

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE JUNE 17th, 2025

TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY



**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

MEETING 7:30 P.M. *JUNE 17th, 2025*

VCC CONFERENCE ROOM

And

Via the internet, please click the link below to join the meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92273231744>

Via telephone, please dial 1(312)626-6799 or 1(646)558-8656.

Use Zoom Meeting ID 92273231744 when prompted for a Participant ID, press #

A. CALL TO ORDER

7:31 PM by CS

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. *OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE*

Read by CS

C. ROLL CALL

In attendance: CS (via zoom), CM, MP, JF, MM, SF, SC, AR, CH

D. APPROVAL OF *APRIL* MINUTES

7:33 – CS Called for a motion to approve the May 2025 minutes. The motion was approved.

E. REPORTS

1. SUB-COMMITTEE

7:34 – POOL COMMITTEE - CS reviews membership report, explains they are down, CS

brought committee attention to draft letter to town council for review.

7:36 – SC says she agrees with the draft letter, explaining it feels appropriate.

7:37 – CS explains town had asked him to come in and review letter, and that town council has seen it and they agree with 90% of it. They think non-resident fee could be adjusted. CS explains that they are looking for Dave's replacement to help pool experience. Re free FF/RS membership, they still need to discuss. CS says council had an open conversation.

7:39 – SF asks if we know whether or not surrounding town pools are run by membership board or the town? CS responds that most of the towns run their pools, but for example Paramus pool has their own board. CS stressed to council that he feels the pool should be run separately, that it is too big to be a part of Community Services and Rec Dept.

7:40 – MP asks if the surrounding towns use their town's tax revenue and budget for funding. CS responds that the administration is looking into utilities to see how they can adjust the pool structure. MP responds that the town wants it both ways...it is membership based when they want it, or town utility when they want it to be. Says hard waiting for council to pass ordinances to make changes. CS agrees, but says we are finally getting good feedback from the town council to make changes. They have finally acknowledged the financial stress of the community pool.

7:44 – Motion to use the drafted letter to the town council passes 7-0..

7:45 – FIELDS COMMITTEE- SF asks to pass due to Dave leaving and not having the information needed.

2.TOWN MANAGER delivered by Committee Chairperson

7:45 – CS explains Disability Coordinator candidate has been given offer, waiting for next steps. CS gives details on potential pool sponsorship program, gives the target number of 50K.

7:49 – MP asks if we know profit from Taylor Swift Concert. MM thinks profit is about 5K, MP asks if it was a successful event, AR explains everyone at the event loved it, members were not upset that they had to pay extra for this event tickets, MP asks if we could do more per season. CS responds that in the draft letter, we recommend more events like this. MP mentions we could bring in people who sell glow lights or balloon animals, and pool gets a portion of the sales. MM explains that the rec department heard nothing but positive and glowing responses for feedback to the Taylor Swift event.

7:53 – CH asks if we know final numbers for TS event? MM says no final number, but we do have a ball park number. JF gives quick breakdown of numbers of event to CH.

7:54 – PROGRAM FEE RECOMMENDATION STATUS – CS says town council is working through it, and will have more updates in July or August.

3.COMMUNITY AFFAIRS via Recreational Dept.

7:55 – MM - Veteran's Field – no update. Last heard had seeded field, making sure irrigation put in place from last season was still working, making some tweaks. Not sure about augmenting earth in the field. CS comments that he has seen some improvement, and hopefully as time goes on this continues.

7:57 – MM – Basketball Courts – not aware of any updates to design or the timeline. No update on this. CS believes this capital project was approved or moved to be approved? CH says it was introduced and will be discussed at an upcoming meeting June 23 agenda. CH design work will not happen until there is funding, and there is no funding yet. Possibly next spring. SF asks about pickle ball courts. MM says a tournament is upcoming. June 28th. Limited to 40 people. 45 dollars, will be divided up by skill level.

8:00 – MP asks about basketball courts at the pool, if the capital improvements are paid by the town or the pool. CH says paid by pool. MP says how is the town spending pool money when we are worried about pool's financial stability. CH says the asset has to be maintained for safety. CH says the refinishing of the basketball court is a need, not a want. Some more back and forth on this topic happens. CS adds in that draft letter mentions revenue needs to be increased to keep these maintenance issues up.

8:06 – MM Summer Camp Update – currently at 500, about 20% more registrants than before, and is a huge part of summer Rec Department responsibilities. MM says staff in place, and using same facilities as always. MM will be checking in on all locations Monday.

8:08 – MM Softball Update – Registration is open, games will start in July.

8:10 – MM Fall programming will open in mid August, communication starts early August.

8:11 – CS asks about softball...with 5-6 teams...maybe if registration starts earlier, we might get more people signing up. MM says 2 years ago there were only 6 teams, so not really losing people. But open to starting registration earlier.

8:12 – CS asks about program fee increase recommendation, and asks MM to explain how the increase in camp money would help? MM explains with more money, we could enhance program, newer equipment, but mostly have the ability to hire more staff would be the best feature.

8:18 – CS asks about the program fees updates...and if passed, would it increase the Rec Dept. budget requests based on these fees. MM says yes he would probably ask for more money, but explains these things are not linked, and that asks may not be approved. CH adds in that it would be a compromise. CFO might choose to be more conservative. This conversation continues.

4.COUNCIL LIASON REPORT

8:25 – CH reviews capital improvements introduced...Everett field...thanks work from the committee on this project. Glad council could work with parents and VBSL on this as well. Recommends communicating with township council on any concerns anyone has.

8:27 – CH mentioned affordable housing discussion is up again to meet requirements. June 23 will be a big meeting. CH also mentions security cameras brought up in capital expenditures. Agenda has not been posted yet, could change. Mentions success of pickleball court. Is glad good things have been getting done. Thursday meeting is a planning board meeting open to public and at the community service building. Housing plan is owned by the planning board, CH is but one vote.

F. OLD BUSINESS

8:31 – CS asks for any old business: no old business

G. NEW BUSINESS

8:31 – CS asks for any new business:

8:31 – CS reviews Community Affairs Director vacancy draft letter for Town Manager.

8:34 – MP asks if we can meet people who are being interviewed so we can give recommendation. CH mentions our schedule is down for the summer, it could delay things. CH says we can ask for it. Definitely. CH says to be clear, the township administration is the one who needs to okay this. CH says he might not be interested in opening this door. CH says she sees value of this. But ultimately his decision. CS says he will ask. But CS does not believe he will grant it, but happy to ask.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

8:41 – CS reads public comment statement: nobody is in online waiting room or in person to give a public comment.

I. NEXT MEETING: September 9th, 2025

J. ADJOURNMENT: 8:42 pm