PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MEETING 7:00 P.M. March 17th, 2026

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

7:00 PM by CS

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. ***OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE***

7:00 PM Read by CS

C. ROLL CALL

In attendance: CS, MD, JZ, JF, AR, SF, CR, MP, PP, JM

D. APPROVAL OF *January 2026 and February 2026 minutes*

7:02 – CS Called for a motion to approve January 2026 and February 2026. The motion was approved. JZ, MP

E. CHAIRPERSON REPORT

- *Proposed 2026 Recreation & Pool Budget Discussion based on CFO recommendation to the Town Council.*

>CS asked why the proposed rec budget for fees is $375,000 not increased based on last year's actual number. PP replied that the idea was likely not to over-budget and come up short.

>MP stated that it was promising to see the fees that the rec dept brought in and any amount help to offset what the dept is paying.

- *Recreational Affordability Program Recommendation Letter.*

CS Presented a draft letter for the committee to review. JZ asked about families that may miss the school

>MP- Asked how many families would currently be eligible- PP responded 55 families in Verona would qualify. US Census data show about 5.3% of Verona families would qualify. PP explained the process how the process would go a little further.

>CS- Stated that this would not apply to pool memberships.

>JF, JZ Made a motion to pass the letter- Motion approved

>Pool Budget- CS presented the proposed pool budget

CS pointed out that current resident memberships may be down and a possibility to make up missing revenue could be opening up more non-resident membership

>AR asked about when splash pad payment will start, CS replied it will be next year.

>There was a discussion about the current membership numbers presented by PP. CS asked what the marketing plan is for the pool.

F. SUB-COMMITTEE EXPLORATION TOPICS & GOALS

-Parks & Facilities -

>Centennial Field- Update coming in the next month or two. MP stated that based on many factors that centennial should be turf a turf field. CS stated that in the past this committee recommended using Everett field as a pilot grass project. There was a discussion about turf vs grass and various issues around that.

>CS presented the topic of recouping fees from independent sports organizations for use of the fields. After a discussion it was decided to pass on this issue.

-Recreational Programs & Events

>Senior residents have expressed interest in some other programs. JZ provided some examples. The sub committee will look deeper into it.

>There was some discussion about mens and womens softball programs. PP said the mens programs is run through Cedar Grove Rec and the woman's is run through Verona Rec.

-Disability Programs

>Working on a few items to present soon

-Marketing/Social Media
>Presented an update from a 10/24 sub-committee report. The items still are relevant to this day. PP expressed a need to have a separate
CS- made a motion to draft a letter to the town admin to allow recreation to have its own social media presence to be able to more timely end out info. Motion passed

G. RECREATIONAL REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

>Spring Program update- Registration is live.
>Summer playground registration opens March 30th. Info will be going out soon. Rec dept is planning to have more staff, and is aware of past issues that they do their best to address

>PP sent a survey to suburban Bball and will present results. Planning a survey for summer playgrounds and pool memberships.
>Pool sponsorship are at about 30k so far.
>CS- Possibility of renting the pool parking lot. - Motion passed
>Food service contract is up after this year- Rec committee would like to see RFP before it goes out.
> Pool Furniture- Administration is asking for a blue colored table in a recycled material. AR stated that with new members coming into the pool, and paying a higher rate, there should be a good look to the pool including the furniture
>CS Made a motion to send a letter to admin about changing the table types and motion passed

H. TOWN MANAGER/LIASON REPORT

PP presented the monthly recreation report.

I. TOWN COUNCIL LIASON REPORT

JM- Nothing additional, everything has been covered

J. OLD BUSINESS

K. NEW BUSINESS

>SF expressed how Pam has done a good job. The entire committee agreed.

L. PUBLIC COMMENT

M. NEXT MEETING

-April 21, 2026 at 7pm

N. ADJOURNMENT
Motion by SF, JF