

CUMBERLAND COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

July 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes Notes

A meeting of the Cumberland County Recreation Commission (C.C.R.C.) was held on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at The Cumberland County Administration Building in Bridgeton, New Jersey and via Microsoft Teams and/or Teleconference.

Ken Sheppard, Chair (February 2027)
Chris Wilson, Vice-Chair (September 2025)
John Fuqua (July 2025) *
Carman Daddario, Jr. (February 2027) *
J.T. Burks (July 2025) *

Commissioner Victoria Lods
Commissioner Donna Pearson

Omarey Williams, Shared Services Coordinator *
Matt Pisarski, Planning Director/Department Head *
Wanda Riviera, Confidential Assistant *
Matt Horowitz, Recording Secretary *

Guests:

Note: Asterisk () indicates members present at the aforementioned meeting.*

A quorum was not present at the meeting, and as a result, no official business or decisions could be conducted. An informal discussion was held to make the present members aware of updates and information.

Approval of Minutes Notes – May 11, 2023

Mr. Williams thanked everyone for being in attendance. However, Mr. Williams said they did not have a quorum and the meeting minutes notes could not currently be approved.

Sponsorship Requests

Mr. Williams added without a quorum, the sponsorship request for the Greater Vineland Chamber of Commerce's 33rd Annual Golf Tournament (Tier 1 - \$199.00) could not be approved either. He said staff would proceed with the sponsorship request funding and it could simply be memorialized at the following month's Commission meeting.

Discussion of Mid-year Budget

Mr. Williams stated for Event Sponsorships, the Commission had received far less sponsorship requests than they had in years past. He said the Friends of India Society and a few other organizations had not come back to re-apply. Mr. Williams explained a number of organizations' applications had not come in that he still needed to follow up with including West Cumberland Little League, the C4 Mountain Bike Team, the Millville Girls Softball League, and Bridgeton Midget Football.

Mr. Williams said the Commission's dues remained the same. He stated there was an increase in the number of children who had attended the annual Kids' Fishing Derby event. Mr. Williams added there were significant savings in the funds used to support the event. Mr. Williams mentioned the annual Christmas Party for Disabled costs could be mostly covered by the Recreational Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities (R.O.I.D.) Grant.

Update On Grant: Recreational Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities (FY 2024)

Mr. Williams said he had included the resolution submitted to the County Commissioners, as well as the Request for Proposal (R.F.P.) for the State for the R.O.I.D. Grant. Mr. Williams added the Commission applied for the grant and was approved for \$5,000.00 for 2023. He explained it would be used towards the Christmas party, a swimming program in the fall, and Disability Awareness Day.

Mr. Williams said in the upcoming year, the Commission would apply for the R.O.I.D. Grant again for \$10,000.00 with additional funding to be used towards two new programs; one with Hands Up Silent Theatre (for the hearing impaired) through the Cultural & Heritage Commission and a second with Renee Brecht-Mangiafico from The Levoy Theatre (individuals with sensory issues,) whom he was meeting with in several days.

Discussion of Cumberland County Fairgrounds Master Plan

Mr. Pisarski shared concept sketches for Property A (The Fairgrounds Proper,) Property B (the parcel along the road on Morias Avenue,) and Property C (behind the Hebrew Cemetery.)

Mr. Pisarski said Property A could possibly boast improvements to the parking area, the Midway, the development of a grass lawn entertainment stage, an indoor arena, a building to be used for tractor-pulls, derbies, motor-related events, etc., development of a trail system, upgrades to the 4-H section, and a picnic/playground area.

Mr. Pisarski explained Property B could possibly serve as the main entrance to the Mid-County Park (formerly known as the Cumberland County Fairgrounds) with parking. It could also include a lawn area labeled as the Great Lawn to be used for athletic practices, R.V. camping, picnic areas, a dog park, a splash park/play area, a Community Building with restrooms and various amenities of that nature.

Mr. Pisarski stated Property C could showcase a trail system, a vehicular connection back to the main entrance, a proposed access easement across the Hebrew Cemetery, restrooms, a rope course, areas for tent camping and disc golf, and a fitness trail. He said the three sketches incorporated most of the feedback the consultants received from the Commission. Mr. Pisarski added it would likely be phased over a 10 to 15-year period.

Next, a Draft Master Plan document would be submitted to the County by the end of July. Mr. Pisarski additionally said the County-wide Recreation Master Plan Draft document would be submitted by late September. He hoped both would be finalized complete documents by November, which would inform disbursement of funds moving forward.

Planning Department Updates

Mr. Pisarski said trail development was currently in-process across the two parcels west of Morias Avenue. He said the trails were grant-funded and the first step was to do an environmental assessment. Mr. Pisarski added an R.F.P. had recently been released for the environmental assessment. He added the eventual Environmental Assessment could be incorporated into the Plan. Mr. Pisarski said the trails would ultimately need to be completed and finished by March of 2025. Mr. Williams explained he was excited for all of the upcoming changes and improvements to the Mid-County Park.

Old Business/New Business

Mr. Daddario asked what parcel Mr. Pisarski was talking about of relating to the trail development, environmental assessment, and R.F.P. Mr. Pisarski explained these were to the two parcel across from the Mid-County Park/Fairgrounds located on Morias Avenue. Mr. Pisarski said staff had not yet reached out to the Hebrew Cemetery and the cut-through road access was simply a proposal at this point in time. Messrs. Williams & Pisarski asked if anyone knew any of the organizations with outstanding sponsorship requests, to please have them reach out to Departmental staff.

Adjournment

Mr. Pisarski explained without a quorum present, there was technically no need for a motion for Adjournment. Mr. Williams said staff would see everyone next month.