

## Durham Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** May 14, 2026

**Location:** Durham Community Center - Room One / Zoom Hybrid

**Call to Order/Roll Call:** 7:00 p.m.

**Video link:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/6qmalBuT3gPkIHNY5XXHFtvSQ8mqwujWki-9azcSKEQPSH2s\\_mJ0xeWHhaS4dZgU.v3SfVxDR8LFilpfl?startTime=1778799579000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/6qmalBuT3gPkIHNY5XXHFtvSQ8mqwujWki-9azcSKEQPSH2s_mJ0xeWHhaS4dZgU.v3SfVxDR8LFilpfl?startTime=1778799579000)

**Passcode:** 7Fhh2++w

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### 1. Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Janet Morganti

#### Members Present:

- Chris Balay
- Kim Brackett
- Janet Morganti-Chair
- Kim Johansen
- Pam Carey
- Jane Eddelston
- Brian MacDuff
- Rita Van Steenberg
- **Members Absent:**
- Stephanie Fisher
- Mallory Castro
- Kathy Marzano
- Brian Medeiros-Recreation Director

#### Seating of alternates:

Brian MacDuff seated for Stephanie Fisher via Zoom

**Pledge of Allegiance**-Led by Chair Janet Morganti

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### 2. Approval of Agenda

- **Motion to Approve as presented:** Chris Balay
- **Seconded by:** Pam Carey
- **Motion Carried:** Unanimously.

### 3. Approval of Past Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting held on April 9th were reviewed.

- **Motion to Approve:** Kim Johansen
- **Seconded by:** Chris Balay
- **Motion Carried:** Unanimously

### 4. Public Comment

- No members of the public present
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### 5. Old Business & Event Updates

#### A. Allyn Brook Cleanup & Earth Day Retrospective

- **Update:** Committee members noted that the cleanup event went well, with attendance from Rita V., Kim B., Brian Medeiros, Chris B. Janet M. and Brian MacDuff, whom

adopted a road to clean. Rita reported visible maintenance improvements down at the brook.

- **Future Initiatives:** Following the event, discussions began between Sustainable Durham and the Coginchaug Eco-Group regarding long-term solutions for recurring weed overgrowth. The groups are exploring potential funding opportunities to permanently clear the weeds and introduce native plantings.

## B. Durham America 250 Picnic Planning

- **Activity & Game Procurement:** A sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteering at the upcoming anniversary picnic. Brian Medeiros and Carolyn H. have purchased several patriotic-themed games and items within a \$500 budget. Purchased items include a ring toss, patriotic cornhole, kickballs, bubble wands, coloring tablecloths, glow sticks, and a patriotic inflatable eagle lawn sprinkler.
- **Children's Magnetic Fishing Game:** prizes have been organized. Volunteers will hot-glue magnets onto plastic ducks so children can "fish" for them out of bowls/pools.
- **Organized Games Schedule:** The committee discussed logistics for the main competitive events (potato sack race, three-legged race, water balloons and egg and spoon relay, to be held in the open field behind the ambulance corps building).
  - **Logistics & Research:** Kim Brackett offered to research industry-standard field day layouts for small town fairs (e.g., standard 25-yard courses, lane parameters, and age-bracket heats) and will email a tentative operations plan to Janet for review.
  - **Timeline:** The organized competitive games will run for an hour and a half, officially kicking off at 2:30 PM to accommodate late arrivals, and wrapping up by 4:00 PM ahead of the evening concert. Prizes will consist of America 250 commemorative medallions. Carolyn will order additional adult-sized potato sacks to ensure all age brackets (including parents) can participate.

## C. Summer Concert Series Marketing & Food Trucks

- **Social Media Promotion:** The committee discussed improving marketing for the upcoming concert series. Kim Brackett volunteered to take over social media strategy, content creation, and imagery design to better publicize the musical genres of the scheduled bands. Brian MacDuff volunteered to assist by setting up official Facebook Events through the Recreation page for free localized advertising.
- **Band Lineup Notes:** The current schedule includes The Beatles tribute, Beth and the Boys (Country/Rock), Middletown Symphonic (Broadway/Pop standards), Rob Glassman (High-energy Rock), River Jack (Classic Rock), Kings of Karma (Retro Rock), and Small Town Roots (Country/Southern Rock). The final open date lands on the first day of school; the committee suggested marketing it as an "End of Summer" celebration.
- **Food Truck Vendor Logistics:** Invoicing and compliance paperwork (Certificates of Insurance, Health Department permits, and notarized indemnity forms) have been sent to vendors. The lineup will feature local pizza and ice cream vendors at every event.

- **Local Youth Bands:** The committee discussed leaving an open slot for local high school/garage bands to perform. Committee members will reach out via alternative channels since local youth do not heavily utilize Facebook.

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## 6. Recreation Director's Report

Janet presented the Recreation Director's Report on behalf of Brian Medeiros:

- **Tennis in the Park:** Awaiting school district approval. The program will cost \$80 (includes a keeper racket) on Monday and Wednesday nights. Tentative dates are July 7 to July 22, with rain dates on July 28 and July 29. Divided into Grade 1-2 (5:00 PM), Grade 3-5 (6:00 PM), and Grade 6-8 (7:00 PM).
- **Women's Softball League:** Slated to begin in July; exact dates are currently being finalized.
- **Summer Camp 2026:** Counselor hiring is underway with 30 applicants; interviews started this week. There are currently 195 campers enrolled for the summer season.
- **Park Infrastructure Repairs:** New ADA-compliant picnic tables have arrived and will be distributed between the upper facility and the lower park. A purchase order has been submitted to Miracle Equipment Company to replace the playscape siding that was damaged by a tree during a storm. Repairs are expected to be completed before the end of the month.

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## 7. New Business

Chris Balay informed the board that donor who wishes to remain anonymous at this time, has approached him privately offering a **\$25,000 donation** for a permanent public good project. The donor requested a formal proposal from the Recreation Committee.

### Evaluated Ideas (from the Plan of Conservation and Development - POCD):

- *Park Restrooms/Pavilion:* Already covered in the current town budget (roof and bathroom renovations are underway).
- *Community Center Furniture:* Tables and chairs are deemed adequate for current needs.
- *Splash Pad / Permanent Ice Rink:* Determined to be cost-prohibitive for a \$25,000 threshold.
- *Additional Lighting/Shade Structures:* sliding board shades or outdoor lighting near Allyn Brook to support movies/concerts were well-received.
- *Disc Golf Course:* The concept is highly popular and financially feasible for \$20,000 (concrete tee pads, baskets, low maintenance), but locating viable, non-wooded town-owned space remains a hurdle.
- *Designated Dog Park:* Brian MacDuff proposed allocating funds toward a double-gated, fenced dog park at Allyn Brook or White's Farm to provide a legal, off-leash running space, mitigating existing conflicts with residents uncomfortable with loose dogs.
- **Action Item:** Chris Balay will take these top choices (Shade/Lighting, Disc Golf, and the Dog Park at White's Farm) back to the donating party to gauge their preference and vision before drafting a definitive proposal.

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## 8. Miscellaneous & Adjournment

Hearing no further business or additional public comment, a motion to adjourn was made.

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Chris Balay
- **Seconded by:** Pam Carey
- **Motion Carried:** Unanimously

The meeting was officially adjourned at approximately 7:55 PM.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Kim Brackett*