

RED BANK PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Minutes May 26, 2026 - Borough Hall Courtroom

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., but a quorum was not present until 7:45 pm.

Attending: John LeFever, Oscar Salinas, Dana Ian Farley, Pat Richter, Joe Simon, Michael Lennon, and Councilman Forest.

The minutes from the March and April meetings were approved unanimously after a motion to accept by John seconded by Joe.

Item 1: Current Parks & Recreation Activities and Updates

The Chair Yoga series at the Senior Center (after hours) was highly successful, with over twenty-five participants registered. Not everyone came to every class. The group would like five class sessions to continue.

Tai Chi will start a four-session series next week and has about ten participants. It will be Mondays at 5:30 pm on June 1, 8, 15, and 22 at the Senior Center.

Spring Sports Update

Spring baseball/softball will be ending this week (May 30) with our 7U team continuing through June 15th. None of our teams made it to the playoffs.

Track will continue until June 15th.

There will be a free Rugby Clinic from 8:30 to 10:30 am this weekend at Count Basie Field.

Flag football was delayed for a couple of weeks to accommodate attendance at services for Terry Haupt, tragically hit by a train. He was well known to the Recreation Department and the Red Bank YMCA.

Updates on Projects

Marine Park continues its makeover with delays due to equipment delivery. The new date for the grand opening is June 27 from 11 to 3. There will be a special meeting of the Committee overseeing the project this Friday.

Count Basie Fields will be getting new turf on June 15th. There was considerable discussion of the pros and cons of artificial turf, especially considering its use for viewing parties of the World Cup.

Eastside Park soil removal is also delayed, with a new completion date of June 4th. Restoring the Community Garden is a possibility. In the past there were ten small plots there and a water supply and shed.

Riverside Gardens Flowers – options will be explored to plant flowers on either side of the entrance to the park. The area gets a lot of sun. The Green Team of the Environmental Commission will get looped in, and Michael will follow up.

Grant Update – ROID – this \$20,000 grant benefits young people with disabilities and helps current programs or newly offered programs improve their accessibility. It also supports a trip, and the Bronx Zoo is a possibility. There can be classes at the Senior Center for STEM, the arts, or a silent dance (with headphones) that is open to all young people with those with disabilities integrated with any support needed.

Kayak Launch – the kayak rack at Maple Cove is at capacity and another rack would be very helpful.

Item 2: Upcoming Activities and Events

World Cup Watch Parties – The Boro has a \$50,000 grant that needs a dollar for dollar match to support expenses related to the World Cup (streaming, security, sanitation, shuttles, crowd control, parking, etc.) and the three games that will be projected on screens live in various locations in Red Bank. The legislative district is very supportive of this opportunity. It will require lots of planning and logistical support from Public Works and the Office of Emergency Management, and there is an Event Committee. Several parking lots will be created with shuttle service providers. Bus drivers are needed. The games will be from June 11 to July 18. Locally, there will be a broadcast on June 11 on Broadwalk at 3:00, a June 18th broadcast at 9 pm and a June 19 broadcast at 3 pm. There was considerable discussion about the challenges of so many people and the screen itself being on the artificial turf for the 3:00 game. The turf gets extremely hot and it also does not absorb liquids. Afterwards it will need to be professionally cleaned.

Garden Tour – as of the meeting there were seven gardens and twenty people signed up for the June 7 tour. There will probably be last-minute signups. The Tour can begin at East Side Park despite the construction. More gardeners are welcome to sign up!

Summer Camp – Summer camp is full, with a waiting list. The Charter School will be the rainy-day location, much better than last year. There are twenty-five in the Little Rascals group and forty-five in the Rascals. With more staff and labor subsidies, the Boro could serve more children. Parents are really in need of full day summer camp.

Item 3: New Business

PARC Volunteering – Parks and Recs will have a table on BroadWalk July 2 3:30 to 6 pm with at least three activities related to the 250th anniversary. Volunteers are needed. Pat will be there, and Dana can come after work. Let Oscar know if you can help out.

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

Next meeting will be held June 23, 2026.