Recreation Commission

Wednesday, October 21, 2026
6:15 PM

A meeting of the Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at the Youth Center located on Pike Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm. The following were in attendance:

John Faggione, Director	Dawn Jones
Ausstin Wilson, Vice Chair	Sean Addy
Melissa Newhauser	Brandy Figueroa
Alphonso Jones, Youth Member	James Lynch, Youth Member

Absent: Cory Puopolo, Chairman, Colin O'Connell, Liaison, Debbie Cunningham

Public Comment
None

* Councilman Vicchiariello discussed the proposed the new peddlers license fees for 2027. The Code Committee will decide on the new fees by the end of the year.

Youth Report
Sports teams have been celebrating senior nights. Homecoming was last weekend.

Approval of Report and Minutes from September 2026.
A motion to approve the minutes and report for September was made by Brandy and seconded by Austin. All in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

New Business
The 78th Halloween Parade start time is 3:30pm on October 24th, line-up begins at 3 pm. Volunteers are asked to be there at 3pm. Volunteers are still needed. There will be a trunk or treat at Riverside Park after the parade sponsored by Echo Grace Church.

The Jets game field trip is sold out with 51 people. Participants are leaving at 7am on 10/25 and expected to return around 7pm.

The Locola Academy, scheduled to use the Youth Center for a 6-week course cancelled due to lack of interest.

The Rec Depts. Little Chefs classes will be held (11/7, 11/14, 11/21) for kids ages 10-13. The class will be a 3-hour class. It is open to 10 children and will be $50/person. Registration will be October 27-28-29 at the Youth Center.

DECA will be having their Christmas party at the Youth Center on 12/11 with a snow date of 12/18.

The Port Polar Plunge is scheduled for 1/9 with a snow date of 1/16. More information to follow at November's meeting.

There will be a NJ Devil's hockey field trip on 2/20. There are 14 seats left.

The ACT group has submitted their Youth Center facility request for 2027 through their attorney. John sent his response to the request, with many changes to our attorney review. He will keep everyone updates after hearing from the attorney.

A new storage shed for West End Beach was purchased and delivered to the beach with leftover money from the beach CREST grant.

Church Street renovation project- the lower level, has been gutted, new concrete retaining walls have replaced the old railroad tie retaining walls and construction will begin the week of 10/26 with an anticipated completion date in Spring 2027. We did have a change order to the project at an additional cost of $15,000. This order was to replace both entrance ramps into the lower section- one from Church St. and one from Seward Ave. These originally were to remain but after the retaining walls were replaced the ramps became necessary to replace them as well. No construction will take place over the winter.

John gave a DRI at Riverside update. The sub-committee is reviewing the 10 RFPs for design and engineering services that were submitted on October 8. The DRI Riverside Park sub-committee will narrow down to approximately 4 and then interview each firm. A recommendation will then be made to the Common Council.

Old Business

The Big Orange 10M and 10K went well with 120 participants. Feedback was positive and the Orange Runners Club would like to hold this event again in 2027 on October 17, 2027.

The single speed bike race, held 10/8-10/12, was a huge success.

The PJPD Harvest Festival at Riverside Park on October 3 went well.

John gave the Youth Center update. The total attendance since January 1 stands at 4,874. There will be a Halloween party on 10/30.

Austin mentioned that the school district will be hosting this year's Special Olympics on 5/1. Volunteers are needed.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17pm was made by Melissa and seconded by Austin. All those in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday

*November 18, 2026, at 6:15PM

* This will be the last meeting for 2026. Elections will be held.

Director of Recreation Report
October 2026

78th Halloween Parade

The 78th Halloween Parade was held on Saturday, October 24, 2026. We had a beautiful day for a parade with approximately 250- 300 participants and volunteers! Thank you to Elks Lodge #645 for cosponsoring the parade and supplying the candy and awards! Thank you also to Shoprite of Westfall for donating apple cider and donuts. Of course, we couldn't have the parade without the help of PJPD, PJ Ambulance Corp and PJ Rec Maintenance crew and Recreation Commission. Pictures from the parade can be found on our Facebook page- Port Jervis Recreation. See everyone next year at the 79th parade on October 30, 2027.

Youth/Community Center

The Youth Center is now operating on its new fall/winter schedule. The recreation room is open Monday- Thursday 2:00pm-6:00pm and Fridays 2:00 pm- 5:30 pm. . We average 27 students per day, and our overall attendance is at 4,874 students for year. We had a Halloween dance party with pizza and candy on October 30.

The following are changes made to the Youth Center Schedule:
Election Day- Nov. 3rd- CLOSED- RECREATION OFFICE IS OPEN
Veteran's Day Nov.11th – CLOSED.
November 23-24- TBD (PJ schools have ½ days)
November 25th- 27th – CLOSED for Thanksgiving Break.

Little Chefs PJ Rec

Our cooking program will be held November 7, 14,21 at the Youth Center. This class is for kids ages 10-13 and costs $50. Only 10 spots are available for this class. Registration was held at the Youth Center October 27-28-29 at 5 pm.

Parks/Playgrounds

Parks and Playgrounds are in the process of being winterized. The bathrooms at Riverside Park and West End have been or will be winterized soon. We will keep Church St. bathrooms open as long as possible as construction continues. Swings, picnic tables and garbage cans will slowly be removed and stored for the winter- this will be completed by or around Thanksgiving.

Church Street Renovation Project

The lower level has been gutted, new concrete retaining walls on the tennis courts and basketball court sides have replaced the old railroad retaining walls and construction will begin the week of 10/26 with an anticipated completion date in Spring 2027. We did have a change order to the project at an additional cost of $15,000. This order was to replace both entrance ramps into the lower section- one from Church St. and one from Seward Ave. These originally were to remain but after the retaining walls were replaced the ramps became necessary to replace them as well. No construction will take place over the winter.

Riverside Park DRI
The DRI Riverside Park sub-committee is reviewing the 10 RFPs for design and engineering services that were submitted on October 8. The DRI Riverside Park sub-committee will narrow down to approximately 4 and then interview each firm. A recommendation will then be made to the Common Council.

2027 Proposed Recreation Budget-
The 2027 Recreation budget has been submitted. The Rec Dept has asked the City Council and Mayor for additional funding to refurbish the floors on the 2nd floor of the Youth/Community Center, purchase a new Z-TURN mower and seal the pump track at Riverside Park John is attending the finance committee meeting in October.

FYI.

1. NY Jets football game field trip was held on October 25. The trip was sold out with 51 people, and all had a great time
2. No Fall Clean-Up this year due to scheduling conflicts.
3. **Recreation Commission elections to be held at the November meeting on November 17th .**
4. Port Polar Plunge at West End Beach to be held Saturday January 9, 2027 at 9 am.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday November 17, 2026- 6:15 pm