

**LEONIA RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF May 18, 2021**

Chairman Jon Abouaf called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m, duly publicized, and in accordance with the Sunshine Law in the Leonia Recreation Meeting Room.

PRESENT:

In-person: Chairman Jon Abouaf, Commissioner Paul Springob, Commissioner Dennyse Hernandez, Council Liaison Louis Grandelis, Superintendent Sean Krakower, Program Director David Torres, Pool Manager Tim Ryan.

Virtual: Commissioner Vito Mazza.

Absent: Commissioner Anthony Vassallo , Commission Alternate Jason Klein, Commissioner Marilyn Mulato, Commissioner Jared Lee.

MINUTES:

Approval of Minutes, March 16, 2021.

Tabled to June 15, 2021

Approval of Minutes, April 20, 2021

Motion to approve minutes Commissioner Springob. Second Commissioner Hernandez. Approved.

FINANCIALS

None

PUBLIC PORTION

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel Committee: None

Program Director Update: Program Director Torres informed the Commission of the camp registration numbers. We have 115 registered for Wood Park and 30 for ACS. Chairperson Abouaf asked how these numbers compare to previous years. Program Director Torres informed him that we are down a little. Program Director Torres stated that we are receiving a lot more birthday permit requests than previous years. Chairperson Abouaf asked if we charge a permit fee and yes we do. Program Director Torres mentioned that Kean has requested a field permit for Sylvan Park in August but

we will not be handing out any barbecuing permits because of a new ordinance that forbids grilling equipment in parks. Chairperson Abouaf asked if we can let them use the field house but we cannot because of liability issues. Program Director Torres stated that we have only 28 spots left in pool registrations. Commissioner Hernandez wanted to know if we were going to have a waitlist. Councilman Grandelis asked if the waitlist could be time stamped. Both questions were answered yes by Superintendent Krakower.

Councilman Report: Council Liaison Grandelis reported to the Commission that they had to postpone their Mayor and Council meeting because the state has not approved the budget but said that the state needs to approve it by this month. The Councilman spoke with Superintendent Krakower and stated the permit policy had minor adjustments made by the Laws and Ordinance committee. Chairperson Abouaf stated that teams were looking for field space therefore he posed the question when will the ordinance be finalized. The Councilman said very soon therefore the Recreation staff should start taking initial requests.

Sports Boosters Report: None

Chairperson Report: Chairperson Abouaf felt that the Commission's sub committees are not having their meetings and historically they report these meetings to the Commission. He believes this will increase the Commission's involvement in the direction and oversight of the department. He would like to get more sub committee meetings on the calendar.

OLD BUSINESS

Bergen County Open Space Grant - Superintendent Krakower gave updates that the cost of repaving and curbing the parking lot in Sylvan Park, redoing the stairs to Upper Sylvan Park, and creating stadium seating on the adjacent hill will cost approximately \$300,000 as opposed to the estimate of \$270,000 which was included in the Borough's Letter of Intent. He clarified that the grant requires a 1 to 1 match, thus the Borough would expend \$150,000, or half the cost of the project, as part of the capital budget. Additionally, the cost of the stadium seating can be reduced by building them on a more narrow part of the hill, or building them only part way up the hill.

Commissioner Mazza asked if the stadium seating will be used frequently and if the grant could be used for a trails or a Nature project connecting the park to the Leonia Horse Stables. Commission Chairman Abouaf stated the stadium seating would be a valuable upgrade to the park's visual appeal.

Ehudl Sports - Superintendent Krakower stated we are working on putting out a survey to the residents to figure out what games we should do a league for.

Program Director Krakower invited the Commission to the Senior Annual Town meeting on May 19th at 1pm in the Sculpture Garden.

New Business:

Parks Walk - Superintendent Krakower presented the parks walk documents to the Commission.

Swim Club Update - Pool Manager Tim Ryan reported to the Commission that himself and Superintendent Krakower had a discussion with the Board of Health on pool policies. They were all in agreement that we would reintroduce the slide, chairs, umbrellas, swim team, swim lessons, showers, and chaining rooms.

Sports Boosters Scoreboard donation - Superintendent Krakower explained that the Sports Boosters had approached him about possibly adding an additional basketball scoreboard in the Recreation Center. Program Director Torres is working with three different companies to get pricing for the Sports Boosters.

Green Acres Program - Superintendent Krakower reported updates on the status of the Green Acres Park Development Grant from his conversations with the Borough Grant Writer. Potential projects proposed included raising/surfacing the ground at Kirkland Park to address flooding, and potentially build a beach volleyball court and full basketball court next to the Leonia Swim Club.

Superintendent Krakower also proposed an option of fixing the cracks in the Wood Park Basketball Court and extending the second small court to a full court size, but stated that further discussion with the Borough Engineer will be needed to assess the amount of land needed and potential costs.

Commissioner Springob suggested inquiring about whether the grant would allow for the purchase of privately owned land behind the Promise Church, for use as additional parking and a pathway connecting the Sylvan Park and Swim Club parking lots.

RESOLUTIONS

PUBLIC PORTION

None

At 8:10 P.M., a motion was made by Commissioner Hernandez to adjourn, second by Commissioner Springob. Approved.