

Malvern Borough Parks and Recreation Committee

FY2023 End of Year Report

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023

Helise Bichfsky-Reilly, DO – Chairperson

Tiffanie Quinn- Vice Chairperson

Jessica Anderson

Cynthia Ercole

John Finkbiner

Gail Newman

Brendan Phillips

Angela Riccetti

Emalie Zinni

Sebastian Ieradi- Youth Advocate

COMMITTEE CHANGES

Resignations- none

New Appointments- Cynthia Ercole, Jessica Anderson

COMMUNITY DECORATIONS – Burke Park, Message Boards

Winter decorations

Spring decorations

Valentines Day

St Patrick's Day

Pride Month

Seasonal message board and gazebo deco- fall, winter, spring, and summer

BUDGET

Opening Budget FY2023- \$15,000

End balance FY2023- \$349.05

DONATIONS

Food Bank- nonperishable items collected from events

COMMUNITY EVENTS- IN PERSON

S'mores in the Park

Cabin Fever

Borough Park Scavenger Hunt

Perennial Party and Plant Giveaway

Annual Egg Hunt

Community Yard Sale

Randolph Woods Nature Preserve Scavenger Hunt

Sunrise Yoga

Qigong in the Park

GoWilMa- Participant
SummerFest
Malvern On Ice
Game Night
Sunset Yoga
Monster Mash
Winter On King- Participant
Memorial Day Parade- participant

PROPOSED IDEAS/CARRIED FORWARD TO 2024

Mahjong/Chess
Movie Night – cancelled due to weather
Quizzo/Trivia
Pickleball League
League Sports
Summer Camp

NON-EVENT HAPPENINGS:

Homegrown National Park Initiative – supporter, open discussion how P&R can support this
Updated park features- paint and other repairs- thank you PW
Randolph Woods signage completed
Durable and long lasting Event Signage purchases
ADA Compliant/Inclusive Park Equipment initiative- continued discussion
Borough Park Education Placards initiative- collaborate with Historical Commission
2022 Comprehensive Plan- P&R initiatives – opened discussion
Paoli Memorial Association Tennis Courts- Potential lease agreement
Residential Survey, analyzed and interpreted needs of the community
Volunteer Recruiting – continued discussion to enlist and engage community
Randolph Woods adjacent grounds usage discussion
Committee Business Cards
Battlefield/Malvern Prep Trail Connection- grant support
Eagle Scout Project support
Borough Legacy Tree project- collaborate with Shade Tree and Historical Commission
Penna Parks and Recreation Society Membership
Mayors Monarch Pledge support - collaboration with EAC/MBC/Mayor
Alternate Committee Member – committee addition
Quarterly Newsletter articles submitted- focus on historical significance of our parks
Revamped advertising with QR codes
Investment in multiple reusable indoor/outdoor items

CONCLUSION

The P&R committee was very active with events and setting new goals in 2023. We've added 2 new committee persons to our roster, filling 2 vacancies. We have added an alternate committee person position, which has yet to be filled. P&R again added several new events to the agenda and launched a few much-needed initiatives for discussion, review and action.

P&R remained under budget for the 2023 year. We utilized a number of our more permanent items throughout the year, so our costs have been cut significantly for our events. Event costs did increase, though, as we afforded ourselves the ability to hire more vendors, merchants and artists for our events. We had mixed participant turn out with our events in 2023. Some because of the weather, some just because the event was awesome, or the event was a dud. The Monster Mash, Malvern on Ice, Summerfest, Yoga, Qigong, Egg Hunt and Yard Sale were well attended. The Scavenger Hunts, Cabin Fever, Perennial Party and Game Nights did not go over as well. But- there were great learning points, and we anticipate repeat performances will have much different outcomes. Our monthly meeting always includes a follow-up discussion regarding each event and how to refine, enhance and boost our turnout. We again were challenged with volunteerism, both inside and outside our committee (given we had committee vacancies for a time).

Parks and Rec has been tweaking its outreach to other borough and non-borough committees and merchants. We have partnered with the Historic Commission to develop placards in the parks to offer historic educational information. The Historical Commission and Shade Tree Committee are also working with P&R to develop a Legacy/Witness tree program. The EAC has assisted P&R to have sustainability themes and events throughout the year. This was achieved through the Perennial Party, CRC clean-up, Scavenger Hunt, Christmas on King and Homegrown National Park program. The Malvern Borough Library has partnered with P&R on several events, including Movie Night, Cabin Fever, Monster Mash, and the Scavenger Hunt. We partnered with them for GoWilMa. P&R is working diligently with Paoli Memorial Assoc towards a prospective partnership to develop their recreational area into a more borough-friendly space with the addition of Pickleball and needed updates and improvements to the space. As far as the MBPA, P&R has connected with assorted merchants and welcomed them to our events as contributors. The Police and Fire Departments continue to volunteer their precious time for our events, such as Cabin Fever, SummerFest and Halloween events. P&R has also been working closer with the Mayor on projects, most importantly the Mayors Monarch Pledge and planning sustainable habitats in our parks. Lastly, but most important, P&R is committed to fulfilling the 2022 Comprehensive Plan's vision for our shared parks and the community's recreation.

Overall, it has been a very productive and positive year for Parks and Recreation. Our focus remains on the community, creating enduring partnerships, memories, and a safe place for all to feel welcome.

Submitted by:
Helise Bichefsky, DO
2024 Co-Chairperson
Parks and Recreation