

Recreation Commission
Wednesday, September 18, 2024
6:15pm

A meeting of the Port Jervis Recreation Department was held Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 6:15pm. The meeting was called to order at 6:19pm. The following were in attendance:

John Faggione, Director	Dawn Jones
Brandy Figueroa, Chairperson	Melissa Newhauser
Cory Puopolo, Vice Chair	Stan Buczek
Ayden Smedley, Youth Member	Debbie Cunningham

Absent: Sean Addy, Neshawn Campbell, Youth Member

Public Comment:

None

Public Hearing:

None

Approval of Reports and Minutes from August 2024 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes and report from August was made by Dawn and seconded by Melissa. All those in favor:

Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Absent: 1

Executive Session:

None

New Business:

John introduced Ayden Smedley as our new Recreation Youth Member. Ayden is a Senior and has been volunteering at the Youth Center for several months.

John has submitted his application to be a work site for the Youth Employment Program. He is hoping to have Ayden be employed through this program so she can continue her time at the Youth Center.

The Youth Center has started its school schedule and operates Monday-Friday 2-6pm. A bus from the Middle School runs daily. There is a plan to establish teen night in October for grades 6-8.

The 2025 Youth Center funding application is due 10/11.

John met a representative from Lowe's to discuss donations from the Lowe's Project and how they should be used. He is hoping to make a few improvements to the smaller parks.

There are a few Jets game tickets available. It is \$250 per person. Price includes the ticket, transportation, and tailgating. The Devils game is scheduled for January 18th. Tickets have not been advertised yet.

The Fall Harvest, hosted by the police department, will be held on 10/12 at Riverside Park from 12-3.

The Halloween Parade is scheduled for 10/26 with 10/27 as a rain date. Volunteers are needed.

Volunteers are needed for the Fall Clean Up on 11/9. John would like to get Veteran's Park ready for the parade on Veteran's Day.

The city has hired a new Clerk Treasurer. John will keep everyone updated as the hearings for the 2025 budget take place.

Stump removals, at multiple locations, have started this week. New signs have been made for Riverside Park, Farnum Park, Mother's Park, John Glenn Park, and Barclay Street Park. Unfortunately, there has been some damage done to a slide and swing set at Barclay Street Park. Snow fencing has been used to keep the public from using the equipment. John is hoping to have the equipment repaired in house.

The grant from Orange County will be used for updates to the campground at Elks Brox Park.

The Fall Foliage Festival is on 9/25 10am-5pm.

Old Business:

The bathhouse at West End Beach will be repaired rather than rebuilt. The insurance of the person responsible for the damage should cover the cost. Parking fees at West End Beach were over \$10,000. It was a busy summer.

The updates at Veteran's Park have started and it is expected to be complete by the Veteran's Day Parade.

A 3rd version of splash pad plans has been submitted and John will keep everyone updated.

There is no update regarding Church Street repairs and DRI information.

John gave an update on the attendance at the Youth Center. 20-25 children attend daily.

Youth Report:

There will be a bonfire on 9/19 at 7pm. The Bell Game is on 9/21 at 1pm in Middletown. Homecoming is on 10/4. Spirit Week is 9/30-10/4.

Public Comment:

None

**Next Meeting- Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at
6: 15 pm at the Youth Center**

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 was made by Dawn and seconded by Cory. All those in favor:

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Absent: 1

Director of Recreation Report September 2024

Fall Harvest at Riverside Park

The PJPD and Recreation Department's Fall Harvest event will be held on Saturday October 12, 2024, at Riverside Park between 12 pm- 3 pm. The Fall Harvest will have hayrides, pumpkin picking, fire pit with smores, information booths and more. This is a FREE event and has quickly become very popular here in Port Jervis.

76th Halloween Parade

The 76th Annual Halloween Parade is scheduled for Saturday, October 26th. A rain date/ snow date is scheduled for Sunday, October 27th. The line-up will be at City Hall at 3:00pm and the parade will kick off will be at 3:30pm. Once again, the Elks will be cohosting this event and will be awarding prizes for costumes and handing out candy to the participants. Refreshments will be offered at the conclusion of the parade. The parade starts on Hammond St., in front of City Hall and ends at Farnum Park.

Fall Clean-up

This year's fall clean-up is scheduled for Saturday November 9, 2024, at 10:00 am. All volunteers are being asked to report to Veterans Park at Orange Square. If we have a large turnout, we will send small groups to Farnum Park and possibly Church St. Park. If you would like to volunteer or know anyone that might be interested, please notify the Recreation office.

5th Port Jervis Stone Challenge- sponsored by the Outdoor Club of Port Jervis

This event is back for the 5th time with some new additions. The event will be held Sunday, November 3rd at Elks-Brox Park and offers two courses this year. There will be a 2-mile course and a more advanced 4-mile course. Information can be found on the Outdoor Club of Port Jervis Facebook page and registration is now open. The Rec. Dept. will be meeting with the OCOPJ in early October to go over details for this year's race.

Youth Center

The Youth Center has applied with Orange County to be a host worksite for the school year Youth Employment Program (YEP). This program will place a PJHS student with us in the Recreation Room and help us with the kids after school. The YEP student will work 15 hours per week and are paid by the county. This is a win-win for the Youth Center.

We are also in the process of submitting our 2025 Youth Bureau funding application. This application is due in Goshen by October 11.

The Youth/Community Center Recreation Room is now open under its Fall hours. The Rec Room is open 2:00pm-6:00pm. Our NEW middle school bus run has proven a success with close to 8 MS students coming off the bus each day. Overall attendance has been steady- averaging between 25-30 students per day.

Parks

Parks remain open for the season. Fall is one of the best times of the year to visit the parks. Elks-Brox Park is open daily and will remain open year-round (the vehicle gate will be closed when winter weather arrives). Swings, tennis nets and picnic tables will remain in the parks until the end of October or early November as well.

Thanks to help from the DPW we removed more than 20 tree stumps that were in our parks. Stumps were in Farnum Park, Barclay St. Park, Mothers Park, John Glen Park. We are working with LOWES to help give Barclay St. Park a sprucing up. John met with a LOWES representative, and they discussed ideas on how to improve the park. More to follow on this project next month.

We are in the process of replacing our park signs with new updates signs. So far, we have replaced or are replacing the following- Farnum park, Riverside Park, Mothers Park, Barclay St. Park, John Glen Park.

The new stage and pavilion are being built at Veteran's Park at Orange Square. The DPW crew is doing a great job, and it will be completed soon.

Watershed Trails

We received a \$5000 grant from Orange County, and we will use this money for improvements to the campground in Elks-Brox Park. I will be coordinating with the OCOPJ on this project.

This is the best time of the year to explore the Watershed Trails either on foot or on bike. Cooler temperatures and fall foliage make for ideal hiking or biking conditions. There are trails for beginners all the way up to advanced. Remember to pack in and pack out- leave only footprints and tire treads. Help us keep our parks clean.

2025 Parks and Recreation Budget

We are currently working on the 2025 Rec Budget. I anticipate Common Council budget hearings in late October or November. I will keep the Commission updated on these hearings.

NY Jets Football game

We had 44 people attend our annual trip to see the NY Jets at Met Life Stadium on September 29th. This trip has become one of our most popular trips!

FYI.

1. Welcome to our newest Youth Commission member- Ayden Smedley. Ayden is a senior at PJHS, and we are happy to have her on our commission.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 16, at 6:15 pm at the Youth Center.

