

2021 END OF YEAR REPORT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MALVERN BOROUGH

As the COVID-19 restrictions continued to alter the P&R programming, the committee was still able to accomplish several outstanding and noteworthy programs in 2021. In addition, we have had several significant changes within our committee roster. These changes have added much needed unique persons from our community who are highly energetic and who have brought forward amazing ideas to further energize the borough's Parks and Rec committee.

**Changes to the Committee Roster:**

\*New committee members: Andy Johnson, Angela Richcetti, Gail Newman, Tiffanie Quinn, Emalie Zinni

\*Committee resignations: Jen Benson, Amy DiElsi, Andy Johnson, Erin Sheffield

\*Angela Lewis served as the Vice Chairperson

**P&R Sponsored Events 2021:**

\***Food Drive-** We have had a number of food drives throughout the community. The food products were delivered to the Chester County Food Bank, which has been very appreciative. We have donated about 2.5 carloads of non-perishable food products. P&R has purchased a food drop-off container to differentiate itself from the current "recycle bins" of the past, as they unfortunately were confused with trash disposal. The food drive will be a continual program through our committee in the coming years.

\***Morning Adult Yoga with Linda-** Despite the covid restrictions, we were able to host our 45-minute yoga class to a full house every week. This program started about the time of the summer solstice and was completed when it was too dark in the AM to hold class (October). Very positive feedback was received from the participants again this year. The cost was minimal, with a fee paid to the instructor only. We plan to continue this program again in 2022

\***Malvern Rocks-** After the purchase of a massive amount of fist-size rocks and the delivery to the mouth of Randolph Woods, borough residents were encouraged to help themselves and to paint the rocks! This event was so fun, and it had an overwhelmingly excellent response, that we had a duplicate event a few months later. Our committee created and aired 2 separate rock videos on social media. It was encouraged to paint the rocks with uplifting thoughts and pictures and then to have them "hidden" around town.

\***Angela's Healthy Snacks-** We created and published to social media several kid-friendly videos that encouraged healthy snacking during "at-home" virtual school classes. The videos not only showed the ingredients, but also how to create and prepare the snacks. The response was very positive based on the comments and the number of views of the videos. The program cost was minimal.

\***2nd Annual Randolph Woods Camp Out-** With tents, campfires, and marshmallows this event was a success. We did see a smaller number of participants than

anticipated, but that was expected given the COVID restrictions still in place. New to this year was a historic storyteller. The cost for the event was moderate, but a number of items were purchased for re-use, including a fire pit, canopy, hot and cold water storage units.

**\*Movie Night in Burke Park-** This year's movie was The Iron Giant. The usual popcorn with the movie was not offered this year, due to pandemic concerns. The cost was otherwise about the same as previous years. The crowd was smaller than in the past, which can be attributed to the fact that we advertised later than usual as we were tentative about the changing COVID permissions.

**\*CRC Cleanup co-sponsorship at Randolph Woods-** This annual event was an overwhelming success. Massive amounts of trash were collected and disposed of. In addition, a "dumping ground" was discovered and cleared out.

**\*Fitness Boot Camp in Burke Park-** This was a weekly in-person 30-minute Monday night workout led by our very own Angela Lewis. Because of the logistics of the program, P&R saw a significant number of participants despite the pandemic measures. The cost was minimal but did lead to the purchase of a headset sound system that will be used at other events.

**\*Work Out Videos-** Prior to the "opening" of our events, P&R created a number of home work-out videos. In creating the videos, Angela Lewis chose a variety of different spots throughout the borough to film the videos so as to remind the residents to get out and visit the local parks. The videos did get excellent viewing numbers. There was no cost associated with this event.

**\*Spooky StoryBook Walk-** This program was hosted by a local business. It was a new concept for P&R- an interactive virtual and in-person "who dunnit" event. The program did not go over very well, with only a small number of participants. P&R has identified several issues that were associated with the program, including the dates of the program, the inadequate advertising and the storyboard signs themselves. The program was of moderate expense. Based on feedback, P&R plans to revisit this event idea and execution with significant changes.

