

# PARKS, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION BOARD

## January 27, 2026 Minutes

Date: **January 27, 2026 – The Stable, 7:30pm**

Attendance: **Present:** C. Kearns, F. Mortimer, L. Kloak, J. Buckley, V. VanDyke, S. Brogan, K. Heighington, J. Morgan

**Absent:** C. Holt

**Also Present:** Director, N. Bigos, Office Assistant, M. Hefferan, RBSA President, S. Muller

### Public Comment &

#### Correspondence:

Public comments (Not to Exceed 3 Minutes per Person – 40 Minutes in Total)

No public comment.

N. Bigos shared the Healthbarn Quarterly report for October/November/December and emails from residents concerning Kings Pond, enjoyment of the classes at HealthBarn and appreciation for the Elder Dinner. She also shared the Community Center offerings for January and February 2026 and the flyer soliciting a new concessionaire for the Graydon Pool, Water's Edge Cafe

### Minutes:

**Minutes for October 2025.** Approved with motions by J. Buckley, L. Kloak made a second motion. All in favor.

### Introduction of New

#### Members

Catie Kearns- Lifelong resident, former Graydon lifeguard, member of the Somerville Elementary HSA, Ithaca College, BA in Journalism, worked for MSG Director of Marketing Partnerships and Team Sponsorships.

Carolyn Holt - absent

Sheila Brogan - BOE President new liaison to the PRC Board.

### RBSA Presentation

#### Pres. Scott Muller

S. Muller stated that the RBSA has been identifying fields that are in need of improvement and have recently made substantial financial investment within the infrastructure within the parks system. The fields identified for spring improvement are within Veterans Memorial Park; the 90' baseball diamond and the NE and SE softball fields. The RBSA was approached by the coaches at RHS to improve these fields. The RBSA intends to donate additional funds for future field improvement projects. The NJ Sports Fields will be the company contracted to complete the renovations to these fields, it is the same company that recently refurbished the Upper and Lower Hawes fields. The gift amount for the renovation is \$ 26,900.00. The motion to approve the RBSA donation by J. Buckley, J. Morgan made a second motion. All in favor.

### Reorganization

J. Morgan nominated Vicky VanDyke as Chairperson of the PRC Board, approved with motions by J. Morgan, L. Kloak made a second motion. All in favor.

V. VanDyke nominated Jim Morgan as Vice Chair of the PRC Board, approved with motions by V. VanDyke, L. Kloak made a second motion. All in favor.

### Liaison Reports

#### Village Council – F. Mortimer

- F. Mortimer shared that Green Acres diversion has been resolved. The 2026 municipal budget will be introduced at the February 11 meeting with approval slated for March 11, 2026. The Schedler soil remediation has gone out for rebid due February 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### Board of Ed – S. Brogan

- S. Brogan shared that the BOE/Policy committee meets tomorrow and the final draft of the Fields Policy will be reviewed.

Open Space Committee – J. Morgan

- F. Mortimer shared new members have been appointed inclusive of a secretary to the committee. He shared that there was a conversation on the master plan and priorities were set for 2026 and future plans for Open Space since the referendum was passed.

Fields Committee – C. Holt

- No report, will be meeting next Tuesday, February 3, 2026.

Shade Tree Commission – K. Heighington

- J. Buckley -No report, but will share the Shade Tree Commission minutes via email with the board.

Green Ridgewood – J. Buckley

- V. VanDyke reported the Green Team was disappointed that the Bergen County Grant was denied. Storm Water management was discussed and that they have been in touch with Rutgers about placement of rain gardens. Pam and Village staff will be visiting Maplewood to see if electric leaf blowers are a viable option for the Village Parks/Streets Divisions.

Community Center Advisory Board – L. Kloak

- L. Kloak shared that the “Lunch n Learns” have been very successful the next “Lunch n Learn” is next Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, lunch is sponsored by anonymous donation and a portion of the donation by the North Jersey Masters to the CCAB. The presentation will be by Demetrios Philliou of Adventures with Nature.

Ridgewood Beautification Team – N. Bigos

- N. Bigos shared that the subcommittee met and plan for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary a Red, White and Blue design has been discussed with quotes to be obtained.

Fields/Recreational Policy Update:	N. Bigos shared that they will be meeting tomorrow to present the final draft of the updated policy.
2026 Departmental Operating and Capital Budget:	N. Bigos met Monday, January 26 and presented the operating and capital budgets to the Village Council. Operating budgets remained flat while priorities were presented for Capital.
Open Positions Parks Division:	N. Bigos shared that there are three open positions in the Parks Division, two for Maintenance Workers and one for Tree Maintenance worker.
Project Updates:	N. Bigos shared the list of upcoming projects that are in the works for the department as presented within the agenda.
Premier Community Center Update:	L. Kloak shared that the Community Center of Ridgewood Foundation received a grant of \$250,000 to build a full-service senior center, open 8:00 am to 5:00 pm by renovating rooms on the first floor at Village Hall. The Village is committing to one full time and two part time employees for the senior center.
Next Meeting	Joint meeting of the PRC Board and Open Space Committee, Thursday, February 19, 2026, 7:00pm, Village Hall, will include a presentation by the NY/NJ Trail Conference, assessment of Village trails.
Adjournment	9:30 pm