

Meeting Report: Votee Park Inclusive Playground

Date: July 29, 2025 **Location:** Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Participants:

- Councilwoman Hillary Goldberg, PPRAB Liaison
- Township Manager Jackie Hashmat
- Farah Gillani (Engineering)
- Sean Powers (Recreation Department)
- Allison Davis, PPRAB Co-Chair
- Christina Pami, PPRAB Co-Chair

Purpose of Meeting

To begin the **design phase of the Votee Park Inclusive Playground renovation** and ensure that **resident input drives the process**. The discussion focused on structuring feedback, so it is meaningful to families, actionable for engineers, and compliant with Jake's Law grant requirements.

Key Points Discussed

Resident Input as the Foundation

- **Community voices must shape the design.**
- PPRAB will gather resident perspectives and ensure feedback translates into usable design guidance.
- The questionnaire will focus on equipment types, layout, and accessibility features.

Grant and Funding Context

- The Township secured a **Jake's Law grant** requiring ADA compliance, shaded and sensory areas, family-accessible bathrooms, and inclusive play equipment.

- The project covers **full renovation**: surfacing, equipment, and accessibility upgrades.
- The Auditor confirmed **Ordinance 16-2016** allocated **\$531,000** for this project. If the Township uses a **0% Green Acres loan** for the balance, the playground can be delivered **without a tax increase**.

Resident Engagement Tools

- **QR code signage** at the park linking to visual surveys.
 - Visuals should be tied directly to the QR code survey, so residents can see examples of equipment while responding.
 - The group discussed using **Plexiglas-protected posters or easels** in shaded areas of the park to make surveys more accessible.
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- **On-site outreach** by staff, PPRAB, or volunteers during peak times.
- **Visual boards** in the park to illustrate design options.
- **Student/YAP volunteers** assisting with survey distribution and engagement. If any resident is interested in volunteering to help collect the input, please email me at hgoldberg@teanecknj.gov and I will put you in touch with Christina who is managing sign up times to go to the park.

Accountability and Timeline

- Jackie and Farah prepared a **draft survey**, which the PPRAB chairs will review and give feedback this week.
- Resident feedback must be clear, specific, and tied directly to design choices.