

## **RED BANK PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Minutes April 26, 2026 - Borough Hall Courtroom

The meeting was called to order at 7:108 pm.

Attending: John LeFever, Oscar Salinas, Maureen Dolan, Dana Ian Farley, Pat Richter, Melissa Moore, and Joe Simon. Because Councilman Forest had a conflicting meeting, deputy Mayor Kate Triggiano attended the meeting as Liasson.

The minutes from the March meeting (which were completed but not sent) will be sent ASAP and reviewed and approved along with the April minutes at the May meeting.

### **Item 1: Current Parks & Recreation Activities and Updates**

The field trip for Special needs young people and their siblings and parents was very successful! Visiting Liberty Science Center, twenty-three children and adults had lots to do and see. Next trip might be the Bronx Zoo!

#### **Spring sports update.**

Open play pickleball is available Tuesdays from 8 to 10 and Thursdays from 6 to 8 and about fifteen people played on the first week. It's very popular as the need to go through the online app registration system is waived.

Baseball, softball, and T Ball are in their fourth week. Track and Field has seventy-five kids enrolled, and flag football has 150 kids 6 to 14. A very positive development since last year is that a higher proportion of registered kids are from Red Bank rather than surrounding communities.

#### **Updates on projects**

**Marine Park** – Grand Opening is planned for June 13, from 11:00 to 2:00 and there is a committee working on the event. There will be food trucks, music, representatives from local, county, and possibly even State government.

**Count Basie Fields** – The turf replacement was delayed due to weather and should resume in June. The work on the bleachers and press-box will proceed after the football season.

**Riverside Gardens** – areas of the gardens are in need of annual flower plantings! This might be an Eagle Scout project. Oscar will pursue.

### **Item 2: Upcoming Activities and Events**

**Spring activities** – The Senior Center will once again be the venue for Tai Chi, Qigong, and Chair Yoga. Dr. Spaciano will provide the Easter modalities on Mondays at 5 pm and there will be five chair yoga classes, Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are already ten people registered.

**Summer Camp Update** – There is already a wait list for all summer camps!! A special program from the state which subsidizes counselor costs will provide a lower level of funding this year, so the boro will need to pay for additional counselors. Hopefully, the Charter School can be used for camp rainy days. Oscar is working on it.

### **Item 3: New Business**

**World Cup Grant** – (FIFA grant) The World Cup games will be spread over many days from Mid-June to the third week in July. The Boro's grant proposal for \$50,000 was supported by letters from NJ Youth Soccer, the Mayor, the Chamber of Commerce and more. There will be games at multiple locations, and they will be projected outdoors, many at night. Locations might include the parks and/or Broadwalk. The Basie Fields is not centrally located enough, and there are parking, safety, and security challenges. The OEM will probably be playing a role.

**Free Sports Camp** – funded by a grant, the Boro can offer a free sports camp the last week of June for 6- to 15-year-old. It will be a half day, from 9 am to 12 noon. Seventy-five kids are already registered, and the maximum capacity is one hundred. It will be held at Count Basie fields.

**RBFC Soccer Camp** – This weeklong camp will be free for Red Bank kids and will run the last week of July from 5 pm to 8 pm.

**250<sup>th</sup> Celebration ideas** – **Committee members** reviewed a list of thirteen possible activities suitable for small towns. There was interest in a Revolutionary Trivia Hour, an Art Wall of What Freedom Means to Me, distribution of pocket constitutions. Parks and Recs could have a table at Broadwalk with an activity, and Oscar will connect Pat with the right people to pursue this idea. This needs more discussion and planning.

**Managers' Report** – Committee members received a hard copy color version of the Manager's Report. Special attention was paid to the Parks and Recreation page, which was better than last year, especially in noting the revenue sources and listing the grants received. There was one suggestion to have the small pictures related to the text nearby.

**Volunteers for 5K** – As the Parks and Recreation department and the Red Bank YMCA benefit financially from the 5K race, it would be nice if some members volunteered at the race. The Y is coordinating volunteer sign up and assignments, which include being Marshalls, staffing water stations, giving out goody bags, giving out snacks, and helping with registration. Volunteering requires reporting early in the morning. Oscar will send a link to the YMCA volunteer sign up.

**Sponsors Riverside Gardens activities** – sponsorships are coming in but have not yet reached the \$15,000 raised last year. Committee members can add a handwritten thank you to standard letters that Oscar send out. We can do that at the June meeting.

Elks Lodge Grant – the Elk club has a new leader, and they would like to give the Boro a \$10,000 grant. One possible expense that this could subsidize is lighting for the flags.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion from Joe seconded by Maureen.

**Next meeting will be May 26, 2026.**