BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for June 16, 2026, at 7:30 PM via Zoom

Call to Order
A monthly meeting of the Borough of Mountain Lakes Recreation Commission was held on June 16, 2026, at 7:30 PM via Zoom teleconference. The meeting was presided over by David Keyt, with Heather Hornyak serving as secretary.

Attendance
- **Voting Members**: David Keyt, Heather Hornyak, Shaun Lehrer, James Aitken, Derek Jackson, Ilaxi Rana, Rob Wianecki
- **Non-voting Members**: Laurie Stepper (recreation director), Arian Nanda (junior member)
- **Members not in attendance**: Julia McVeigh, Mark Odenwelder
- **Guests in attendance**: none

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the previous meeting on March 17, 2026, were approved as submitted.

Recreation Director's Report (Laurie Stepper)

Summer Programs and Registration Updates
- Beach tags: Sales began on May 1. As of June 10, 1042, adult tags and 628 Child tags had been sold. Note: There was a baseline price increase; however, late fees (after June 30) have been eliminated.
- **Hub Lakes Pickleball Tournament (May 16):** Mountain Lakes residents performed well:
    - Men's: 2nd Place
    - Women's: 3rd Place
    - Mixed: 2nd Place
- **Program Development:** Finalized the Summer Concert Series, launched the Laker 55+ Club Gourmet Potluck sign-up, and advanced logistics for 250th Anniversary events (including the What America Means to Me Photo Contest, Movie Night, Community BBQ, Fireworks, and Stars, Stripes & Sirens).

Upcoming Events Calendar
- July 23rd – The Blocked Toms at Island Beach
- July 30th – Peach Project at Island Beach
- August 6th – Alex Laurenzi and Quartet at Island Beach
- August 13th – Treble Band at Island Beach
- August 19th – Family Movie Night at Island Beach
- August 20th – Workingman Jed at Island Beach
- August 27th – Tourne at Island Beach
- October 11th – Fall Fest at Birchwood Lake

Old Business

1. Volunteer Verification & Background Checks (no update)
- **Objective:** Establish a formal policy/procedure for all volunteers working with youth, mirroring the established processes of Junior Laker lacrosse, basketball, and Tri-Town Little League.
- **Compliance Agreement:** Laurie is drafting a formal agreement for all partner (quasi) entities (quasi-entities). This document will mandate that organizations conduct background checks for all their volunteers.
- **Tracking & Verification:** The commission is developing a system to monitor fingerprinting status and background check results, include the maintenance of a master "state list" to verify compliant individuals.

- **Program Oversight:** The commission is evaluating whether the Mountain Lakes Rec Dept requires additional info from quasi-entities that manage their own programs.
- **Action Items:** *Option A:* Volunteers email a verification form directly to the Recreation Department. *Option B:* Sport coordinators submit a consolidated list of volunteers accompanied by a signed compliance agreement.

2. Facility Rental Process & Policy Update (no update)

- **Current Status:** The current rental form is limited in scope, covering only basic logistics (date/time/location) and insurance minimums ($500k for homeowners; $1M for public entities). The current policy is insufficient for the increasing number of unique or complex rental requests.
- **Objectives for Policy Revision:** Comprehensive Agreement: Develop a more comprehensive rental agreement like neighboring municipalities to better mitigate risk for the Borough.
- **Permitted Use Guidelines:** Define "Allowed vs. Prohibited" activities on Borough property.
- **Commercial Activity:** Establish clear rules regarding the sale of goods and merchandise on public property.
- **Logistics & Requirements:** Formalize standards for live entertainment, facility access (including restrooms), and adjusted insurance thresholds.
- **Facility Rental Subcommittee:** The group is vetting policies from other communities to adapt them to meet the needs of Mountain Lakes. Members: Derek Jackson, James Aitken, Julia McVeigh, Ilaxi Rana, and Arian Nanda.

New Business

1. August Lighted Boat Parade Planning

- Commission initiated preliminary planning for the event. The following elements need to be finalized prior to August:
- Clear guidelines regarding safety, voting, and launch/route logistics (historically starting at Island Beach).
- Coordination with lifeguards and securing a police boat presence.

Adjournment & Next Meeting

- **Next Meeting:** Scheduled for July 21, 2026.
- **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.