**\*Monster Mash-** This was P&R's crowning glory event this year. The parade has been cancelled 2 years in a row. In 2019- due to torrential rains, then 2020- due to COVID restrictions. In 2021, a very last-minute event was put together as an alternative to the parade, which was not to be held again because of the persistent pandemic restrictions. In alliance with the Fire Department, the event was moved to the borough's fire house grounds. In the parking lot area, P&R hosted many events including paint-a-pumpkin, outdoor games, storybook area, dancing with the DJ, goody bag giveaway, and more. Across the way, the fire department hosted a "touch-a-truck". On display were very big and awesome fire engines, with the ladder at full height. The fire fighters and police were interacting with the guests. The fire department was able to collect donations for their Boots for Firefighters campaign. The event did see about 1000 participants. All the kids were in their costumes, as were a number of parents and pets. It was an overwhelming success. The fire dept and police dept are interested in working with P&R again next year on the same event. Ideas regarding altering the stagnant Halloween Parade have been floating around, including initiating the parade at Burke Park and ending at the Firehouse to a similar party. The cost was significant for

this event, but several items were purchased for re-use, including large and small decorations and outdoor games.

**\*Winter Wonderland in Burke Park-** Burke Park and the gazebo were decorated with a winter snowflake theme. A snow walkway was created. The expense was moderate as initial supplies had to be purchased, but all supplies are reusable and weather resistant.

### **Additional 2021 P&R Projects:**

**\*Eagle Scout Project-** Ben Lang, GVHS, built and installed a full-size message board in Rubino Park. He was able to earn his Eagle Scout recognition by completing this task. Though he worked independently and through his Boy Scout troop, the project was sponsored by P&R, which included a final letter of recommendation, Ben's two presentations to Borough Council and details of the location, specs and needs of the community.

**\*Park Ambassadors-** Each of our borough parks is assigned to different committee members to watch over and make suggestions for needs or maintenance. This resulted in improvements such as cosmetic updates to Burke Park, evaluation of too much trash left out in Quann Park. In addition, Quann Park is now on Google maps.

**\*Malvern Borough Guild-** "The Guild" is a collection of local businesses that are interested in working alongside P&R, independent of the MBBA. This group was created to welcome the business owners to be involved in the community through our committee in hopes of creating a close partnership that will build better events and volunteerism. We have partnered with new businesses this year, including Imaginatum and Growing Roots.

**\*Joint Committee Involvement-** P&R will actively work along with the other MB committees and programs to open the discussion of what our common goals are and how we can help each other to achieve those goals. For example, we have aligned with the Fire Company, Historic Committee, EAC and the MB Library.

**\*Park Message Boards-** P&R will actively address the content of our 2 boards. Ideas for future use include info about natural habitats, trail paths and trailheads, info regarding our many parks, MB history, current events.

**\*Borough Broadcaster, Newsletter-** P&R has been actively changing up the content of our article. Rather than simply describe our upcoming events, we are now writing about what's happening in our town, what can be found in our town, who our volunteer committee members are, etc.

**\*P&R Logo-** We have adopted a new logo which will benefit the community with "brand recognition". This logo will be seen on all our future advertising and on our permanent signage.

**\*Shed Inventory-** An extensive amount of time has been taken over the past number of months to clean, organize and inventory the P&R shed. All items (except for the size prohibited items) have been relocated to water protectant bins, which are labeled and inventoried. This list is updated when new purchases are made and is available through the Borough Manager.

**\*Event Inventory-** All events, going forward, are inventoried as to the needs, purchases, borough requests, etc. This document remains with the Borough Manager

and is updated as events occur. This will allow a smooth transition from one sub-committee or Chairperson to the next when orchestrating an event.

**Upcoming Programs, Projects on Hold until Covid-19 restrictions are eased:**

P&R Passport- travel to a variety of borough locations and learn something about that spot

Flowerpots and craft bags giveaways

Historic StoryBook walks

Art in the Park- Plein Air Artist to teach art

Quizzo/Game Night in various parks

Classic Cars demonstration

Rain Garden in Quann Park, working along with EAC

Recycle Bins- working along with the EAC to acquire dual trash/recycle bins in our parks to strive for a greener community

ADA Park equipment- P&R will be working with the borough to bring our parks up to a new standard of inclusive and adaptive playground areas. This will be a Capital Improvements Budget project, which will involve equipment changes/updates, landscape changes and ideally big rocks to climb, wheelchair accommodating landscape, multisensory areas, "Nature Play" inclusive playground.

**To summarize-** Though we were in a continued pandemic, the P&R was very busy in 2021. We have been working toward bringing programs and therefore, bringing our neighbors, to all the parks in the borough. Throughout all our events and activities, we strive to make a lasting and historic impression in our borough, bringing forth new adventures, making new friends, encouraging volunteerism, and maintaining an inclusive and wide range of events and programs.

Respectively Submitted,  
Helise Bichesky, DO  
Chairperson  
Parks and Recreation  
Malvern Borough