

PARKS, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION BOARD

SEPTEMBER 30TH MINUTES

Date: **September 30, 2025 – The Stable, 7:30pm**

Attendance: **Present:** R. Brooks, F. Mortimer, L. Kloak, J. Buckley, J. Morgan, V. VanDyke, M. Micale, D. Sayles, J. Bostler, S. Muller, K. Frey, D. Wilde

Absent: K. Heighington

Also Present: Director, N. Bigos, Office Assistant, D. Kat, S. Muller, J. Bostler, K. Frey, D. Wilde

Public Comment & Correspondence: Public comments (Not to Exceed 3 Minutes per Person – 40 Minutes in Total)
No public comment.

Minutes: **Minutes for June 2025.** Approved with motions by J. Morgan, L. Kloak made a second motion. All in favor.

Presentation:
Open Space
Referendum: J. Bostler informed the PRC Board that at the November 8th election there will be a ballot question asking if the public is in favor of increasing the Open Space tax from half a penny to 1 penny (\$0.01) per \$100.00 of assessed value. The Open Space trust fund has allowed the Village of Ridgewood preserve Open Space. J. Bostler encouraged the PRC Board to support this ballot question.

Presentation:
RBSA/Hawes Field: S. Muller shared that Upper and Lower Hawes are VOR property not BOE property. Last year, lower Hawes was remediated. The VOR was able to replace the backstop at lower Hawes. RBSA reached out to the sports company that renovated on lower Hawes to completely renovate upper Hawes. RBSA would like to gift the VOR \$56,300.00 for remediation of upper Hawes. This is planned to be accomplished on November 6 and 7, when school is closed for NJEA Convention. RBSA is requesting support from the PRC Board. Approved with motions by D. Sayles, J. Morgan made a second motion. All in favor. This gift donation will be sent to the Village Council for acceptance.

Proposed Fee
Structure: K. Frey shared there is no price increase for 2026 fees. Motion to recommend the fee structure, all in favor.
D. Wilde handed out the fee structure policy for the Pavilion in Habernickel Park. Conversations were had about different situations that could possibly occur at the pavilion. Different ideas were suggested.
D. Wilde handed out the fee structure for sports fields; this item was tabled.

Liaison Reports Village Council – F. Mortimer

- F. Mortimer shared that the final stage of Green Acres diversion should be completed by the end of this year. He shared the Village of Ridgewood acquired a small property at 440 Grove Street by the right of way.

Board of Ed – M. Micale

- M. Micale shared that they met for the Fields Policy. BOE is meeting on Monday for the Fields Policy

Open Space Committee – D. Sayles

- D. Sayles shared that most of the meeting was focused around the Open Space referendum and efforts to educate the community.

Fields Committee – R. Brooks

- R. Brooks shared that they had conversations about the Fields Policy. They received negative comments about some of the Board of Ed fields. A committee is being put together to watch the World Cup possibly at Vets Field.

Shade Tree Commission – J. Buckley

- J. Buckley shared the Shade Tree Commission was meeting the same night as the PRC Board meeting. No new updates.

Green Ridgewood – V. VanDyke

- V. VanDyke reported most of the meeting was focused on the report done by Columbia University about flood zones. They had conversations about educating the public about mitigating flooding.

Community Center Advisory Board – L. Kloak

- L. Kloak shared that they had their first lunch and learn, sponsored by the Village Council. The next one is October 28th, sponsored by the Friends of the Library of Ridgewood. It will be about e-books and helping them with that. They presented “Re-energize the Community Center” to the Village Council.

Ridgewood Beautification Team – J. Morgan

- J. Morgan expressed his gratitude to the Parks department for cleaning Twinney Park. He encouraged the Parks department to continue with the Park Walks. The new pots are a success, they need 12 more to purchase. They will be filled with greens for the holidays.

Project Updates: N. Bigos shared the NYNJ Trail Conference was educational and informational, they learned how to blaze a trail. She handed out the flyer for Eyes of a Trail Builder Workshop. She is looking for a captain for Kings Pond. Please join us on Sundays, 10/28 and 11/2.

2026 Operating/
Capital Budget: N. Bigos shared that the courts at Somerville were repaired and resurfaced. The pickleball courts were converted from four to six courts and resurfaced.

Next Meeting Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 7:30pm, Stable

Adjournment 10:00pm