MEMBERSHIP JANUARY 2020
Helise Bichesky-Reilly, DO Chairperson 2020
Adam Bramucci-Chairperson 2019
Jennifer Benson-Vice Chair 2019-2020
Amy DiElisi
Brendan Phillips
John Finkbiner
Angela Lewis
Sharon Shepherd

Member changes 2019
Michael Panuschka, Angela Lewis and John Finkbiner were additions to the committee. Michael Panuschka and Fran Givnish had to relinquish their positions as they moved out of the borough. Sadly, Joe O'Donnell suffered with a protracted illness and passed away.

All members were subjected to and passed the Child Abuse Clearance and PA Criminal History Record. Volunteers also are subject to these clearances.

2019 PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS

April: Egg Hunt
Our 2019 year began with the 9th Annual Egg Hunt at the Paoli Battlefield. We had a record turn-out of Malvernites-- 500+ peoples. Something new-- "Allergy Friendly Eggs". These Teal colored eggs had small toys rather than foods. It was a BIG hit. We had lots of student volunteers from the local schools.

April: CRC Stream Clean Up
We collaborated with the CRC for their annual Stream Clean Up which took place in Randolph Woods and at a new site, The Paoli Battlefield Woods. We had a large turn-out for the single day event. The volunteers included families, scouts and committee members. We were able to collect a significant amount of trash!!—including some very odd items. The event, besides being environmentally friendly, raised awareness of the beauty of these woods and the damage of the simple “can left behind”. The impact on the kiddos and families was very important. Looking forward to continuing this event in 2020 and beyond.

May: Yard Sale
This year the Yard Sale was rained out. A new date was not set. The Yard Sale has become a cost ineffective program, requiring a lot of time and energy and resources. New concepts were considered, including a borough wide yard sale. Plans are currently on hold and will be reconsidered for the fall.
Spring/Summer: Yoga in the Park
This was a new event for the committee. Once weekly, at 6:30 AM, Malvern hosted a free yoga class. The first few classes saw a handful of participants, but eventually the numbers swelled to about 20 men and women. The event was held either in Burke Park during good weather, or in the Borough Hall 2nd Floor during inclement or cold weather. The challenge was access to the building at that hour. We are looking to relocate the weekly event to a more favorable space. Ideas and suggestions welcomed!!! The event did get a very favorable response and was considered an overall positive experience. Jen took control of this event.

Summer: Malvern Corn Hole League
This was a new event for the committee. The league had 50+ people who attended this new event. The games were held on a weekly basis. Overall-- the event was well received and very fun.

Summer/Fall: Malvern Kickball/ Dodgeball League
These events did not work out for 2019 despite community interest. Due to lack of volunteers to assist with the planning and organizing, it was too overwhelming for the committee to manage these programs. Adam took charge of these programs previously, but needed to step down due to work commitments. The committee has proposed having the community organize these events instead. The discussion is current at the meetings.

July: Malvern On Ice
This year the event was on a Friday evening to coordinate with the Malvern Stroll. Local business, Scoops n Smiles was on hand with a large variety of flavors and the ice cream truck. The weather was perfect, and the crowd was large. A big hit with everyone. This event will be continued into the 2020 year.

Sept: Movie Night in Burke Park
After great deliberation, and a survey via social media, the movie choice for this year was “How To Train Your Dragon 3”. This went over amazingly great!! As in previous years, this is always a great turn out. Our crowd was well over 100 persons. A wonderful community event for families. Family fun, popcorn, and a great family movie. This has become a much anticipated yearly event.

Oct: Pizza and Pumpkins in the Park
This event was wildly successful. The kiddos painted 200 pumpkins and ate 70 pizzas. Despite increasing our pizza and pumpkin purchase from 2018, we again ran out early!! The crowd in the park swelled to record numbers, greater than 300 participants. The kiddos loved dancing to the DJ. Pizza was purchased from Malvern Pizza who delivered piping hot pizzas! We look forward to repeating this event yearly.

Oct: Halloween Parade
This has become our biggest and most involved event of the year. Parks and Rec took over this event in 2018, so it is fairly new. This event was rained out. Sadly- it was raining
sideways throughout the morning of the event. Of course the rain stopped and the sun came out just at 3:45-- minutes before the parade was scheduled to start. There was no way to attempt to set up the stage, set up the DJ and speakers, re-arrange the GVHS marching band, coordinate with the police department to clear the streets of traffic, and contact the volunteers at that hour for the parade. The general public was not understanding-- unkind messages were received via social media. We had a single kind response, did not attempt to mix words with anyone. We look forward to better weather next year. We did have a number of changes this year-- which will be unveiled at the 2020 parade. Some of the changes include the return of a raised stage, small gift bags as rewards, new categories for costumes, and a local DJ with a cool new Halloween sound. Helise was managing this event. This event is definitely dependent on volunteers and the entire committee committing to it.

Nov: Campout in Randolph Woods
This was a new and exciting event. Brendan took the lead on this. The event included roasting marshmallows, setting up tents and a community fire. More than 50 people attended this 1st annual event! We were able raise awareness of what Randolph Woods has to offer. Looking forward to repeating it in 2020.

Dec: Spotted Lantern Fly Lecture
Being the local expert in this field, Michael Panuschka presented this lecture. The event was well attended and provided useful information for our residents on this matter.

GENERAL INFORMATION

> The entire committee participated in most events, along with neighborhood volunteers. Our goal is to develop a Volunteer list – persons that we can call on to assist with our events. Despite the committee member involvement, we are fortunate enough to have such great turn-outs that it is generally impossible to run the events without volunteers.

> Future ideas for the committee to sponsor include a Malvern Race, Yoga for children, Music in the Park, Drive in Movie, Auto Show. We are especially looking for ideas for the middle school aged kiddos—age 11-14 year old.

> Current new events for the 202 year include a WinterCraft program for children in early March. Also new this year, the committee members will be responsible for park assessments. Details regarding this procedure are still being work through.

> A goal of the committee will be to raise awareness of the different parks, to get the children out to play and the adults to take walks and use the facilities. Our involvement with the Randolph Woods Master Plan committee and therefore, its future development, remains unclear, but we look forward to coordinating with that committee and the Environmental Advisory Committee to make our parks safe, sustainable, environmentally friendly and a welcome place for all ages. A potential speaking series regarding the impact of humans on the park system has been suggested and will be considered.
Parks and Rec currently advertises regularly through email blasts, Facebook/social media, flyers, signage in the business windows and yard signs. Amy has taken over a majority of this responsibility with her amazing artistic eye.

In order to move forward, we are in hopes of a storage unit that will be accessible to the committee members during "off hours". The challenge has been access to the storage unit over the weekend, knowing exactly what is in storage to help with purchasing and ease of availability to retrieve items such as art supplies.

Alicia Marziani, of borough staff, whose responsibility includes working along with the Parks and Rec Committee to assist with the planning and orchestrating of the community events, worked tirelessly to make each event flawless. Her dedication to the Malvern community is well demonstrated with her attention to the details that the committee members, as community volunteers, are just not able to achieve. Alicia's resources, idea sharing, familiarity of the borough calendar, knowledge of the local ordinances, organizational skills and friendly smile contributed to the exceptional 2019 Parks and Rec year.

The Parks and Rec Committee extends an open invitation to Mayor Burton and Borough Council to join us for all of our events!

This is where our neighbors love to be!!

Respectfully submitted:

Helise Bichefsky-Reilly, DO
Chairperson 2020
Parks and Recreation
Malvern Borough