

**Bernards Township Recreation, Parks & Pathways Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2021 (postponed from 2/1/2021)**

**Approved on May 3, 2021**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER - Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Jennifer Gander**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present**

Nancy D'Andrea (phone)  
Jim Milito  
Debbie Nungester  
Eric Price  
Anna Scanniello

**Members Absent**

Jim Baldassare  
Charles Cunion  
Victor Hatala  
Goutham Puppala  
D.J. Salvante

**Non-members present**

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

**4. REORGANIZATION**

- A. Nominations for 2021 Chairperson – Jim Milito made a motion to nominate Anna Scanniello for Chairperson. Seconded by Debbie Nungester. All in favor, motion approved.
- B. Nominations for 2021 Deputy Chairperson – Anna Scanniello made a motion to nominate Jim Milito for Deputy Chairperson. Seconded by Eric Price. All in favor, motion approved.

**5. MINUTES**

- A. Approval of November 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes – Motion made by Debbie Nungester to approve the November 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Jim Milito. All in favor; minutes approved.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. None

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**7. REPORTS**

**A. Programming Updates**

- Art Show & Mayor's Arts Awards Postponement – The Environmental Education Center is currently closed and is unsure of re-opening in March. They have penciled us in for the Fall. Jennifer Gander will touch base with the EEC early summer to confirm if the Art Show can be held there or if we should proceed with some type of 1-day outdoor exhibit in one of our parks.
- Winter & Spring Programs – Tennis and paddle tennis lessons are currently in progress. We could not offer basketball in the winter due to the fact that the school gyms are not available for outside organizations to use. Basketball clinics will begin in the Spring when outdoor courts can be used. Spring tennis will also be offered. It is unlikely that Charter Day will be held in 2021 due to the COVID-19 public gathering restrictions.
- Summer Programs & Events – Summer concerts, movies and Plays in the Park will be held this year. All four concert bands are booked for Tuesdays in July. If necessary, we will create a reservation system and set up traffic control to adhere to COVID-19 capacity restrictions in place at the time. Sean O'Grady stated that a modified version of our summer rec program will be offered, outdoors in our parks with modified activities. Previously hired camp counselors have been contacted to determine their interest in returning to work.

**B. Facility Status Updates**

- Regular facility status updates are sent through the Recreation e-newsletter. At the present time, all indoor facilities remain closed. March 1<sup>st</sup> is the tentative date we will begin accepting outdoor facility reservations. This date may need to be pushed back depending on the outdoor gathering restrictions in place at the time.
- Grass fields are currently closed. The turf is actively renting. Debbie Nungester inquired about possibility of clearing snow off turf. Jen responded that snow can be cleared but it is storm dependent. For recent amount of snowfall, the fields would have to be cleared continually, which would be cost prohibitive and difficult during active road clearing. Freezing issues can cause damage. During warm stretches of weather, snow can be scraped off and snow melt would also occur.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*None.*

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**9. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Approval of By-Laws for 2021 – Motion made by Jim Milito to approve the By-Laws for 2021. Seconded by Eric Price. Motion approved.
- B. Dedicated Pickleball Courts – Alternate Location – Jen Gander proposed that Pleasant Valley Park courts 7 & 8 be considered as an alternate location for the dedicated pickleball courts. Back at the November 2, 2020 meeting, a vote was taken to convert the Oak Street School tennis courts to dedicated pickleball courts. Since the meeting, the Recreation Department has received some correspondence from neighborhood residents voicing their opposition to the dedicated pickleball use for those courts due to parking limitations/concerns, etc. The Board of Education has not provided any feedback on the subject, but the lack of available parking in the area and high use during school areas is of concern.

Pleasant Valley Park's tennis courts 7 & 8 have same footprint as the Oak Street Courts and can also be converted to dedicated pickleball courts. There is more available parking at Pleasant Valley Park making it better situated for increased court capacity. Following this project, Pleasant Valley Park would offer dedicated options for all three racket sports – tennis, pickleball and paddle tennis. PVP Courts 1 – 6 would be resurfaced and lined for tennis only. Motion made by Eric Price to approve converting Pleasant Valley Park tennis courts 7 & 8 into dedicated pickleball courts. Seconded by Debbie Nungester. All in favor, motion approved.

**10. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. 2010 Master Plan Update – Parks & Recreation Element
  - Jennifer Gander emailed a copy of the current Master Plan & Needs Assessment documents to all committee members for their review. Jen led discussion on each item and will collect all comments to be forwarded in an email to the Planning Board in response to their request for comment.

**11. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

- Anna Scanniello expressed her appreciation regarding how well the park pathways have been cleared of snow. Jim Milito shared that the parks are used tremendously during the pandemic and he appreciates the cleared pathways as well.

**12. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn made by Jim Milito; seconded by Nancy D'Andrea. Motion passed.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Cucinell  
Recording Secretary