

Bernards Township Recreation, Parks & Pathways Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes - November 2, 2020 - Approved on 2/8/2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order by Anna Scanniello at 7:00 pm
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present

Nancy D’Andrea – via call-in
Victor Hatala – arrived 7:10pm
Jim Milito – via call-in
Debbie Nungester
Goutham Puppala
Anna Scanniello

Members Absent

Jim Baldassare
Charles Cunion
Ned Nelson
D.J. Salvante

Non-Members Present

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

4. **MINUTES**
 - A. Approval of August 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes – Motion made by Debbie Nungester to approve the August 3rd Meeting Minutes – seconded by Goutham Puppala. All in favor. Motion approved.
5. **CORRESPONDENCE**
 - A. Email from Elaine DiDario Regarding Pickleball – Anna Scanniello announced that all Committee members were provided a copy of the email and that the topic would be further discussed under New Business.
6. **REPORTS**
 - A. COVID-19 Operation Updates
 - Facilities –Jennifer Gander reported that all picnic shelters are currently open for rental through December 31, 2020; however, beginning today there is no grill nor water access. Due to Executive Order the capacity at each shelter has been reduced to 50 people. Picnic tables have been moved and spaced for social distancing. Restrooms at Dunham Park and Pleasant Valley Park remain open year- round. The restroom at Southard

Park is closed and portable toilet placed on premise as of today. All indoor facilities are closed until further notice.

- Programs & Events –Sean O’Grady stated we were able to run some fall programs conducted using outdoor space. Programs included ant and floor hockey, 40+ fitness, yoga, tennis and pickleball and all were well attended. Outdoor basketball clinics, tennis and pickleball lessons have been extended through second week of December. In response to our inquiry today, schools are still not allowing outside organizations to use their indoor facilities, including gyms. Should this change, the recreation basketball program could be revamped to more of a clinic-type program with safety protocols in place. Volleyball, Badminton and Open Gym may also resume if gyms become available.

- B. Facility Inspection Reports – Sean O’Grady thanked committee members who turned in facility inspection reports. Sean will compile the data and email to all committee members. A determination will be made regarding what projects can be worked on during the winter months.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Below are the names and addresses of members of the public who voiced their support for creating dedicated pickleball courts in Basking Ridge. *Below are comments made by each resident.*

Stacy Lettie – 67 Spencer Rd, Basking Ridge – stated that several area towns already have dedicated pickleball courts; the lining of existing tennis courts for pickleball play is not ideal because pickleball nets are lower and surface is different. She indicated that pickleball is part of the schools’ PE curriculum. She mentioned that 200 residents signed a petition in favor of creating dedicated pickleball courts here in town.

Karen Tenenbaum – 15 Fairview Drive South, Basking Ridge – Spoke about how “addictive” the sport of pickleball is and that it is a sport for all ages and levels of athletic ability. Would like to see dedicated pickleball courts in town.

Elaine DiDario – 46 Dyckman Pl, Basking Ridge – Interest is growing in pickleball in Basking Ridge. She appreciates that Rebel Hill Park tennis courts are lined for pickleball but feels there is a need for dedicated pickleball courts in town.

Stella Lavy – 10 Belle Grove Ct, Basking Ridge – Pickleball is an easy to learn, family oriented sport and is also great for seniors.

Nancy Cook – 44 Buillon Rd, Basking Ridge – mentioned that she and friends are now empty nesters and pickleball is great sport for them to play in spare time.

Angel Voultepsis – 22 Vanderveer Dr, Basking Ridge – Enjoys participating in the Recreation Department pickleball classes. Suggested that pickleball courts would also provide somewhere for children to meet and play pick-up games.

Todd Edelstein – Riverside Dr, Basking Ridge – Suggests a financial impact study be done prior to proceeding with construction and/or lining of tennis courts for pickleball.

Tom Didario – 46 Dyckman Pl, Basking Ridge – Enjoys playing pickleball and would like to see dedicated pickleball courts in town.

Anna Scanniello thanked everyone for their input.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Repurposing Oak Street Tennis Courts for Pickleball – Jennifer Gander stated that resurfacing of the two Oak Street tennis courts already has budget approval. Work will include crack repair and filling. Courts can be lined for 6 pickleball courts rather than two for tennis. Cost of the 6 pickleball nets will be a minimal expense.

Jennifer Gander announced that the tennis courts at Liberty Corner will be lined Thursday for pickleball so that both courts will have dual purpose. In response to a question, Jennifer stated that tennis courts are resurfaced every 5 to 7 years. Plan is for 4 tennis courts lined for both tennis and pickleball-- (2) at Rebel Hill and (2) at Liberty Corner. The two tennis courts at Oak Street can be repurposed to 6 pickleball specific courts. Discussion then ensued regarding how much the tennis courts are being used and for what sport. With the implementation of the online reservation system, we will be able to track court usage and determine how to proceed with additional lining of courts.

Motion made to Repurpose the Oak Street Tennis Courts for Pickleball made by Debbie Nungester, seconded by Goutham Puppala. All in favor. Motion approved

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. None

- 10. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS** – Jim Milito remarked that the parks are getting lots of use during this time. Jen provided more details regarding the online court reservation system which will be rolled out in a few weeks. Will begin with reservations for paddle tennis only. This will enable opportunity to work out any kinks in the system prior to opening system up to tennis and pickleball reservations. Only residents will be able to reserve court time online, with their account's username and password. Reservation receipts are available electronically accessed on phone or can be printed and brought to the court as evidence of reservation time.

- 11. MOTION TO ADJOURN** – Motion to adjourn made by Victor Hatala; seconded by Debbie Nungester. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Cucinell
Recording Secretary