



Recreation Meeting Minutes September 9, 2025

Don Bogardus	Chairperson	Present
Kelly Eller	Vice Chairperson	Present
Lynn Apolinaro	Member	Present
Vacant	Member	
Cathy Cobo	Member	Present
Donna Koenig	Member	Absent (excused)
Vacant	Member	
Vacant	Alternate #1	
Vacant	Alternate #2	
Cris Franco	Council Liaison	Present

Also present was Debbie Armeno, Director of Recreation and Mayor Alex Rubenstein.

The Recreation Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., all stood for the flag salute, and a moment of silence.

The Recreation Chairperson asked the Director of Recreation to take roll call as we began the meeting. Due to the Mayors' time constraints of another meeting the agenda was moved around to accommodate this. The Recreation Chairperson began the discussion with price quotes, for fireworks and D.J and how we should use this process to perhaps save money, it was explained we do this process already. Vice Chair Kelly Eller spoke on the use of sponsorships and the mayor explained that this process is very drawn out and would encompass us having to open to everyone and could be daunting. Lively discussion ensued and discussing Byram Fest began that perhaps it should be 1 hour shorter, which will bring the cost down, everyone was extremely pleased with the turn out, and all that was offered and we continue to collect many accolades on a great day. Only downfall was parking and the lack of direction for people to park and some left. It was also noted a lot had left prior to the Fireworks display. Debbie brought up the AAR report that will need to be completed and that surveys were sent to venders and non for profits for their input. We further discussed the budget and the committee asked that the budget be raised from \$28,000.00 from 2025 to \$35,000.00 in 2026. The increase is due to inflation, tariffs,

and adding a new event in the Fall season while keeping the events that have been popular and fun for the Community. The mayor explained that the Committee can ask for a number, but it will be up to Township Manager and Council Budget workshops and approval based on other department requests and funds that will be available. The mayor did suggest NJDEP and Highlands grants that may apply to Recreation.

Mayor Rubenstein mentioned that we have been approved for a \$300K grant from Cory Bookers office towards the COJ Fieldhouse this will be contingent on if this grant is funded on the Federal level. COJ was pre-approved for a DEP grant for walking paths and other improvements to include the dog park.

At this point the mayor left the meeting at 7:50 pm and we continued with the regular agenda

Recreation Chairperson asked for action on August 13, 2025 minutes, Lynn Apolinaro made a motion to accept, Cathy Cobo seconded, all were in favor.

Recreation Director introduced Marista Barosi of 18 Lynn Drive as a potential new member for the Rec Committee to meet. She told the Committee about her and why she wishes to volunteer on the Committee, discussion ensued, and the Rec Committee is recommending her to the Mayor and Council for appointment.

Council Women Franco gave her report, she spoke on Field 8 is coming along and the work on funding stuff is done for COJ.

Recreation Director gave her report, she reported on:

BYRAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT- DIRECTOR OF RECREATION DEBBIE ARMENO

REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 MEETING

1. FALL BROCHURE

- a. Handed out at Byram Fest
- b. Placed at businesses in Byram
 - i. Daycare

- ii. Primo Hoagies
- iii. Dryer Physical Therapy
- iv. Landon Maxwell Barber
- v. Cranberry Deli
- vi. Sunny Paws
- vii. Mosaico Tavern
- viii. Stonewood
- ix. Kessler Physical Therapy
- x. Neck and Back Pain
- xi. Urgent Care
- xii. Leggo my Bagel
- xiii. Liquor Factory
- xiv. Animal Hospital
- xv. Senior Meeting/Exercise

c. Sent home to the Byram Lakes School children on Friday.

d. I will take to the BIS back to school night on 9/18.

2. PROGRAM SIGN UPS

a. We have sold out on the Rockettes trip we have 2 buses

b. We have 27 tickets left to fill bus #2 for Lion King.

c. We have 3 tickets sold for NJ Devils

d. We have 3 enrolled so far in Karate

e. We have 5 enrolled in Mini Movers

f. We have 10 enrolled in line dance/fusion

g. Chef it Up

i. Session #1 5

ii. Session #2 6

iii. Session #3 4

h. Golf is gearing up for October lessons and

Tennis/Pickleball will have October lessons too.

3. 2026 Ski Club

a. Flyer and packets are out, and we have 1 signed up already

b. Parents meeting set up for October 9 at 7:30 pm

- c. All chaperones from last year are returning
 - d. Jennifer S is our advisor again.
- 4. Halloween Decorating contest will be in full swing soon
- 5. Halloween Costume Swap flyers out
- 6. Fall townwide Garage Sale sign ups are going well. People are happy we added the Fall season.
- 7. I am working on some Winter items-
 - a. Holiday Decorating contest
 - b. Tree Lighting
 - c. Family fun night- maybe movie or some entertainment
- 8. Budget is a little tight rest of the year, I have charges some stuff to Municipal Alliance so that frees up some money for us to use for some events.

Recreation Chairperson asked for any announcements and any agenda topics for our next meeting, there were none.

The meeting was now open to the public, there was no comments or statements.

Lynn Apolianro made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kelly Eller seconded all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Armeno,

Director of Recreation.

