

RED BANK PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Minutes November 18, 2025 - Borough Hall Courtroom

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

Attending: John LeFever, Oscar Salinas, Pat Richter, Maureen Dolan, and Dana Ian Farley

The August notes were approved unanimously.

Item 1:

Update of current Parks and Recreation activities and events

Fall season wrap up.

Soccer was very successful and well attended, with 50 K-2 participants, 35 pre-K participants, and seventy-one in the Recreational League. Coaches and volunteers were a great asset. However, some games had to be forfeited due to insufficient numbers of players.

There was a STEM series and dance classes at the Senior Center, with increasing numbers of registrants.

Turf project

Fields 1 and 2 at Count Basie Fields are getting new Turf as the current surface is 12 years old. Work will start mid-December and last for 8 to 12 weeks. Drainage problems will be address at the same time.

Eastside Park

Remediation work will start very soon as equipment has been moved to the area. The Playground has been repaired. Tennis Court #2 needs a new net.

New Community Engagement Coordinator

Fatima Corranza is the new Community Engagement Coordinator, coming from Lunch Break. She will be invited to one of the Committee's meetings.

Finding new Committee members

There are some interested people in the pipeline! There is a process they need to go through, and that takes some time.

Red Bank 5K Classic race

The race benefits the Red Bank YMCA, which supplies many volunteers on the day of the race. But the **5K Classic Committee** will also provide some funds to the Recreation Department, as they also do a great deal to prepare for and clean up from the race.

Item 2:

Upcoming activities and events

Winter sports

Indoor basketball will be offered through the Fusion program, which has high standards and rigorous structure. Some parents would like it to be less rigid, but others appreciate the quality of the training. Professional players from other towns provide instruction.

Indoor soccer has 154 signups, and open play basketball has fifty-five signups.

Holidays

The Recreation Department will again take the lead on letters to Santa, calls from the North Pole, Westside Tree Lighting, and the Holiday Home Decorating Contest. December 10 at 6:00 pm Committee volunteers can come and help answering letters to Santa dropped in two town mailboxes. Lunch Break might need volunteers to serve hot chocolate if the weather is very cold. The town could also use some more Christmas tree decorations for the Westside Tree. There are usually about six hundred phone calls from Santa, Mrs. Claus, or an Elf, 60% from Spanish speaking families. The Charter School and Middle School will be judging the house decorations.

There was some discussion about the Halloween parade and party, and there is interest from the town in making it bigger. Having more towns participate would be great.

Item 3:

New Business

Ideas for an inclusive field trip

The Recreation Department has funds for a field trip that would include special needs participants. Committee members shared ideas, which included: Holland Ridge holiday light show, Camden Aquarian, the Battleship, Franklin Institute, Morristown/Valley Forge historic sites, and the American Dream Mall.

Year end report

Last year, the Secretary prepared a summary of recommendations from the Committee with the status of each. This will be prepared for 2025.

Procedures for Senior Center use

It would be helpful for the Parks and Recreation Department to have a system/form/guideline on the website for interested people to submit ideas for classes.

Recreation Updates for Committee members

It was suggested that when something important happens, like approved of the Green Acres grant, that Committee members get an email to keep them updated, and share good news.

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 **December 16, 2025**, at 7 pm in the Court Room.