

Dunellen Recreation Commission
Meeting Agenda
January 12, @ 7:00 pm

Type of Meeting: Monthly Recreation Meeting @ the Senior Center.

Meeting Facilitator: Jim Brennan

Commission Members: Jim Brennan (Facilitator), Chris Cashin, Kathy Wilson, Tim Howard, Grace Cordero, Elena Buccino, BJ Johnson. **Alternates:** Jessica Dunne and Colin Hunt and Laura Ruskuski

Councilmember- Crisol-Iris Lantz (Council Liaison to the Recreation Department)

Recreation Director: Kelly Seader

A. Call to Order: 7:11

B. Roll Call: Jim Brennan, Chris Cashin, Kathy Wilson, Tim Howard, Grace Cordero

Absent: Elena Buccino, BJ Johnson, Jessica Dunne, Colin Hunt

D. Follow-up from the last meeting:

E. Open Issues:

1. **Winter House Decorating Contest:** We had 19 houses this year which was more than last year. The house winner was 316 Second Street with 45 points, second place was 356 First Street. **The family was very excited, with two little kids, which made for a very magical morning. They also happened to be on the same side we started on. Jessica, Tim, Bj, Elena and Kelly judged.**
2. **Santa Around Town:** Our Firefighters, Police, EMS escorted Santa around town. Thank you to all of them as well as Mike Luthman. The cookie cost was \$1,400; and we gifted Santa with a \$100 gift card as a small token of our appreciation. **Santa was gifted with a \$100 gift card. We also got 2 sandwich platters from the hotel for their lunch break, which cost \$180.**
3. **Basketball:** Began January 3. K-6 meets on Saturday mornings. 5th and 6th grade also meet on Monday nights at the high school. Current enrollment is K: 17, grades 1-2: 27, grades 3-4: 18 and grades 5-6: 21. That brings our total to 83. **Austin volunteered all last year and has been taking the lead so far with help from Deryn Watts. We have 10 volunteer parents, all of whom have been background checked. We have 5 more kids from last year**
4. **Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon:** Took place on Sunday, January 4th, at 1:30 at the firehouse. The menu was Chicken Marsala, Potatoes, Cream of chicken soup, and green beans. Karl Geiger played dinner music and sing-alongs after dinner. **It was well-received, we were able to get more emails from senior citizens. We should order additional chicken next year. Thank you to the fire department for opening the building up early. Dave Morgan, who was a guest, helped with the garbage. Commission members: Tim, Kathy, Jim were present and helping. Thanks to Tyler Mayer, Trina Rios, and Lucy Cherry. No Parking in front of the building next year. The Fire Department is looking into marking handicap spots next year. Thanks to Karl Geiger for volunteering his time. Bring more forks, knives, and spoons. Buy a coffee urn.**
 - a. Cost: Hotel lunch- \$620.76
 - b. Amazon gifts- \$218.07
 - c. Costco- \$71.96
 - d. Acme- \$219.94

e. Total- \$1,130.73. *\$172 less than last year*

F. New Issues:

1. **2026 Meeting Schedule**
2. **Recreation Event Calendar**
3. **Spring Break Camp**
 - a. **Tim, Jim, Grace, Kathy, Chris- in Favor**
4. **Park inspection update: the Nell gate is completely down. The Batting cage was removed and the trees that were located behind it, which caused damage, were removed from Columbia Park.**
5. **Buddy Ball- we sent Buddy Ball information to the school on Tuesday, the program began Wednesday, and two Dunellen kids joined. We will continue to work with Middlesex to help promote these programs.**

Upcoming Events: Next Meeting: Monday, February 8, 2026, 7:00 PM at the Senior Center
Reorganization Meeting

Adjournment: 8:12 1st: Chris 2nd: Grace