

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SADDLE RIVER PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION HELD February 12, 2025 – 7:00PM

The meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm and Patty Nazzaro read the Sunshine Notice.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL: **Present** - Patty Nazzaro, Greg Boyajian, Paul Broer, Beatrice Burgis (arrived at 7:18), Jon Kurpis (via Zoom)

Absent: Joe Megariotis, Lou Miao

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Boyajian made a motion to **APPROVE** the minutes of October 9, 2024, seconded by Councilman Kurpis. All in favor.

AYES: Nazzaro, Boyajian, Broer, Kurpis

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Megariotis, Miao, Burgis

PUBLIC HEARING(S):

**Hackensack Meridian Hackensack
University Medical Center Foundation
4/26/25
Route around town – see map
Saturday, 7:00 am – 11:00 am**

The members considered the application (Susan Zabransky Hughes 5K Run).

Mr. Broer made a motion to **APPROVE** the application, seconded by Mr. Boyajian. All in favor.

AYES: Nazzaro, Boyajian, Broer, Kurpis

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Megariotis, Miao, Burgis

**Ho-Ho-Kus/Saddle River Recreation Baseball and Softball Assoc.
3/25/25 – 7/31/25
Fields A, B and C
Mon-Friday 4 pm – 9pm
Saturdays 9am – 6pm**

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Sundays 9 am to 6 pm

The members considered the application. They agreed that adult softball takes precedence and actual schedule needs to be submitted.

(Beatrice Burgis arrived at 7:18.)

Mr. Boyajian made a motion to **APPROVE** the application, with the following conditions:

1. Sundays from 12:30-6 pm
2. Actual schedule needs to be submitted to Parks and Rec asap

Second by Councilman Kurpis.

AYES: Nazzaro, Boyajian, Broer, Kurpis,

NAYS:

ABSTAIN: Burgis

ABSENT: Megariotis, Miao

Ho-Ho-Kus/Saddle River Adult Softball League

Picnic - 6/1/25 (rain date 6/8/25)

Shelter, Field House, Great Lawn Area, Rindlaub Parking Area

Sunday, 10:30 am – 1:30 pm

This application is for a picnic. The members discussed prohibiting loud music and alcohol.

Mrs. Burgis made a motion to **APPROVE** the application, with the following conditions:

1. No loud music.
2. No alcohol.

Second by Mr. Boyajian.

AYES: Nazzaro, Boyajian, Broer, Burgis, Kurpis,

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Megariotis, Miao

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Ho-Ho-Kus/Saddle River Adult Softball League

4/6/25 – 11/2/25

Sundays 8:30 am – 11:45 am

Fields A, B, C

Mr. Boyajian mentioned that the members should keep this application in mind when they review fall applications.

Mr. Broer motioned to **APPROVE** the application with a second by Mr. Boyajian.

AYES: Nazzaro, Boyajian, Broer, Burgis, Kurpis,

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Megariotis, Miao

Tunnel to Towers Foundation

Saturday - 5/17/25

6:30 am – 12 noon

Fields "A" and "B" – track only

This application was received late this afternoon so the members did not have a chance to thoroughly review.

Mr. Boyajian commented that the size may trigger other needs such as police coverage, bathroom usage, etc. Chair Nazzaro will reach out to the applicant and inquire further about the event. Is the organization reaching out to several towns with their request?

Matter will be carried to March 12th meeting.

OATH OF OFFICE: Patty Nazzaro administered the Oath of Office to Beatrice Burgis for a five (5) year term (thru 12/31/29).

NOMINATIONS:

Mr. Boyajian nominated Patty Nazzaro as **Chair** with a second by Mrs. Burgis.

AYES: Nazzaro, Boyajian, Broer, Burgis, Kurpis,

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Megariotis, Miao

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Ms. Nazzaro nominated Beatrice Burgis as **Vice Chair** with a second by Mr. Boyajian.

AYES: Nazzaro, Boyajian, Broer, Burgis, Kurpis,

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Megariotis, Miao

Ms. Nazzaro nominated Cindy Kirkpatrick as **Secretary** with a second by Mrs. Burgis.

AYES: Nazzaro, Boyajian, Broer, Burgis, Kurpis

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Megariotis, Miao

NEW BUSINESS

Spring Tennis Forms (for adult and children) approved by Parks and Rec. Tennis Coordinator will reach out to interested parties directly in the event the program is full.

Recreation Grant – Tennis and Pickleball courts. Money can be banked in the event the grant award is not enough for the project. Just a reminder, the courts were repaved 3 years ago in the amount of \$23,000. Water runs under the courts. The grant could be as much as \$300,000 with the potential of adding 2 pickleball courts on either side of the tennis courts. However, there are 2 oak trees and the condition of those trees must be inspected prior to any new courts being installed. Mrs. Burgis suggested adding another tennis court. Councilman Kurpis said that a determination needs to be made as to whether there is a fundamental problem with water under the courts cracking the surface or if the courts' appearance is due to regular wear and tear. If there is fundamental engineering issue, then rebar would be needed in the foundation when improving the courts. Alternatively, the courts can be relocated behind 153 E. Saddle River Rd. but there are some topographic issues there. The members appeared to be in favor of 3 tennis courts (with one being pickleball), and perhaps adding a fence between tennis and pickleball.

The members were not in favor of lights at the park.

Mr. Boyajian commented that the noise from pickleball might create a problem where no problem currently exists.

