

**TOWNSHIP OF CHERRY HILL  
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

**ZOOM  
December 16, 2024  
6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**OPENING:** The meeting was called to order by Jennie Purcell

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT:** Read by Jennie Purcell in compliance with the Sunshine Law

**ROLL CALL**

**Members in attendance:** Dannielle Carter, Kavita Gupta, Jennie Purcell

**Professionals in attendance:** Chris Marmo

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of May 2, 2024 was approved.

On a motion by Danielle Carter.

AYE: Danielle Carter, Kavita Gupta, Jennie Purcell

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Review of programming**

Chris mentioned the department hired another yoga instructor that taught a couple new classes, including yoga workshops. In the Summer, we ran a new Garden to Table camp which was successful. We have also had great turnout for an abundance of clay workshops. We need to order a few more supplies to start weekly classes in the clay studio. This past Fall season, Chris organized "Wildlife Walks" that included a Screech Owl walk at Barclay and an Autumn walk at Croft Farm through a company called South Jersey Wildlife Tours. Chris also mentioned the department organized a new program called "Luminary with a Loved One" which happed last week (Dec. 13). In all, 30 people attended. New Winter (Jan-March 2025) programs include Parent and Me Cooking class, adult ballet.

Chris gave a quick overview of the past events that happened through the township/recreation department including: Fireworks celebration on July 3, National Night Out in August, Senior Festival in September, Harvest Festival in October, Fall into the Arts in November, collected thousands of pounds of food for Thanksgiving food drive, Winter Festival in December for the first time. very busy at Croft in terms of programming for the Spring. The new administration has been pushing for more events and programming. In particular, the recreation department has done many different one-day workshop. Been pretty successful and will continue scheduling them. Only 2-3 programs did not meet minimum enrollment to run.

Kavita mentioned she spoke with Bill about a potential photography class. Chris said he would connect with Bill about a class.

Chris also said the department/township had their Senior Holiday party last week and sold 102 tickets.

Upcoming events include MLK Day of Service on January 20 and details are still being worked out. Another event is the second annual "I Heart Art" kids art show. We already sold many spots.

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Chris Marmo asked the commission to grant the recreation department the authority to run programs as long as they are net positive through Spring 2025. On a motion by Danielle Carter, seconded by Kavita Gupta, this authority was granted to the Recreation Director and Recreation Manager by the following vote:

**AYE:** Dannielle Carter, Kavita Gupta, Jennie Purcell

### **Suggestions for new programs**

Kavita Gupta suggested a charcuterie board workshop as she had someone in mind. Chris said they don't have a kitchen facility, but that's something that can be done.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS / OTHER ITEMS**

Chris mentioned the following updates regarding parks. Decou's hockey rink is getting redone. The rink is dedicated to Ravi Bloom and should be open in a few weeks. Brandywoods playground is in the final stages of completion including new swings and being ADA compliant. Should be open in 2-3 weeks. Kingston Park (old pool) is in the final design stages and construction should start in Summer 2025. Chris can provide more updates about the project. Finally, the Kay-Evans House will undergo major preservation work in 2025-2026. The recreation department currently operates out the house. It's on the national registry of historic places and needs to be maintained.

Jennie asked when the next meeting is going to be. Chris suggested in March or April and will reach out to the commission in the near future.

## **7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Scott Mooney, seconded by Kavita Gupta, the meeting was adjourned.