



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

Recreation Board

Thursday, May 1, 2025

8:00 AM

Bucky Boyle Recreation Building

10 Pump Place

Roll Call

Board Members & City Administration:

Nancy Wilt (Chair), Julie Ambrose (Secretary), Rebecca Kiss, Dave Snyder, & Hamp Smith

Parks & Recreation Staff:

Bryne Heffner-Bair, Chris Hendricks, & Lucinda Wright

Visitors: Ruffian Tittman (Allentown Parknership)

Minutes

April 3, 2025, Minutes Approval with no additional changes or additions.

Motion made by Nancy, Seconded by Becki.

Motion Carried

Attachments: [BOR April 3 2025 Minutes](#)

Communications

Updates on potential new boards members

Three people have submitted letters of intent to join the board.

Several from the same neighborhood. 2 are on the Council Agenda next week; one doesn't live within the city limits and isn't eligible.

Discussed the location of the June meeting - either Jack's Slice (Golf Course) or the Cedar Pavillion.

P&R Reports

Reports were sent via email in advance.

Various Project Updates

Recent ribbon cuttings have been well attended.

The Parks Master Plan meeting last night (4th one) had lots of new people which was great. Specific requests for Roosevelt.

Cedar Pavillion work is progressing and should be ready by early June.

Roosevelt pavilion assessment will be started at the end of this month.

At Jordan skatepark, they are trying to find ways to minimize the amount of time the existing park is closed during construction but safety is a big concern.

Boat launch

Jordan Construction - hope to keep phase 1 of skate park open while working on phase 2. But, right now it is closed because of safety concerns.

Dixon Street pedestrian bridge should be open by start of school.

Attachments: [May - Projects](#)

Recreation Updates

Hiring is going well for playground instructors and pool staff.

Concert series and movies being planned for summer.

Special Events Updates

Director/Deputy Director Updates

Thanked everyone for hard work, attending the ribbon cuttings, etc.
5/23 Block Parties at Irving Park - smaller than last year and more in the park.

Special Events Season kicks off - 4th of July at Cedar Beach

Nancy asked about water safety day?

Partnership with YMCA is changing - trying to determine the partnership.

Discussions around enclosing a pool with a bubble for fall swimming.

Planning 20 Monday Fundays this year.

Planning the fishing day with Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living for September.

Dave Question: Asked about baseball/softball.

Julie asked about how baseball is going and involvement with Ortiz Arc Foundation. It seems to be a good partnership getting more students to play.

Old Business

None

New Business

Hamp - what's happening at Fountain Park with the Pool house?
Looking at options for pool house, to potentially remove it -
Still gathering input from the community via the meetings, the online survey
- encouraging input to shape the master plan.
Last public meeting will be June 25th at 3:00 pm.

They are working on the trail from Cedar Beach, through Fountain Park, to Jordan Park.

This is all supposed to be a major connection point between the city and all parks including the D&L Trail.

What is the plan at Valania? Signage about the history of the park. History sign of the park and areas adjacent. Hamp believes we should be representing the history of the area because the park was only built in the 1970's but the businesses that started in that area and the community there has significance and should be recognized.

Special Events is working on this research; and needs to confirm vision of the Administration as well.

Percy Ruhe signage is also being designed and there's an effort to create a sort of template or format to build visual consistency in the parks. Perhaps consider a series of interpretive signs. These might be a lectern style with a little side bar. We are working on a format template.

Fountain pool house was renovated for winter housing for the homeless, but now we're not using it for that. Should the parks have a role in providing housing assistance?

Da Vinci - Mission Astronaut exhibit coming in June - would be happy to work with Recreation and Summer Playground if there are opportunities. In the fall the traveling exhibit will be Mickey Mouse Clubhouse: The Exhibit.

Adjourn

9:01 am