Councilman Kurpis inquired about synthetic grass or other surface options and suggested possibly taking a trip to check out other surfaces. Chair Nazzaro mentioned that maintenance may be costly. Councilman Kurpis suggested that perhaps the contractor who improves the courts could include maintenance agreement, especially power washing 2x/year.

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DPW needs to blow the courts prior to tennis program.

Regarding a shed by the courts, Councilman Kurpis asked Mrs. Burgis to send him some suggestions so he can look into further. DPW should have a key along with a representative from the individual sports leagues. The shed could also hold a First Aid Kit. Perhaps include as part of the grant.

Discussion of park gate by the entrance of Rindlaub Park. If someone was still in the park after gate closed, police would have to open it up or it might open automatically in order to exit. Mr. Boyajian asked if there is an issue at the park. Councilman Kurpis mentioned there are people who come to the park before it is open so the gate would act as a deterrent. Councilman Kurpis does not think it is a super high priority right now because there are a lot of factors to consider.

Tricker Pond Annex – Councilman Jon Kurpis drafted the proposed ordinance and explained his reasoning for the points contained therein.

Chair Nazzaro suggested a map with designated areas. People are allowed to fish, so if fishing is prohibited in certain areas, there should be a map illustrating the no fishing zone.

Mrs. Burgis suggested prohibiting drone activity.

Mr. Boyajian asked for clarification as to where exactly is the Tricker Pond Annex. It is described as the area behind where the Trickers lived and over the bridge.

The pond would be off limits for fishing.

Mr. Boyajian wondered if there are too many prohibitions and not kid friendly. He recalled that part of the fun of being a kid was running around back there. He wondered if it is pushing young families away from town.

Councilman Kurpis replied that the pond is shallow and therefore, does not promote fishing. Also, the swans are in danger when there is fishing. Mr. Boyajian is concerned that there is not much to do in town for kids. Everything seems to be geared toward adults. Councilman Kurpis countered that the area back there is not the safest area for children. Mr. Boyajian again emphasized the limitations imposed on children.

The meeting continued with the discussion of the proposed ordinance and Chair Nazzaro reminded all that certain schools request permission to release fish into the Saddle River throughout the year.

The term "Annex" was discussed as Chair Nazzaro is not fond of the term to describe the area. Councilman Kurpis assured her that the word "Annex" is only being used for discussion purposes and will not be incorporated into the ordinance. Rather "Nature Preserve" or some other appropriate term will be used.

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Chair Nazzaro stated that she spoke with the Police Chief and he prefers the term "from dusk to dawn" in order to provide a cushion.

Councilman Kurpis would like this ordinance to be in place prior to the bridge opening (in June).

Chair Nazzaro asked the P&R members to provide her with their comments prior to the next P&R meeting (March 12th). Members should come prepared to discuss the ordinance further.

Councilman Kurpis added that ordinance # needs to be posted on signs so the laws can be enforced.

Mrs. Burgis will distribute her comments on the ordinance within the next week or so.

Discussion turned to the car show which is scheduled for September 20, 2025 with a rain date of September 21, 2025. From 2-5, but block off 12-6 at the park for both days.

Men's softball must depart by 12 noon on September 21, 2025.

Playground equipment – it cost Ken approximately \$5,300 to fix the playground equipment. The money was taken from P&R budget. Mr. Broer agreed that playground equipment is necessary for kids to play on. Chair Nazzaro said if there is a grant for new playground, she suggested transferring the current playground (from Rindlaub) and place it at Grassy Forks in a location that does not flood. Councilman Kurpis advised that since there are new and improved ADA compliance standards, the existing playground, while grandfathered in its current location at Rindlaub, will not be permitted at a different location as it lacks the updated ADA compliance.

Regarding the benches that were purchased last year, DPW will be installing by the playground area.

Chair Nazzaro asked P&R if they are in agreement with contributing \$5,000 towards purchasing tower light. Cost of tower light is approximately \$20,000. The light would be shared amongst P&R and first responders when needed. Typically, the borough borrows lights from Mahwah OEM for special events. P&R agreed to contribute \$2,000 - \$3,000 from the budget. Councilman Kurpis suggested waiting to see what is needed before offering an amount.

Councilman Kurpis mentioned that parking lot (behind Marker House) should be paved prior to Car Show as the town would be liable if someone got hurt due to uneven pavement. Chair Nazzaro said she has been after the town to pave the lot for 2 years. Cost for paving approximates \$160,000. Chair reported that Administrator Molinari indicated that it will be done soon.

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Replacement of signs – all signs should include ordinance and replaced when necessary. Tennis court sign is still good.

Councilman Kurpis reported that grants are available for signs, guides, maps. Chair Nazzaro said that Mayor would like a nice welcome sign, probably wood (not metal) for the bridge area.

DPW had new keys made for the field house. When organizations need replacement keys, he will charge \$5 for replacement fee.

Chair Nazzaro suggested changing the field use application by adding 1 and 2 on the tennis courts. The members discussed portable toilets. Chair Nazzaro will check with engineer as to what number is accurate for the use of portable toilets. Members discussed 150 might be the number. Councilman Kurpis suggested when Zion makes application, making a conditional use that they must keep their bathrooms open for use if they are unwilling to provide portable toilets.

Chair Nazzaro said pretty signage needs to be installed by the entrance of the bridge.

Mr. Boyajian motioned to adjourn with a second by Mrs. Burgis. All in favor.

Meeting concluded at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kirkpatrick

Cindy Kirkpatrick, Secretary
Parks & Recreation Commission