

**TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY**



**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

MEETING 7:30 P.M. *JANUARY 13th, 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

7:30 PM by CS

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. *OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE*

Read by CS

C. ROLL CALL

In attendance: CS, JZ, MP, PP, NT, MD, CR, AR

D. INTRODUCTION OF “NEW” & RETURNING MEMBERS

7:31 – CS introduces names, and they give a brief introduction of themselves.

- Mike Passero

- Christopher Randion

- Janet Zales

- Nicole Tolve

- Michelle Nunez

7:34 – CS explains Nicole is currently town manager liaison, has no voting rights but now that there is a committee seat open with voting rights, CS asking for her to move over to committee.

E. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS

7:37 – MP nominates CS to serve as chairperson this year.

7:38 – CS briefly goes over what we hope to discuss this year as a committee.

7:39 – CS is voted in as committee chairperson for a one year term.

7:40 – CS asks if anyone wants to take the secretary position, nobody steps up to take it, so CS says he will set up a calendar for everyone to take turns.

F. REPORTS

1. CHAIRPERSON REPORT

7:45 – CS reviews sub committee options for members to join. Asks for people to be on 2 sub committees. Committee then goes around the table to join the committees they want to be on.

7:50 – AR asks if Disability sub committee should connect with Vince. CS asks PP to speak to that. PP says disability grant survey hasn't been started yet. CS says this in concerning.

7:52 – CS reviews “ground rules” of the committee, format and objectives to recommending policy.

2. TOWN MANAGER OR LIASON REPORT

7:53 – CS explains expectations of the town liaison report as this is the first meeting for Nicole Tolve.

3. COUNCIL LIASON REPORT

7:55 – CS explains that our council liaison, Cynthia Holland, is not in attendance because they are currently reorganizing which council member will be on which committee.

4. RECREATIONAL REPORT

7:57 – PP gives introduction of herself to new committee members. Says she has not received any specific details on 2026/2027 rec budget, but she says she has heard there may be cuts coming to all department budgets.

8:02 – CS says this is concerning to hear. CS explains how he and John worked up a huge analysis of rec program budgets and made recommendations. CS gives more details of this. JF add comments to this as well.

8:05 – AR reviews concerns of Summer Playground program is more cuts were to be made. PP gives breakdown of Summer Playground data from past seasons, some back and forth on this program in the committee.

8:09 – NT asks for more clarification on the sliding scale for rec pricing approved by council. Some discussion on how council approves rates happens.

8:10 – MP asks if we break even with Summer Playgrounds, answer is no...we are in the red.

8:12 – JZ asks how competitive we are compared to surrounding towns. JF answers we are by far the least expensive, and gives details. JZ asks why... CS answers town has never raised prices and never kept up with inflation. Some more back and forth on this topic.

8:17 – PP gives update on Winter Program. PP reads the update report she created for the town manager. PP discusses example of ski trip cost increase...from \$100-\$130 happened with no complaints. PP says Spring Program is in the works, MM working on it. PP gives Pool update. 170 sign ups so far.

8:21 – CS asks PP about the marketing group working with the town on the pool, especially for sponsorships. CS gives more details on expectations. PP gives committee insight on details happening, also says all businesses in town have been given sponsorship information. Says she has not received an overwhelming response. PP also says she has not been given any information on the marketing group working with the town.

8:26 – CS asks about the non resident pool referral, PP explains she has received a lot of call re this program, says people are ready.

8:27 – PP says no update on pool furniture. Reviews details of pool sponsorship program. MD says he does not believe this committee should be involved in driving sponsorships. Some discussion on this happens.

8:34 – JZ asks about idea of having a spring pool open house where rec programs could be highlighted. CS says this is a good idea that has been discussed in the past.

G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DEC 2025

8:36 – Approval of December minutes

H. OLD BUSINESS *no*

I. NEW BUSINESS

8:38 – CS brings up possibility of adding high school students to the committee as part of a pilot program. They would not have voting rights, but would be able to give advice and feedback. CS says getting their opinion on fields and courts would be great input. Committee likes the idea.

J. PUBLIC COMMENT

8:42 – Walter, Verona resident, re pool and scuba diving. He has someone he would like to recommend for this, he does lessons. Says a walking class at pool would be great...10 laps around the pool is 1 mile. Suggests local kids should be in charge of flower pots. Walter asks for clarification on dates for non residents to register. Suggests getting fliers to the townhomes next to pool. Walter gives idea of surrounding college sendoff parties at pool. Asks if we are tracking new kids into school system, could help us know how many coming to use rec program. Recommends a manager for the pool.

8:49 – CS gives feedback to Walter

K. NEXT MEETING February 18th, 2026

L. ADJOURNMENT 8:50 pm

