

RED BANK PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Minutes January 27, 2026 - Borough Hall Courtroom

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

Attending: John LeFever, Oscar Salinas, Maureen Dolan, Melissa Moore, Pat Richter, Joe Simon, Kristen Gal, Michael Lennon, and Ben Forest

A community member attended the meeting (Kate Mills) to share her concerns about the coaching styles used by the Fusion company. Fusion provides basketball skills training and games under the umbrella of the Recreation Department and has done so since 2012. Ms. Mills felt that the Fusion approach is not a match for the assumed goals of a Boro recreation program – providing access and encouraging a love of sports. She described their interactions with children as shameful, aggressive, and embarrassing. When talking with the coaches, Ms. Mills felt demeaned and dismissed. The Committee discussed possible approaches to this situation.

New members Kristen and Michael introduced themselves and were welcomed to the Committee.

The Minutes from the November meeting were approved unanimously.

Item 1:

Update of current Parks and Recreation activities and events

Current activities update.

Sports

We are in the third week of basketball, soccer has two in weeks (1 cancellation due to snow), Buddy ball is going well, and adult indoor basketball is getting great attendance.

2025 Summary

All Committee members received the summary of 2025 Committee activities prepared by the Secretary, including the new members.

Review of Member Terms

A spreadsheet was shared with the terms for each member, but it did not include how many complete terms each member had finished. Also, there was a spelling error in Kristen's name. It seems that members are automatically renewed without any official communication. Going forward, the Committee needs a Vice Chair and an additional alternate.

Item 2:

Upcoming activities and events

The Father/Daughter Dance will be held February 20th.

Upcoming Classes

Chair Yoga and Zumba will have five sessions starting February 10 if there is sufficient registration.

Spring Sports

Registrations will start soon for baseball (starting with fourth grade), flag football, softball, and Track and Field. Track and Field will have a coach from Red Bank Regional.

Update Count Basie Park and Eastside Park repairs.

Maintenance and repairs are scheduled for late February to early March, but weather is a factor. There is concern that the work could interfere with Spring Sports. Worst case scenario, perhaps the work could be pushed out past the Spring Sports. There might be one field at County Basie that could accommodate the activities usually held at Eastside Park.

Grants

A Green Acres grant is targeted to Jonnie Jazz Park – upgrading electric, creating a permanent stage, adding some picnic tables. A survey was sent out for community input, but no Committee members received it. Oscar will send it out to the Committee and suggest that it is always included on any surveys related to the parks.

A State grant for Local Recreation needs a project to request funds for. A dog park is possible. The Boro Council will be discussing this soon.

Item 3:

New Business

Special Events: Independence Day 250th Anniversary and 911 Remembrance 25th Anniversary

The Boro wants to make both events very big, possibly coordinating with neighboring towns. Parks and Recreation, along with Community Engagement, will be involved, but there was concern that it might get to be too much for the limited staff to manage.

Marine Park Grand Opening Event

This will also be a very big event but of course dependent on the completion of the park. The Boro wants to have bands, food trucks, and more....

Garden Tours

Patchwork for Wildlife would like to cooperate with Parks and Recs and schedule a Garden Tour on a Sunday in June. Parks and Recs can provide some transportation. Based on input from last year, the period will be expanded and the tour scheduled for a bit earlier in the summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm with a motion by Joe Simon and seconded by Michael Lennon.

Next meeting will be **February 17th** to accommodate Oscar's attendance at the state Recreation Directors Conference in Atlantic City. It will be at 7 pm in the Court Room.