

Introduction: June 5, 2024
Public Hearing: June 18, 2024

**ORDINANCE 2024-14
TOWNSHIP OF CHESTER**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 37,
PARKS COMMITTEE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESTER, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council have determined that it is in the best interest of Chester Township to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Parks Committee and Recreation Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Chester, County of Morris, and State of New Jersey that Chapter 37, Parks Committee and Recreation Committee is amended as follows (new language in **bold**, old language crossed out):

Section 1: §37-2 Parks Committee, is amended as follows:

- A. No change.
- B. No change.
- C. No change.
- D. Each member of the Parks Committee shall serve for a term of three years. Any vacancies to the Parks Committee shall be filled by appointment by the Mayor, with advice and consent of the Council for the remaining unexpired terms of such vacancies. **The Mayor shall have the right, in the Mayor's sole discretion, to remove any member of the Parks Committee. It is expected that each member regularly attend the meetings of the Parks Committee. Unexcused absence from three or more of the regularly scheduled meetings in any calendar year will be grounds for removal and replacement by the Mayor.**
- E. No change.
- F. ~~The Parks Committee shall have full control and supervision of all events held at Chester Township's parks, playgrounds, playfields, and other recreation and leisure~~

areas ("facilities") owned or controlled by Chester Township. The powers and duties of the Parks Committee shall be as follows:

- (1) Oversee the utilization, care, and maintenance of the Township's parks (including hiking trails), playgrounds, playfields, and other recreation and leisure areas ("facilities"), in all instances subject to, and in compliance with, applicable law, including the Township's ordinances.**
- (2) Recommend to the Mayor and Council for approval and adoption rules and regulations for (i) the public use of the facilities and (ii) proper conduct of public recreation for the Township, consistent with Chapter 130, Parks and Playgrounds, of the Township's Code.**
- (3) Periodically review and analyze the facilities and make recommendations to the Mayor and Council for enhancements and improvements.**
- (4) Make recommendations to the Mayor and Council regarding lands for acquisition for use as public playgrounds and recreation places.**
- (5) Work in cooperation with the Recreation Committee in the execution of the above-referenced powers and duties.**

G. No Change.

~~H. A subcommittee of the Parks Committee shall be the "Concession Stand Committee," which shall be responsible for the operation and supervision of the Concession Stand. The members of the subcommittee shall be appointed by the Parks Committee.~~

I. H. One member of the Parks Committee shall be appointed by the Mayor to also serve as a member of the Recreation Committee.

Section 2. §37-3, Recreation Committee, is amended as follows:

- A. No change.
- B. No change.
- C. No change.

- D. Each member of the Recreation Committee shall serve for a term of three years. Any vacancies to the Recreation Committee shall be filled by appointment by the Mayor, with advice and consent of the Council for the remaining unexpired terms of such vacancies. **The Mayor shall have the right, in the Mayor's sole discretion, to remove any member of the Recreation Committee. It is expected that each member regularly attend the meetings of the Recreation Committee. Unexcused absence from three or more of the regularly scheduled meetings in any calendar year will be grounds for removal and replacement by the Mayor.**
- E. No change.
- F. ~~The Recreation Committee shall be responsible for all Chester Township recreation activities. It shall conduct and oversee forms of recreation and/or cultural activities for the residents of Chester Township. The Recreation Committee may conduct such activities on properties under the control and/or ownership of Chester Township, as well as on private properties. The Recreation Committee may charge and collect reasonable fees for such activities.~~ The powers and duties of the Recreation Committee shall as be follows:
- (1) **Oversee all Chester Township recreation activities, including conducting and overseeing forms of recreation and/or cultural activities for residents of Chester Township.**
 - (2) **Propose, suggest, create, and develop recreation programs.**
 - (3) **Recommend to the Mayor and Council for approval and adoption rules and regulations as may be necessary.**
 - (4) **Analyze recreational facilities within Chester Township and make recommendations for enhancement and improvement.**
 - (5) **Work in cooperation with the Parks Committee in the execution of the above-referenced powers and duties.**
- G. ~~The Recreation Committee shall be responsible for all Chester Township recreation activities. It shall conduct and oversee forms of recreation and/or cultural activities for the residents of Chester Township.~~ The Recreation Committee may conduct **such recreation** activities on properties under the control and/or ownership of Chester Township, as well as on private properties. The Recreation Committee may charge and collect reasonable fees for such activities, **provided, however, that fees for summer camp shall be adopted by resolution.**

H. One member of the Recreation Committee shall be appointed by the Mayor to also serve as a member of the Parks Committee.

Section 3. §37-4, Rules, is deleted in its entirety.

Section 4. §37-5, Appointments and subcommittees, is amended as follows:

§ 37-5 4 Appointments and subcommittees.

The Parks Committee and Recreation Committee shall each have the power to create subcommittees, and to appoint supervisors and assistants.

Section 5. §37-6, Acquisition of Property, is deleted in its entirety.

Section 6. §37-7, Annual appropriations, is amended as follows:

§ 37-7 5 Annual appropriations.

The Mayor and Council will appropriate sums which, in their opinion, are satisfactory for the Parks Committee and Recreation Committee to enable each Committee to pay its expenses. Each Committee may also solicit or receive any gifts or bequests of money, other personal property or any donation, to be applied toward temporary or permanent use of parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities. All monies received by each Committee shall be paid over to the municipal treasurer and shall be kept in a special fund dedicated for park and recreational facilities.

Section 7. §37-6, Oversight, is hereby added:

§ 37-6 Oversight.

The Parks Committee and Recreation Committee shall report directly to the Mayor and Council. The Parks Committee and Recreation Committee will keep the Mayor and Council reasonably and timely informed of (i) any contemplated or upcoming events or activities being initiated, conducted, overseen, sponsored, or cosponsored by the Parks Committee or Recreation Committee, and (ii) any material matters regarding utilization, care, or maintenance of the facilities. The Mayor and Council retain discretion with respect to any and all decisions made by the Parks Committee or Recreation Committee.

Section 8.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 9. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication as required by law.

ATTEST:

Robin Collins

Robin Collins
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF CHESTER

Timothy Drag

Timothy Drag
Mayor