

Recreation Commission
Wednesday, September 10, 2025
6:15pm

A meeting of the Port Jervis Recreation Department was held Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 6:15pm. The meeting was called to order at 6:12pm. The following were in attendance:

John Faggione, Director	Colin O'Connel, Liaison
Melissa Newhauser, Chairperson	Dawn Jones
Sean Addy, Vice Chair	Austin Wilson
Madison Dobbs, Youth Member	Debbie Cunningham
Alphonso Jones, Youth Member	

Absent: Cory Puopolo, Brandy Figueroa

Public Comment:

None

Public Hearing:

None

Approval of Reports and Minutes from August 2025 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes and report from August was made by Melissa and seconded by Dawn.

All those in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

Executive Session:

None

New Business:

John introduced Alphonso Jones and Madison Dobbs as our new Recreation Youth Members.

The splash pad will be closing for the season on 9/22. Signs for closure have been ordered.

The Fall Harvest Festival will be held at Riverside Park on October 11th.

The Outdoor Club is planning a 10-year celebration for the trails.

Volunteers will be needed for the Big Orange Ten on October 19th. Volunteers will be needed for the water stations and at the start and finish line. John will be having another meeting before the event and will have more details of what will be needed.

The Halloween Parade is scheduled for 10/25. Volunteers are needed. John asked the youth members to recruit fellow students to help with the spacing in the parade. The Trunk or Treat will be held at Riverside Park after the parade.

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

Director of Recreation Report September 2025

1st Big Orange 10 Mile Race

On Sunday, October 19, 2025, the City of Port Jervis along with the Orange Runners Club will be sponsoring the 1st Big Orange 10 Mile Race. This race is a 10-mile run or 10K walk. The race will start and end at the PJ High School track and will run through all 4 wards of Port Jervis! This is the 1st of what we all hope to be an annual event here in Port Jervis!

77th Halloween Parade

The 77th Annual Halloween Parade is scheduled for Saturday, October 25th. A rain date/snow date is scheduled for Sunday, October 26th. The line-up will be at City Hall at 3:00pm and the parade will kick off 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 end of the parade. The parade starts on Hammond St., in front of City Hall and ends at Farnum Park.

Little Chefs Cooking Class

Our fall classes will start on October 25, 2025. Classes are held Saturday mornings between 10 am- 12 pm at the Youth Center. Classes are for kids ages 10-13 and cost \$50 per child. Classes will run through November 22. Class size is 10 students.

7th and FINAL Port Jervis Stone Challenge- sponsored by the Outdoor Club of Port Jervis

This event is back for the 7th time with some new additions. The event will be held on Sunday, November 2nd 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.

Fall Clean-up

This year's fall clean-up is scheduled for Saturday November 8, 2025, at 10:00 am. All volunteers are being asked to report to Veterans Park at Orange Square. If you would like to volunteer or know anyone that might be interested, please notify the Recreation office.

Youth Center

The Youth/Community Center Recreation Room is now open during its Fall hours. The Rec Room is open Monday- Thursday 2:00pm-6:00pm and Fridays 2pm-5:30pm Overall attendance has been steady- averaging between 25-30 students per day. On Thursday October 30 we are planning a Halloween party for our kids in grades 6-7-8. The party is planned for 6 pm- 8 pm.

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. The Splash Pad at Church St. Park CLOSED for the season On September 22. It will reopen in the late spring 2026.

Watershed Trails

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.

2026 Parks and Recreation Budget

The proposed 2026 Recreation Budget was submitted to the Clerks Office on September 12. I will keep the Commission updated on public hearing dates.

NY Jets Football game

We have 49 people signed up to attend our annual trip to see the NY Jets at Met Life Stadium on October 5th. This trip has become one of our most popular trips!

FYI.

1. Welcome to our newest Youth Commission members- Madison Dobbs and Alphonso Jones. Madison is in her senior year, and Alphonso is in his sophomore year. Both are active in their school and community. We are looking forward to working with them this year,

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 8, at 6:15 pm at the Youth Center.