

Recreation Commission
Wednesday, August 11, 2026
6:00 PM

A meeting of the Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, August 11, 2026, at the Youth Center located on Pike Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm. The following were in attendance:

John Faggione, Director	Dawn Jones
Melissa Newhauser	Cory Puopolo, Chairman (via Phone)
Colin O'Connell, Liaison	Austin Wilson
Alphonso Jones, Youth Member	James Lynch, Youth Member

Absent: Brandy Figueroa, Vice Chair, Sean Addy, Debbie Cunningham

Public Comment

None

Youth Report

None

Approval of Report and Minutes from June 2026 and the report from July 2026.

A motion to approve the minutes and report for June and the report from July was made by Melissa and seconded by Dawn All in favor:

Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 3

New Business

John welcomed James Lynch to the meeting. John recommended that James be our newest Youth Member. James will replace Madison Dobbs as she will be attending college in the fall. A motion to appoint James as a Youth Member to the Recreation Commission was made by Melissa and seconded by Austin. All those in favor:

Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 3

39 people signed up for the Bronx Zoo trip on 8/14. The weather looks good and should be a great day.

John reviewed the updated schedule for the Youth Center for this week and the remainder of the summer.

Echo Grace Church has requested the use of the Youth Center to host a 12th Rock Locola Academy for 8-12 weeks beginning in September. The program concentrates on life skills and leadership and is held once a week for 90 minutes.

The Echo Grace church would also like to use Riverside Park on 10/24 for a Trunk or Treat.

Forward UK Soccer has requested the use of Riverside Park on Thursdays and Saturdays for their soccer program to begin on 9/10.

The Social Care Network of Orange County has requested the use of the facility to hold an informational/screening regarding services that families and individuals may be eligible for. Dawn suggested that maybe they set up a table at the Trunk or Treat to reach more families and to be more visible to the public.

A motion to approve the facility requests was made by Dawn and seconded by Austin. All those in favor:
Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 3

Mike Cordisco will be recognized at the Common Council meeting on 8/25 at 6:15 for his 40+ years of working with the Recreation Department. This was Mike's final summer with the department.

The Church Street renovation project was approved, and demo should begin next week. The expected completion date will be dependent on the weather.

Jim Farr completed the RFP for the DRI and we are waiting for the state to review and approve it.

John reviewed plans for the current skatepark at Riverside Park, which include removing it to safeguard against any kind of injury due to the condition of it. It would not make it monetarily wise to repair it to have to remove it when the DRI project will be starts in the future.

The Halloween Parade is scheduled for 10/24 with a rain date being 10/31.

The Jets Game field trip is scheduled for 10/25.

John is going to be contacting commission members to get their shirt sizes so that the commission can wear Recreation shirts to the Rec sponsored events.

The mayor has asked for 1 commission member to be a part of the BOA Committee. John will send an email to the commission with more information.

Old Business

The Food Truck Festival was cancelled on July 3rd due to extreme heat. The firework display was a hit. Next year's show is scheduled for 7/2/27.

John gave an update for the Summer Program. Church Street attendance was low as the Youth Center attendance was very high. There is a need to address safe numbers for next summer's program.

40 people attended the Mets game on 7/31 and had a great time.

The Splash Pad will be open through Labor Day and maybe longer if the weather allows it.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm was made by Melissa and seconded by Austin. All those in favor:

Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 3

NEXT MEETING
Wednesday
September 9, 2026, at 6:15PM

Director of Recreation Report July 2026

Playgrounds and Youth Center

As of July 31- we have completed 5 weeks of our 6-week summer program. Attendance at Church Street unfortunately has been very low this summer BUT the Youth Center attendance has been strong. I will have final total numbers for you in the August report. Low playground attendance can be contributed to many factors- summer school attendance is up, technology- including smart phones, tablets, video games and Wi-Fi, specialized sports camps, vacations and honestly the condition off Church St. Park complex. Parents also feel safer when their kids are supervised indoors- hence great Youth Center attendance. The supervisors- at Church St. and the Youth Center have been doing a great job managing activities and ensuring the kids are having a good time. Behavior issues with kids are addressed and handled quickly. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated staff working for the city. Summer program schedule at Church St. Park Playground ends on August 7th. The remaining Youth Center summer schedule will be as follows:

August 3-6 9:00 am- 4:00 pm

August 7 9:00 am- 12:00 pm

August 10-13 9:00 am- 2:00 pm

CLOSED August 14 (Bronx Zoo field trip)

August 17- 25 11:00 am- 3:00 pm.

CLOSED August 26- September 2.

School hours, 2:00 pm- 6:00 pm will start September 3rd.

West End Beach

The beach schedule is as follows: Monday, Thursday, and Friday 12:00 pm- 6:00 pm and weekends 11:00 am-6:00 pm. The beach is closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. On weekends we have a steady combination of beachgoers and people that park vehicles and float down the river. The parking lot is just about full every weekend.

At weekends we charge \$15 per vehicle to park (for non-residents). To date we have collected more than \$7,500 in parking fees. I will have total \$ figure for you in the August report. Most bathers, on weekends at the beach are non-residents. The beach closes for the season on August 20th.

Summer Lunch Program

The summer lunch program began on Monday, July 6th and will end on August 5th. On August 6th REC will buy pizza for the kids at both Church St. park and the Youth Center. Lunches are served at Church St. and the Youth Center at 12 noon. We serve approximately 35 lunches per day. Lunches are still available to the public- even if they don't participate in our summer program. This is the 31st summer we have participated in this program, and we have served approximately 29,000 lunches to the kids over the years. Lunches are prepared by the Port Jervis School District, and the program is funded by the New York State Education Department.

Church St. Park Splash Pad

On May 26th the Splash Pad opened for the season. The splash pad is FREE and is open daily between 11 am- 7 pm.

Special Events

Concerts in the Park- This summer we held FREE concerts at Veteran's Park. The Broome Street Wind Ensemble Band performed all three concerts.

Food Truck and Fireworks Festival Show- Unfortunately, due to extreme heat, the Food Truck Festival was cancelled on July 2nd. The city felt that this was the safest decision for everyone. The Firework Display was held on July 2 and a beautiful 20-minute show was displayed from Pt. Peter. **Mark, your calendar for July 2, 2027, for the Port Jervis Food Truck and Fireworks Festival.**

Field Trips

On July 31st 40 children and adults headed to Citi Field to see the Mets take on the Miami Marlins. After the game Citi Field had a fireworks show for the fans!

Our final field trip this summer will be to the Bronx Zoo on Friday, August 14th.

FYI-

1. Will have an update on the Riverside Park DRI in August
2. Will have an update on the CREST Grant for Church St. Park also in August
3. Rec Commission needs to discuss the current skatepark at Riverside Park at our August meeting
4. The annual NY Jets game field trip is scheduled for October 25th.
5. The Halloween Parade is scheduled for October 24, 2026. Rain date will be Saturday, October 31st.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at *6:00 pm*

Please note the time change.