

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Minutes: December 6, 2023 7pm

ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86027711103?pwd=NnV5WTh1cDg2QWFtcC81SXF0a25TUT09>

October meeting notes were distributed by email and are posted on the township's website.

Next Meetings: 7pm 2024: 2/7, 4/3, 6/5, 10/9, 12/4

In Attendance: Beth Figueria, Lauren Fitzgerald, Louis Valdes, Courtney Fulton, Karyn Norberg, Alex Roman, Jen Aquino, Liz Meininger, Jill Daggon.

Committee Reports:

- Open Space: Courtney Fulton: *Will have the year-end report after their next meeting. The engraved puncheons will be popular. They will set a location and roll out date. They will make plans for friends and family to attend/see the installation.*
- Council: Alex Roman: *Council is looking at budget concerns, anticipating lean times. There is a freeze on new capital purchases. There still may need to be a tax increase for 2024, but trying to keep it reasonable. The budget has not been introduced yet. Discussion is being held about the possibility of allowing recreational marijuana dispensaries to have a location(s) in Mt. Olive. No conclusion yet.*
- Board of Ed: Jennifer Aquino: *The News from the BOE was emailed to the committee. The referendum vote is NEXT week, 12/12. There may not be a sample ballot mailed to residents.*

Updates & New Business:

- All our members whose terms are expiring have asked to be reappointed! Yay! *The three members who will be reappointed will need to make an appointment with the Clerk's office to be sworn in, prior to the 2/7 meeting.*
- Liz Meininger is now the Deputy Recreation Supervisor, and Leah Horowitz started on 11/27 as the new Recreation Marketing Director. *We are very excited to have Leah join our team – she comes with marketing and communications expertise and a love of recreation and special events. Come meet her at the AnyWho's WinterFest! We met with the new Mayor Elect so he could meet everyone in our department and learn more about our operations.*
- Winter Programs flip book: We are only sending out the digital version <https://online.flipbuilder.com/rppx/aonj/> of the Winter Brochure, in an effort to reduce expenses for printing.
- Budget for 2024 – the goal is to not raise taxes in 2023, most capital requests have been tabled. Our budget request for funding for bands/entertainment is \$25,000. We really value and thank the town council and Mayor for providing these funds which allow us to have great entertainment at our events. We have some more sponsorships to acquire!
- Any Who's WinterFest opens on 12/8! Three weekends of whimsical fun! Friday's 12/8, 15 & 22 it is open from 4-7pm. Saturdays & Sundays 12/9 through 12/23 it is open 12pm-7pm. We have 8 sheds donated by Amish Mike for our vendors, we have the stage near a new bonfire area for performances (and an additional shed to be the "Green Room" for the performers to warm up. There are rides, food trucks, music, special guests for photo ops, and an awesome walk-through light display. We have a special surprise planned for 12/16. Tickets are on sale now - \$5 for people ages 13+ and \$15 for children ages 3-12. Guests will receive wristbands for re-entry the day they come, those that come during daylight hours can return when it is dark to walk through the light show. We would love to have volunteers – especially those that are willing to dress up! *Volunteers will receive a free wristband that will give them entre to the event so they can enjoy the event with family and friends. Friday 12/8, there will be Mt Olive groups performing on the stage – about 70 students!*
- NJLM: Jill & Liz attended the NJ League of Municipalities 11/14-16. Each day we attended interesting educational sessions, including a presentation about seasonal employees (done by NJ Wage & Hour), Using drones, safety and security at special events, caveats about social media and more.
- NJRPA Fall Workshop on Generative AI was awesome! We are using it as a brainstorming tool and planning tool. *We have not yet explored some of the other AI solutions that can edit photos and video – but we will!*
- Events: Held since our last meeting: *(All 3 events had lower than hoped for attendance, mostly due to weather influences.)*
 - 11/7 Oktoberfest rescheduled for Sunday 11/8 due to weather. (2024 will be a 2-day event!)
 - 11/15 George Ottavina Memorial Fishing Derby *This event has inspired Lt Ottavina to start a MOPD Jr Fishing Club that will work with MOMS and MOHS students to increase their opportunities and leadership skills in fishing. The Derby raised funds to allow for fish stocking in Maiers Pond in the spring. We expect the Jr Fishing Club will hold more events.*
 - 11/4 Just Jersey and JamFam Food Truck Festival *The company was very professional, and did not damage the event field. Attendance was lower than expected so the percentage of funding to support Recreation was lower than expected.*
- New events for 2024: 2/9 Latte Music: Teen Coffee House at the Senior Center 7-9:30pm. Possible event with 11th Hour Rescue, 8/17 Non-Profit Day TBP Event Field *(We will be able to have more Non-Profits participate for a longer time frame and will see what in-kind donations of activities can be arranged, as an attraction to draw people in. 8/17 is the nationally recognized Non-Profit Day, so resources may be allocated to other locations.)* Maybe an event with the Fire Marshal for Fire Prevention week 10/12, Maybe a Halloween decorating contest coordinated by volunteers and a Drive-in Movie.

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

Other:

Continuing Concerns

- Suggestions for future programming, facilities, special events,

2023 Events:

12/8 through 12/23 AnyWho's Winterfest

Events planned for 2024:

Spring			Summer		
___ Town Yard Sale	April 20	TBP	___ Carnival	7/10 to 14	TBP
___ Fairy & Pirate Festival	May 18	TBP	___ Movie in the Park	July 19	TBP
___ Event with 11 th Hour			___ Salsa in the Park	August 16	TBP
___ Touch-a-Truck	June 15	TBP	___ Non Profit Day	August 17	TBP
___ Mt. Olive Block Party	June 21	TBP	___ Food Trucks & Fireworks	August 24	TBP
Fall					
___ Country in the Park	Sept 20	TBP	___ Any Who's Winter Fest	Dec. 6, 7,8	TBP
___ Fishing Derby	Oct 20	TBP	___ Dec 13,14,15	Dec 20,21,22	
___ Oktoberfest	Oct. 5 & 6	TBP			

Enclosures: Recreation's October & November Monthly Reports
Minutes from October meeting

2024 meeting calendar 2024 Volunteer Form