

1. Agenda

Documents:

[REC_ADVISORY_COMM_2022-01-20.PDF](#)

2. Meeting Materials

Documents:

[RAC_2022_ANNUAL_REPORT.PDF](#)

[RAC_RECOMMENDATIONS_JANUARY_2022.PDF](#)



ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

Recreation Advisory Committee

January 20, 2022

6 pm

Remote Meeting

Zoom id: 841 9004 0938

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84190040938>

Agenda

Call to Order

Public Speak

Approve minutes for 12/16/21

Recreation Director's Report

Revolving fund discussion

RAC recommendations/priorities

RAC annual report

CPC project updates

Putnam Farm project

Future agenda items

 John Avellar Circle

 RAC charge update

 Community Coordinator position

Adjournment

Recreation Advisory Committee

The Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) advises the Recreation Director, Town Administrator, and Select Board on ways to grow and improve recreation in Orleans. We have seven voting members and two associate members.

RAC continued to use our 2020 Orleans Recreation Survey to set our priorities in 2021. We continue to elicit more community input and gather meaningful data to inform our recommendations. This year, RAC gathered, analyzed and evaluated metrics for Orleans Recreation Department offerings. Such metrics allow us to tailor our recommendations to the Select Board and the DPW, especially when budgets are considered. We are working with the Recreation Department to improve the quality of the gathered information, both of metrics and post-program survey results.

RAC members presented recreation projects to the Orleans Community Preservation Committee in February. We were gratified to see all seven of our “Orleans Outside” projects supported at Town Meeting in May. Committee work on those projects continues. The Storybook Trail, picnic tables, and bike racks are at or near completion. Work to enhance trail signage has begun. The kayak rack and waterways education project is aimed for a Spring '22 rollout. While the pickle ball court and lighted basketball court feasibility study were not able to be completed in 2021, the Recreation Advisory Committee looks forward to continuing to pursue those projects in 2022.

The Recreation Advisory Committee also continued to make the case for an Orleans Community Center. RAC members participated in two Orleans Citizens Forums to support the creation of an Orleans Community Center. We supported a successful warrant article to fund a Community Center Feasibility Study at the May Town Meeting.

The committee looks forward to the results of that study, and to learning more about ways in which an Orleans Community Center could be a home for recreation programs and opportunities.

RAC has worked on the problem of overcrowded classes resulting in residents being waitlisted. In response to the Recreation Director's concerns that non-resident fees for programs are too low, RAC developed new fees for summer programming. These fees were approved at the Special Town Meeting in October. RAC also recommended early notification about upcoming programming, with the first week of registration be open to Orleans residents only. RAC continues to ask for all participants to be surveyed at the end of each program.

For summer, RAC recommended additional tennis lessons for all ages, pickle ball clinics, and two weeks of additional August programming for kids. RAC has also made recommendations for the fall, winter, and spring including indoor pickle ball, open gym time, and after-school enrichment classes, as well as enhancements to current offerings like softball clinics and skate park workshops.

RAC is looking forward to the new year. We are dedicated to our charge: to help the Select Board and the Recreation Department to translate community requests and needs into recreation programming and opportunities for all ages.

To: Orleans Select Board, John Kelly, Tom Daley, Nathan Sears, Alan Harrison
From: Orleans Recreation Advisory Committee
Re: Orleans Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) recommendations to Orleans Recreation Department

1. RAC recommends that Orleans Recreation pursue new and/or extended recreation programming for Orleans residents. We'd like Orleans Recreation to consider:

Summer

- pickleball lessons
- tennis lessons for all age groups
- additional two weeks of summer programming when traditional summer program ends in early August; consideration of full/extended day program
- lifeguard feeder program, beach safety day, swim safety clinic
- bike safety clinic
- OPD August Block Party
- softball/baseball/wiffleball teams/games, clinics, batting cage, pitching machine
- skateboard clinic (Knucklebones)
- kayak clinic
- basketball clinic

School year

- after school enrichment programs (ultimate frisbee, street hockey, arts & crafts, magic/stem, bike rides, etc.)
- half-day programming
- six weeks (up from four) of tennis lessons for elementary, middle/high school students, adults
- open gym for all age groups

Year round

- pickleball, including indoor pickle ball during the winter
- collaborations with OPD, Snow Library, OCT, OES, etc.
- intergenerational activities

2. RAC recommends that Orleans Recreation announce (through Recreation email blast, Facebook, COA newsletter, Channel 18, and school blasts) programming for the upcoming season well in advance of programs commencing. Orleans Recreation should also create a master calendar of all offerings. Summer programs should be announced the first week of May; fall programming the third week of August; winter programming the second week of November; spring programming the last week of February.

RAC also recommends that registration be open to "residents only" for 10 days before being opened to non-residents.

3. RAC recommends that all participants in Recreation Department programs are sent a brief survey at the end of the season, to provide input on future programming and offer suggestions. Survey results should be used to plan future programming and spending.

4. RAC recommends the department preserves a public record of all metrics concerning program participation and waitlist numbers.

5. Finally, RAC recommends that the Recreation Department to use the revolving fund only for new and/or extended programs or events such as those listed above in keeping with the original intent of the revolving fund.