

RED BANK PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Minutes March 24, 2026 - Borough Hall Courtroom

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm

Attending: John LeFever, Oscar Salinas, Maureen Dolan, Kristen Gal, Dana Ian Farley, Ben Forest, and Michael Lennon

The minutes from the last meeting were approved unanimously with no corrections or additions.

Guest Discussion: Fusion Basketball Program

Fusion Basketball coaches attended the meeting to discuss the current state of the program, including feedback from the 2026 participant survey. The survey results were largely positive, reflecting strong overall satisfaction and engagement. The coaches also discussed the challenges of competing with neighboring towns' programs. One critical survey response was reviewed, with coaches explaining that the concern appeared to stem from a disconnect with a particular family despite multiple efforts to provide support and address concerns. During the discussion, a committee member suggested dividing the basketball court into two sections to improve program flow, reduce downtime, and create a more efficient and engaging experience for both participants and parents.

Item 1: Current Parks & Recreation Activities and Updates

Senior Center programming, including Zumba and chair yoga, is currently wrapping up. Plans are in place to introduce Fitness in the Park during the summer months. Spring sports programs are scheduled to begin next week. The annual Egg Hunt was highly successful, with a large turnout of families, including participants from neighboring towns. Due to the strong attendance, a bonus egg hunt was added. The Red Bank Regional Education Association participated in the event by hosting a table that included face painting and student council involvement.

T-Ball had a strong turnout this year, and the program was considered a success. Cirque de Peace has been canceled, and Oscar Salinas will provide updates when the event is rescheduled.

Updates on park improvement projects were also discussed. Marine Park is anticipated to open around Memorial Day. The Count Basie Park turf project is expected to be completed with an early summer opening. East Side Park remediation is approximately four weeks from completion, with a target of mid-April. The Marine Park committee continues to make steady progress toward completion.

The committee discussed current participation trends, noting that some families are increasingly choosing travel sports over local recreation programs.

The Manager's Report has not yet been printed but is available online and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Item 2: Upcoming Activities and Events

A gardening workshop is currently being planned, similar to last year's program. Flag sports

programs are beginning now and will continue into April. Planning for the annual Garden Tour is underway. The committee discussed the possibility of utilizing recreation vans or Senior Center buses to shuttle participants between locations. There was also discussion about partnering with Red Bank Green to promote the event and highlight each garden's unique features to make the experience more inclusive. Additional ideas included introducing award categories such as Best Condo Garden and using AI tools to map out routes and improve logistics.

Item 3: New Business

The committee discussed the need for additional lighting at Count Basie Playground, particularly during evening games, and proposed the installation of solar lighting to improve visibility and safety. Plans are in place to install new railings at the Riverside Park. It was also announced that a title sponsor has been secured for the summer series.

The committee discussed opportunities to expand Senior Center programming, including the potential introduction of activities such as Mahjong and other engaging and educational offerings.

Homework

We will continue to think about ways to celebrate the 250th anniversary of American Independence. Rather than one big event, we should think of many small events scattered all over Red Bank

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

Next meeting will be April 28, 2026, at 7 pm in the Court Room.