

Bernards Township Recreation, Parks & Pathways Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Agenda

**Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2021 - draft**

Warren Craft Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge

The Municipal Building, 1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, is open with no state mask requirement, however, the CDC currently recommends all individuals wear masks at indoor gatherings in Somerset County.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Anna Scanniello called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
Adequate notice of this meeting was posted on the Township's website. Public Comment will be accepted at all meetings. Speakers for public comment must state his/her name and address for the record and will be limited to 5 minutes each. Cooperation in adherence to these rules of order will ensure an orderly and respectful meeting.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present:

Jim Baldassare	Jim Milito – 7:45 pm
Charles Cunio	Debbie Nungester
Nancy D'Andrea	Eric Price – 7:15 pm
Victor Hatala	Anna Scanniello

Members Absent

Goutham Puppala

Non-Members Present

Jennifer Gander, Director, Parks & Recreation
Sean O'Grady, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation
Ruth Cucinell, Recording Secretary

4. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Open Courts and Reservations at the at the Pleasant Valley Park Pickleball Courts – Committee reviewed correspondence from township residents; some in favor of open play in our PVP Pickleball Courts and others who wrote stating they want to keep the reservation system for all courts. There are 6 dedicated pickleball courts at Pleasant Valley Park. Committee suggested that since Court #1 is already a walk-on court, it will so remain a walk-on court. Courts 2, 3 and 4 could be used for open play and Courts 5 and 6 can remain as reservable courts. Committee also discussed if rules of play should be posted at the courts so that people who are new to the concept of open play can learn the procedures. Committee proposed open play time on courts #1, 2, 3 &-4 from 9 – 12 noon, all 7 days of the week. Outside of that timeframe courts 1 – 4 will be reservable. Courts #5 and #6 will remain on the reservation system.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public who wish to speak will be asked to state their name and address for the record. Each individual will be limited to five minutes.

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Nancy Cook, 44 Bullion Road, Basking Ridge, NJ
Danielle Harcourt, 11 Battle Hill Road, Basking Ridge, NJ
Tom DiDario, 9 Alder Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ
Stella Lavey, 10 Belle Grove Ct, Basking Ridge, NJ
Karen Santonastaso, 345 Mountain Rd, Basking Ridge, NJ
Elaine DiDario, 9 Alder Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ
Claudia VanLoo, 56 Ridge View Drive, Basking Ridge, NJ

Each of the above members of the public thanked the committee for addressing their interest in establishing open play time on the pickleball courts. Each resident spoke in support of having the pickleball courts available for open play rather than using a court reservation system. Nancy Cook liked the committee's proposal but suggested that the timeframe of 4pm – 7pm should be open play to accommodate pickleball players that work. Danielle Harcourt also expressed the need for open play for 4 – 7pm and added that the addition of that timeframe will work well for children who could play after school. Tom DiDario added that you can always bring your own group to play during open play but that others will be rotated in. Stella Lavey remarked that open play allows you to play by simply showing up and putting your 2 paddles together against the fence. She said that all pickleball players are familiar with that practice and know to allow for rotation of those players. Karen Santonastaso stated that open play is a better approach as pickleball is meant to be played as open play. Elaine DiDario added that all players at all levels will be allowed to play and that more people will be rotated in during open play than would be able to play during a one hour reservation. She suggested giving open play a try for the month of October and evaluate how it works. Concern to get it going now as we are losing daylight during the fall months. Claudia VanLoo stated that her experience with open play is that it is very organized organically and that the community will be enriched by it.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Designation of Schedule for Open Courts and Reservations at the Pleasant Valley Park Pickleball Courts – Jim Baldassare thanked the pickleball community for their guidance regarding how open play works, etc.

Motion made by Nancy D'Andrea that for the month of October the following pickleball court rules will be established:

- Courts 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be designated for open play from 9:00am until noon and from 4:00pm until dark, daily.
- At all other times not designated for open play, courts 2, 3, & 4 will be reservable and court 1 will remain as walk on.
- Courts 5 and 6 will remain reservable at all times.
- This system will be in place for the month of October and see how it works. Committee will review again in the Spring.

Jim Baldassare seconded the Motion. All in favor; Motion passed.

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7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS

Jennifer Gander stated the Pickleball policy will be posted on the township website and announced in the e -newsletter, Facebook page and Instagram.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Jim Baldassare; seconded by Nancy D'Andrea.
All in favor; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm