

## NOTICE

### MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, CHAPTER 231, P.L. 1975

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION WILL HOLD THEIR MARCH PUBLIC MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, MERCER COUNTY PARK TENNIS CENTER HALL OF FAME, MAIN LEVEL, 1638 OLD TRENTON ROAD, WEST WINDSOR, NJ 08550

THE COMMISSION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING THE DISCLOSURE OF MATERIALS, REPORTS AND RECORDS OF PERSONNEL, IN PARTICULAR, DISCLOSURE AND DISSEMINATION OF MATERIALS OF PUBLIC CONCERN, INVESTIGATIONS, MATTERS INVOLVING CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF LAW

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### AGENDA

➤ **INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS:**

- At 5:39 Counsel R. David Blake, Esq. introduced new Commissioners, Ms. Sabeen Masih and Ms. Wendy Sturgeon.

➤ **ROLL CALL:**

**The following Commissioners answered the Roll Call of the Secretary:**

- Forrester, Koontz, Masih, Schulz and Sturgeon.

**The following Commissioners were absent:**

- Davis, Horne, Martinez, Mooij.

➤ **CALL TO ORDER:**

- At 5:43 p.m., Commissioner Forrester called the March 27, 2024, Public Meeting of the Mercer County Park Commission to Order; at the Mercer County Park Tennis Center Hall of Fame, Main Level, 1638 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor, NJ 08550

➤ **FLAG SALUTE:**

- Commissioner Forrester led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Flag.

➤ **NOTICE OF MEETING: *Board Secretary, H. Mauro***

In accordance with the Sunshine Law (Open Public Meetings Act Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in that notification was given as follows: emailed to the Times, Trentonian, and posted to the Mercer County Website and Mercer County Park Commission Website; and sent via email blast through the County of Mercer and Mercer County Park Commission notification system.

➤ **APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2024 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION MEETING:**

- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz and seconded by Commissioner Koontz, by voice vote, the February 28, 2024 Mercer County Park Commission Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

- **Ayes:** Forrester, Koontz, Masih, Schulz and Sturgeon. **Nays:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Davis, Horne, Martinez, Mooij.

➤ **APPROVAL OF MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION BILLS:**

- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz and seconded by Commissioner Koontz, by voice vote, the 2024 January, February and March Mercer County Park Commission Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

- **Ayes:** Forrester, Koontz, Masih, Schulz and Sturgeon. **Nays:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Davis, Horne, Martinez, Mooij.

➤ **FEBRUARY 2024 REVENUE REPORT - Acting Executive Director, Joseph Pizza provided a synopsis of the February 2024 Park Commission Revenue Report**

*Revenue is down slightly over last year. The decreases are few thousand in several areas, overall, I attribute this to weather. I don't believe there is any reason for alarm. Once the weather breaks, I'm confident we will take off in the usual areas, primarily golf and tennis.*

*Wildlife center - Revenue this month appears higher due to a donation received.*

*Commissioner Schulz commented on the new format of the bills report.*

*Acting Executive Director Joseph Pizza confirmed that the reports are now being generated by the County's new accounting system.*

- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz and seconded by Commissioner Forrester, by voice vote, the February 2024 Mercer County Park Commission Revenue Report was approved as presented.

- **Ayes:** Forrester, Koontz, Masih, Schulz and Sturgeon. **Nays:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Davis, Horne, Martinez, Mooij.

➤ **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - Nominated by Superintendent of Operations, Robert Doherty, presented by Acting Executive Director, Joseph Pizza.**

- Tim Franks, Sr., Senior Garage Maintenance

➤ **COMMUNICATIONS – Presented by Acting Executive Director, Joseph Pizza**

**C-1: DIANE NICKERSON - NATIONAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR - LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

*At the National Wildlife Rehabilitators annual conference held in Nebraska last month Diane was honored with their LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. This is their highest honor.*

*Diane has served as our Wildlife Center Director for the past 30yrs. Devoting her time and passion for Wildlife Rehabilitation not only here in Mercer County but throughout the state and nationally. Diane serves on a number of boards and advisory councils. She is a mentor and good will ambassador for wildlife rehabilitation across the country. At our center alone, Diane has overseen treatment of over 3,00 different species of wildlife a year. It has been my good fortune to have worked with Diane for the past 14yrs. I know her to be kind, compassionate dedicated person. I am so happy to recognize Diane here tonight, THANK YOU DIANE, for all your contributions to the rehabilitation of wildlife nationally and in particular here in Mercer County; Congratulations!*

## C-2: 2023/4 MERCER COUNTY WILDLIFE CENTER NEWSLETTER

### ➤ OLD BUSINESS:

- *Park Maintenance, Superintendent of Operations, Rob Doherty*
- *Golf Operations, Superintendent of Golf, Jay Long*
- *Capital Project Updates, Superintendent of Parks, Anthony Cucchi*

### ➤ NEW BUSINESS:

- RESOLUTIONS:

R-1 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH ARTWORKS TRENTON, INC. [501(c)(3)] FOR CONDUCTING AND STAGING A FAMILY ART-MAKING DAY AT SOUTH RIVERWALK PARK, IN THE CITY OF TRENTON. PERIOD: APRIL 20, 2024

- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz, seconded by Commissioner Forrester.
- **Ayes:** Forrester, Koontz, Masih, Schulz and Sturgeon. **Nays:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Davis, Horne, Martinez, Mooij.

