

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Minutes: June 7 7pm

These minutes will be posted on the township's website Next Meetings: 7pm 10/4, 12/6

In attendance: Bethann Figueria, Lauren Fitzgerald, Antoine Gayles, Louis Valdes, Amanda Fink, Courtney Fulton, Karyn Norberg, Liz Meininger, Jill Daggan.

Committee Reports:

- Open Space: Courtney Fulton – Trails have been worked on/cleaned up. Next meeting will work on property acquisitions
- Council: Alex Roman – No Report
- Board of Ed: Jennifer Aquino - Emailed report. Antoine provided some additional news. The BOE has posted internally for the Superintendent position. A survey was sent out asking for the priority of the strengths and experiences that the new Superintendent should have. Seasonal end of the year events for MOMS and MOHS include performances and awards and graduation will be soon. The first Breakfast with the Board of Ed was held. 14 parents attended, the conversation focused on the role of the Board and of the Superintendent.

Updates & New Business:

- Carnival Pre-sale All Day Ride Wristband Vouchers were sold out 6/7 by 9:30am. Most were sold between 5am and 5:30am. Volunteers helping at the Carnival can receive a comp wristband voucher for every 4 hours worked. Please contact Jill or Liz.
- Ribbon Cutting for Flanders Park Exercise Station was held Tuesday 5/23 10am Lauren told us about the event – it was great to see the Mayor and other people using the equipment during the photo session, the music was a fun addition. She has seen people using the equipment since the ribbon cutting. Jill mentioned that the township has been awarded a grant for adding multi-generational amenities (music pieces, ADA accessible interactive music challenge station, chess tables and more). This project will be done in 2024. We plan on submitting this park for an award when it is completed.
- Summer Brochure was distributed 5/18 to the schools. It is also on our website and has been sent out to over 8,000 email addresses.
- Splashpad staff have completed their trainings and Pirates Cove opened on Saturday 5/27. The first few hot days had hundreds of visitors.
- Mauraderfest was held on the day after Memorial Day (all 5th grade students were able to use the park exclusively) Louis commented on how great it was and that children enjoyed it.
- November and December event contracts were approved – so we are planning! We are trying something new for November with Jersey Fresh coordinating a Food Truck & Music Festival for us. December's event will be an 8-day AnyWho (similar to Who-ville) Winter festival with rides, whimsical sheds, characters, lighted decorations, food and more. This will be a lot of fun!
- We were asked to look into holding a fishing derby in October. We have started looking at other websites for towns and organizations that hold fishing derbies. The State used to run a program "Take Me Fishing" but it was discontinued years ago. Jill will reach out to a friend at Fish & Wildlife to see if there are still educational materials available and any contacts we need. David Alexander (Open Space Committee) could be a good resource. Boy Scouts (and GIRL SCOUTS) have a fishing badge. Bethann (Girl Scouts) volunteered to help us coordinate this event. We plan on having a registration with a nominal fee to help cover any costs (and have participants commit to coming). MOPD PAL has some volunteers that help us on event day – 10/15 at Meier's Pond
- Our First Outdoor event was 4/22 – Hidden Treasures. Courtney volunteered for this event – a lot of fun – and lots of "treasures". All 84 spaces were taken. A suggestion was made to find a local charity that can have a truck on site to receive donations of clothing or other items that people do not want to take home or throw away. It was also Earth Day, Administration had tree seedlings to give away
- The Fairy & Pirate Festival was postponed from 5/20 to 6/3, due to rain. Now we have 3 events in June! Although the weather hinted at rain/sprinkles most of the day, we still had 2000-3000 folks attend! We had a few less vendors than we had planned for the May event, but the ones that came were very pleased. Mini Movers, who provides dance classes for us, had performances under the pavilion every 5 minutes. Children ages 3 - 10 performed in costume, and many of the parents and grandparents attended the event with fun costumes. This was our 14th Fairy & Pirate Festival!
- Mount Playmore repairs and painting will begin shortly. There is section where some boards need to be replaced, then primed and painted and others areas that need to be repainted. Liz & Jill helped paint some of the decorative pieces – almost 10 years ago. A former art program instructor for Recreation will be helping us with the design and work – we could use some helpers!
- CGI is videoing around town with the Mayor and Business Administrator this week, to make an updated video for the township's website.
- Liz spoke about our upcoming events: 6/17 is Touch-a-Truck. We are getting calls from businesses who have seen our signs for the event, offering to bring vehicles/equipment. We have 22 vehicles so far! At 8:30am – 9am, we will have a time for sensory sensitive attendees, with no sirens or horns. Then from 9am-12pm it will all be action! North Star will bring a helicopter in to the LAX field around 10am. Karyn offered to help at this event.
 - The Mt Olive Block Party is Friday, 6/23, music, dancing, food, pony rides, inflatables and more! We still need some volunteers/Recreation Ambassadors!
 - Carnival is coming! We have a planning meeting on 6/22 to review all the logistics. We need volunteers for this event too.
 - August has 3 events, The Movie & Music night will now have adult beverages available as well as a food truck, bands and fun! Salsa in the Park – we will have the band at the pavilion and D.A.M. Equipment is donating a dance floor! Food Trucks and Fireworks will be on 8/26 – we have some new food options coming, and great music.
 - Country in the Park in September will include a BarkFest! Last year almost as many dogs came as people – so we are adding this new mini-event as a part of the larger event.

We need videos and pictures to post on social media – please help us!

Other: Louis asked about security at the Dog Park, to help enforce the rules posted. The signs provide the number to call the Animal Control Officer, or a call to MOPD Dispatch and they will connect with the ACO for issues.

Will there be Park Rangers/security at TBP? Many more security cameras were added to the park, including the large soccer parking lot. The cameras all directly feed to monitors at Dispatch, but will not be continuously watched, unless they receive a call. Liz will check to see cameras were added to the Dog Park or to the back parking areas that we use for carnival parking.

Jill will email the volunteer form again

Lauren mentioned that the sports associations she works with have had good results working with the Key Club and the Honor Societies for finding volunteers. Lauren & Amanda offered to send us contacts for Honor Society. Antoine suggested reaching out to the Superintendent about connecting with the clubs for recruiting volunteers.

Continuing Concerns

- Suggestions for future programming, facilities, special events,

Events planned for 2023:

Spring			Summer		
___ Town Yard Sale	23-Apr	TBP	___ Carnival	7/12-16	TBP
___ Fairy & Pirate Festival	3-Jun	TBP	___ Concert & a Movie	4-Aug	TBP
___ Touch-a-Truck	17-Jun	TBP	___ Salsa in the Park	18-Aug	TBP
___ Mt. Olive Block Party	23-Jun	TBP	___ Food Trucks & Fireworks	26-Aug	TBP
Fall					
___ Country in the Park	23-Sep	TBP	___ Food Truck & Music Festival	4-Nov	TBP
___ Oktoberfest	7-Oct	TBP	___ Winter Festival	12/8 to 112/23	

Enclosures: Recreation's April & May Monthly Reports Minutes from April meeting
BOE report from Jennifer Aquino