

Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Attendees: Chris Schaffer, Diane Doherty, Luca Petriello, Sal Petriello, Lauren Romano, Cyndee Solomon, Candace Coleman, Dan Posternock, Dave Zipin, Joe Horwitz, Lenny Wagner, Theresa Miller, Pat McGlone, Jessica Vosbikian, Tamera Johns, Mike Miceli, Joshua Bowers.

Absent: Danielle Miller

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Minutes from 11/7/23 meeting were confirmed with no changes.
3. Chairman's Report – Chris Schaffer – nothing to report
4. Guest Speaker: Wolf Skacal from Sustainable Moorestown: this group is about improving and maintaining the way of life that residents of Moorestown have come to know and value in our community. They are guided by Sustainable Jersey; a group with 466 registered municipalities. There are 196 certified municipalities in this group and there are various levels of certification. A community becomes certified by receiving credits for completing certain actions specified by the state group. Moorestown is currently one of 70 communities certified at the silver level. A handout with screenshots from the Sustainable Jersey website was reviewed. Dave Hess (not present) is a member of Sustainable Moorestown who is very involved in submitting documentation to Sustainable Jersey to qualify for these credits. He writes up the process followed for the action, submits photos, brochures or handouts or shares social media posts that give details of what has been done. It is this documentation that Sustainable Jersey considers in awarding the credits. Some categories Wolf considers relevant to the Rec Advisory Committee for input are Arts and Creative Culture, Health and Wellness and Land Use and Transportation. The bike path and pedestrian access survey (see handout) was done by Sustainable Moorestown and indicates that residents surveyed would like to see better access to recreational areas and shopping areas. Also pertinent to the RAC, some health and wellness examples would be safe routes to school (ties in with pedestrian access) and the free fitness classes currently being offered at the Rec Center. Theresa explained that the Rec Dept was originally given a \$3000 donation from Reconstructive Orthopedics to offer these classes for free and they just received a \$3000 donation from an anonymous donor to continue these classes. The rooftop garden (on the top of the Township Building) is an example of an innovative project done by members of Sustainable Moorestown that meets the requirements for credits. Wolf said Sustainable Jersey keeps raising the bar to meet their credits/points needed for certification. Some things Moorestown has done in the past need to be re-worked to continue to meet their requirements. He agreed that they can try to submit documentation for the Rec fitness classes that Theresa talked about. The members of the RAC have been asked to review the Sustainable Jersey website to see what ideas for projects/actions we have. We will be prepared to discuss our thoughts at the February meeting. We can also see what other towns have done while on this website.

Wolf's best example of a gold level municipality is Woodbridge NJ (there are 4 or 5 municipalities at gold level – none in South Jersey.) Woodbridge has a dedicated staff to work on Sustainable issues.

The deadlines to submit documentation for points/credits this year are: 2/25/24. 5/10/24 and 7/23/24 (?)

Chris and Theresa suggested that Wolf and Dave talk to Matt Johnson, the Burlington County Coordinator of Open Space, about the trails he proposes adding in Moorestown. Chris also discussed the trail around Strawbridge Lake that he has been asking the township to consider completing. This trail could be extended to go along the route 38 side of the lake and connect to a crosswalk at the corner of 38 and Nixon Drive. This project could fit in with the goals of Sustainable Moorestown.

An electric vehicle charging station is an example of something that can get the township up to the gold level (but this is not a RAC issue.) 300 points are needed for silver status and this status lasts for three years (on a rolling basis.) The township needs to be involved in the action/effort in order to get credit for the submission.

5. Committee Reports:

Special Needs: Diane – the next SpEAC meeting will be Thursday 1/25/24 and Theresa will be a guest speaker there. A Disney themed Family Game Night is scheduled for Friday 2/23/24 at the 3rd floor of the Rec Center. All people with special needs and their families are welcome and registration is open. Theresa will send out an email for volunteer signups.

SLBC: Lenny – the annual kayak and paddleboard race is schedule for Saturday 6/8/24. 15 students at MHS signed up to help but more volunteers are needed.

MoorArts: Candace – the Holiday Arts Festival was a big success. It was held after the Lions Parade in December. The MoorArts Gala is February 3rd at the Community House; tickets are available and all proceeds benefit the arts programs within the community.

Teens: Luca – he is organizing a sports equipment drive to benefit people here in Moorestown as well as Level the Playing Field (a national group.) He will be getting dates and times for the collection as well as the distribution and sharing those with the group. This may become an annual drive and be turned over to the next group of teen RAC members. They may also have this event two seasons per year to collect for different sports closer to their playing seasons. Volunteers will be needed to set up collection bins, sort and clear the items donated and then hold a distribution day. Collection will most likely begin in early February and distribution would be held approximately two weeks after the collection is complete. The subcommittee working with Lucas will be the other teen RAC members. Diane will get large boxes to hold the collected items.

6. Goals of the Recreation Advisory Committee will be discussed at the February meeting.

7. Director's Report: Theresa – All Winter programs are in progress at this time. \$2100 in rec scholarships have already been given out this year. The money collected from the Charity Bowl was split with MEND and the recreation department received \$8000 from this.

Improv Theatre started in mid-January. Summer camp job and CIT applications are now being accepted; the deadline to apply is 3/8/24. Pat suggested that the rec dept hold learn to knit

classes and Theresa said that the library has these classes and they coordinate with the library so there is no duplication of these programs.

Theresa will be meeting with the various sports group presidents in early March. They would like to install a nice storage area or building. Turfing the upper grass field at Wesley Bishop is included in the Master Plan for the Parks and Rec Dept.

They are upcoming virtual meeting for the Yancy Adams Park committee.

Breakfast Rotary has adopted Jeff Young Park.

They are hoping to construct two new tennis courts at Fullerton Park in 2024 (and maybe new lighting as well.)

8. Old Business: Sal has researched running a ski trip and has found it would not be cost effective due to the price of bus rentals. He will be looking at other family outing ideas.
9. New Business: We will be re-nominating or nominating group officers at the February meeting. Chris said there are beavers damming up an area and doing damage at Swedes Run. Theresa said this is an issue for Public Works.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.