R-2 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN OPTION TO EXTEND THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH HARVEST HOSPITALITY GROUP FOR CONCESSIONAIRE CATERING SERVICES AT THE HOPEWELL VALLEY GOLF COURSE. PERIOD: MAY 1, 2024 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2025. OPTION YEAR RENTAL FEE PAID TO MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION: \$6,500.00 PER MONTH (CC2021-03B)

- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz, seconded by Commissioner Koontz.
- **Ayes:** Forrester, Koontz, Masih, Schulz and Sturgeon. **Nays:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Davis, Horne, Martinez, Mooij.

*Commissioner Koontz asked if the Park Commission was satisfied with the current level of service.*

*Acting Executive Director, Joseph Pizza replied that the caterer, despite challenges in the beginning with getting into the facility, has provided good service and has increased marketing and offerings.*

➤ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

*Presented by Acting Executive Director, Joseph Pizza*

**GOLF:**

- Earlier today I attended a presentation on Customer Service Relations at Mt View Golf Course. I asked our director of golf, John Kostin to put together a presentation to educate our seasonal staff on how to interact with the public. It is these seasonal employees who often have the most direct contact with our patrons. It is that first impression that forms the patrons opinion about our facility, the Park Commission, and the county in general.
- I would like to thank John for putting this together, John would you please brief the commissioners on why this is needed and its overall benefits. \
- Additionally in golf, to date we have sold 1,625 memberships, already we have seen 13,600 rounds of golf played. Our Mercer Senior League has 180 golfers, we are onboarding 70 seasonal employees to man our 4 golf locations. I feel we are off to a strong start to another successful season.

**TENNIS:**

- In tennis we are registering for our Summer Tennis League, currently we have 562 participants, maximum capacity for the league is 725 players.
- We recently secured funding to resurface many of our courts in Mercer County Park. We were behind in this annual maintenance due to the county funding shortfalls of last year.

**STABLES:**

- I am happy to report registration for summer programs including summer camp field trips are filling up. Some of the organizations who are participating are; CYO Mercer at Hollowbrook, CYO Mercer Broadstreet, Anchor House, Trenton Recreation, Christina Seix Academy.
- In April we are adding new programs – Mommy & Me / Daddy & Me - Pony Rides, Pony Partners Groom, Tack, & Ride.

**NATURE CENTER:**

- Our Environmental Education staff will lead a 10 –program series on building awareness of conservation. Trenton Central H.S. students will participate in this program through funding provided by Princeton Area Community Foundation.

**STEWARDSHIP:**

- Our Stewardship staff are providing plants for several volunteer planting events. We will oversee the planting at Baldpate with the Sour Land Conservancy and with REI at dam Site 21.
- Stewardship has also scheduled 2 litter clean up events – the first being at Roebling Park with employees from First Bank and the second at Mercer County Park with employees from ZS Associates of Princeton. These events are scheduled around EARTH DAY.

**MARKETING & COMMUNITY OUTREACH:**

- Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike Drive will take place on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 12n – 4pm. We will have 2 drop off locations, Ranger Hq in MCP and the Hunt Barn. The bike drive benefits the Boys & Girls Club of Mercer County’s Bike Exchange. The Bike Drive is done in collaboration with the County Planning Department. Since 2009 the Bike Exchange has sold over 27,000 bikes and contributed over \$1,600 to the Boys & Girls Club.
- Art Making Day – this event is in partnership with ArtWorks of Trenton. The event will be held in South River Walk Park on Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> from 12n-4pm. 500 to 1,00 families will participate in creating art that will be displayed at Art All Night in June.

➤ **PUBLIC SESSION:**

- The Mercer County Park Commission welcomes the public’s participation and comments. If you wish to participate in the public comment section of our meeting you may do so via the Zoom messaging/chat feature or by the, “hand-raising” feature, where you will be prompted to speak to provide your public comment.
- The rules and guidelines for public comment may be found on the Commission’s website. Please be aware that individuals are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes during their comment. However, the Commission may, at its option, extend time for certain individuals during the public comment period.
- Each member of the public who wishes to speak during the public comment period shall give the speaker’s full name, organization name (if applicable) and Municipality of Residence.
- Individuals may provide comments, or materials, by regular mail to the Mercer County Park Commission headquarters or via email to [Hmauro@mercercounty.org](mailto:Hmauro@mercercounty.org).

- **Public Comment:**

- Kris Grudt, Executive Director, Princeton National Rowing Association.

➤ **APRIL 24, 2024 PARK COMMISSION MEETING; TO TAKE PLACE AT 5:30PM AT:**

- Mountain View Golf Course  
850 Bear Tavern Road  
Ewing, NJ

➤ **ADJOURNMENT:**

- On motion by Commissioner Koontz and seconded by Commissioner Sturgeon, by affirmative voice vote, Adjournment took place at 6:43 pm.

Heather B. Mauro

*Heather B. Mauro*

Executive Secretary

Secretary to the Board

Mercer County Park Commission