks. There is an application form on the Parks and Recs website that needs to be filled out as the first step in being considered. Ben thought that there were a few names on the mayors list.

Eastside Park courts and playground

A sinkhole was repaired as well as the slide, but the swings need some work, and the Township is waiting for parts. Problems continue with water pooling on the tennis/pickleball courts despite some work by the contractor. Pickleball court 3/Tennis court three is a prime problem area. This has been dragging on for 5 months now. Pressure on the contractor continues.

Item 2:

Upcoming activities and events

Halloween Parade and Movie

The date for the Halloween Parade is Sunday October 19th at 2:00 PM and Halloween Movie is October 17th, with a 12:30 parade line up. The movie will be Beetlejuice. Volunteers are needed for crowd control as the parade takes shape at Hudson and E. Bergen. There are nine categories for costumes and usually the High School students help with judging. There will be lots of activities in the White Street lot, such as the mini train, food trucks, activities with Time to Kiln, a DJ, two inflatables and goody bags, a pumpkin patch offered by Red Bank River Center. Floats are expected from Lunch Break, the Charter School, the Borough Schools, and the Fire House. We will continue to use the name Boo Bank for the holiday.

FC Monmouth wellness and exhibition friendly

FC Monmouth will participate in the Mayors Wellness Initiative on October 25th 4 to 6 pm, with a men's soccer game (playing Philadelphia Union) at 7 pm.

Fitness Stations

The idea for fitness stations along a park is still active and the township is waiting for the outcome of grants. A Sponsor has not been identified.

Item 3:

New Business

Evening classes at Senior Center

Committee members are invited to teach a class in the evening at the Senior Center. We cannot use the kitchen.

Spinoff event from Garden Tour

The Animal Welfare Committee is supporting the Patchwork for Wildlife Red Bank program which certifies homeowner gardens according to the proportion of native plants, use of compost, rain barrels, bird feeders, and mulching. The point is protecting and encouraging songbirds and pollinators. The winner of the Garden Tour (July 20) hosted interested gardeners at his home, providing a deep dive on native plants, chickens, and using herbs and flowers every day. Almost forty people participated.

Bike Lanes

There is a committee working on Bike Lanes in town. This project is complicated by the County and State roads that the Town does not have control over, but Vin Gopal can be helpful in that area.

A motions was made to close the meeting at 8:15 pm by Maureen, seconded by Joe.

Reminder: Committee members should inform the President at least 24 hours in advance if they are unable to attend a scheduled meeting. The Committee should not have multiple meetings without a quorum.

Next Meeting will be **October 27th, 2025**, at 7 pm in the Court Room.