

Recreation Commission
Wednesday, November 13, 2024
6:15pm

A meeting of the Port Jervis Recreation Department was held Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 6:15pm. The meeting was called to order at 6:20pm. The following were in attendance:

John Faggione, Director	Dawn Jones
Brandy Figueroa, Chairperson	Melissa Newhauser
Cory Puopolo, Vice Chair	Sean Addy
Ayden Smedley, Youth Member	Debbie Cunningham
Nashawn Campbell, Youth Member	

Absent: Stan Buczek

Public Comment:

None

Public Hearing:

None

Approval of Report from October 2024 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes and report from October was made by Dawn and seconded by Brandy.

All those in favor:

Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Absent: 1

Executive Session:

None

New Business:

John reviewed the Youth Center schedule for Thanksgiving and Christmas break. He will let everyone know if there are any changes.

Adult Basketball will be held on Sunday mornings at the Middle School gym 9am-11:30pm. This is open to PJSD residents only for men and women 21 and over. Proof of residency is required. This will be a free program. This program will begin December 1st and run until March.

The Polar Plunge is scheduled for 1/11/25 at 9am at West End Beach. 1/18 will be the snow date. Volunteers are needed.

The NJ Devils Game is scheduled for 1/18. It is a 12:30pm game. Tickets are \$140. John has sold 26/35 tickets.

The annual Chair and Vice Chair elections were held. Melissa Hernandez was nominated to be the Chairperson and Sean Addy was nominated to be the vice chair. All those in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 (For Melissa)

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 (For Sean)

Old Business:

The 76th Halloween Parade went well. It was a beautiful day with a great turnout.

The Stone Challenge on 11/3 had 140 participants. Great day.

There was a small group for the clean up on 11/9. Thank you to the volunteers.

John has submitted the 2025 proposed budget. The mayor has published his own budget for the public. The city will be floating a bond to cover the revitalization of Church St.

John is going to meet with the mayor to discuss finding avenues for funding a new Rec Center.

The city is waiting for the insurance money to begin working on the bathhouse at West End Beach.

Mike Ward and John bought equipment to make improvements at the campgrounds at Elks Brox part with the Orange County grant funds.

John met with the representative from Lowes that is donating money to make improvements at Barclay Street Park. There will be new fencing and benches.

The stage, lighting, and sound are almost done at Veteran's Park.

The Splash Pad Project will be moving forward and will include a new ramp and pavilion. John and the Mayor intend to speak to Senator Skoufis to secure funding.

John would like the commission to also be a subcommittee to give their input for the revitalization of Riverside Park. This meeting can take place before or after the Rec Commission meeting.

The Little Chefs Program started on 10/26. 8 kids are participating, and it is going well.

Ayden Smedley has been hired to work as a Recreation Leader in the Rec Room through the county's Youth Employment Program.

John gave an update on the attendance at the Youth Center. There has been a total of 4,709 kids this year. 20-25 children attend daily.

Youth Report:

The Senior trip has been decided and they will be going to Universal. The Football Sections game will be 11/16. Winter sports will start on 11/18.

Public Comment:

None

Next Meeting- Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 6: 15 pm at the Youth Center

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 was made by Brandy and seconded by Dawn. All those in favor:

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Absent: 1

**Director of Recreation Report
November 2024**

Youth Center

Attendance:

For the month of November our attendance is as follows: Total attendance- 157. Total for the year 4,709, Averaging 25- 27 kids per day.

The Youth Center schedule is as follows Monday- Friday 2:00pm-6:00pm.

The Youth Center will be 11-3pm 11/25 and 11/26 and will be closed 11/27-11/29.

DECA- from the PJ High School is once again holding their annual Christmas party- at the Youth Center for disadvantaged children on Friday December 20th between 6 pm- 8 pm.

Santa's Toy Box- for the PJ Elks Lodge

The Recreation Department will once again be participating in the annual Holiday Toy Drive. New toys only may be dropped off at the Youth Center Monday-Friday 2:00pm-6:00pm or drop off arrangements can be made by calling the Rec. Office. The Holiday Toy Drive will start on Monday, December 2, 2024, and will end on Friday, December 15th. Collected toys will be donated to the Elks and distributed to local children. Any toys/gifts that the Elks can't use will go to the Salvation Army.

NOTE: All of the toys we collect go DIRECTLY to the children of the tri-state area. We deliver them to the Elks Club for their annual Youth Christmas events. Also, if you can't drop off toys during the week you can contact the Recreation office and we can arrange a drop off time.

Elks-Brox Park and Watershed Park Trails- Trails remain open for hiking and biking. Even though hunting and fishing are prohibited in the City Parks and Trails- we are still encouraging all trail goers to wear bright clothing. We have also posted signs at the trailhead locations at Reservoir #1, Elks-Brox Park and off Boxbaum Road to remind trail users to wear bright clothing and be aware of surrounding. To all trail goers remember- pack in and pack out leave only footprints and tire treads. Help us keep the trails safe and clean!

New Jersey Devils Hockey Game Trip

The Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to see the NJ Devils on Saturday, January 18, 2025. The Devils will be taking on the Philadelphia Flyers in a 12:30 pm game. The cost for transportation and tickets to the game is \$140 per person. Limited tickets are available.

FYI

1. Our Fall Clean held on November 9th was successful. With the help of our maintenance crew, we were able to beautify Veteran's Park for the Veteran's Day Ceremony.
2. Annual Recreation Commission Chair and Vice-Chair elections were held at our November 13th meeting and congratulations to Melissa Newhauser and Sean Addy for being elected as chairman and vice-chairman for 2025.
3. The 6th annual PJ Stone Challenge was held on November 3, 2024. There was a great turnout (more than 140 participants) from all ages.
4. The lights at Church St. are on timers. Church Street basketball courts will remain open until the first snowfall.
5. The 6th Annual Port Polar Plunge at West End Beach will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at 9 am. You can register for this event at- <https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/PortJervis/PortPolarPlunge>.
6. As always for more information about any Rec. Program or if you have a question email us at recreationdirector@portjervisny.gov. OR check our Facebook page at Port Jervis Recreation.
7. **There will be no Recreation Commission meeting in the month of December.**
The next meeting is scheduled for:

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 6:15pm at the Youth Center.

*The Recreation Department would
like to wish everyone a
Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!*