

LEONIA RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF September 21, 2021

Chairman Jon Abouaf called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m, duly publicized, and in accordance with the Sunshine Law in the Leonia Recreation Meeting Room.

PRESENT:

Chairman Jon Abouaf, Commissioner Marilyn Mulato, Commissioner Vito Mazza, Commissioner Paul Springob, Commissioner Dennyse Hernandez, Superintendent Sean Krakower, Program Director David Torres,

Absent:

Commissioner Anthony Vassallo, Commission Alternate Jason Klein, Council Liaison Louis Grandelis.

MINUTES:

Approval of Minutes, July 19, 2021

These minutes were tabled by the Commission due to not having a quorum to vote on them.

Approval of Minutes, August 3rd, 2021.

Motion to approve the March 16th minutes was made by Commissioner Mazza and seconded by Commissioner Mulato. All were in favor. Approved

FINANCIALS

The May-August Operating, Activities, Senior and Swim Pool financials were presented to the Commission by Superintendent Krakower. A motion was made to approve the financial reports by Commissioner Mazza and seconded by Commissioner Mulato. The Commission was all in favor therefore the financial reports were approved.

PUBLIC PORTION

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel Committee: None

Programs and Fees Committee: Program Director Torres had asked the Programs

and Fees Committee to have a meeting within the next couple of weeks. Commissioner Mulato and Mazza noted that they would sit in the meeting now that one of the members of the Commission who was on Programs and Fees is no longer on the Commission.

**The Commission discussed and voted on the Commission Meeting to be pushed back to 7:30pm instead of 7:00pm. All in favor.

Swim Club Committee: Commissioner Mazza, Chairperson of the Committee, would like to set up a meeting soon and get Pool Manager Ryan involved.

Program Director Update: Program Director Torres gave the commission his update which included new open gym hours, instructor vaccine mandates, new classes, cancelled classes and permits. Mr. Torres asked Commissioner Mulato if she knew anything about the PPL schedule. She told him that all PPL games will be at a field in Secaucus. Commissioner Springob asked if there was any liability in adding archery as a new class. Program Director Torres stated that he had spoken to our Joint Insurance Officers and they said as long as we have the archery instructors Certificate of Liability with the Borough of Leonia as an added insurer then we are covered. Commissioner Springob asked if there were any plans to revitalize the lower level of the Senior Center. Superintendent Krakower stated yes we have won a grant and there will be upgrades to that part of the senior center.

Councilman Report: None

Sports Boosters Report: Superintendent Krakower informed the Commission that he had been invited to the last Sports Boosters Board meeting. In this meeting they discussed having the High School coaches run camps or clinics in conjunction with the Rec. Chairperson Abouaf poised the question that we may want to decide which coaches we want running camps or clinics. The Commission agreed. Superintendent Krakower also brought up that the Sports Boosters would like to run a panel and pizza night where the Recreation Department and the school's Athletic Department can speak with parents of the community about what each department has to offer.

Chairperson Report: None

OLD BUSINESS

Capital Budget Project - Superintendent Krakower told the Commission as per the Borough Engineer that we should have the specifications for the roof in 3-4 weeks.

Halloween on Broad - Program Director Torres had handed out the flyer for the event on Saturday October 30th.

New Business:

Vaccine Policy: Superintendent Krakower handed out the new employee vaccine policy to the Commission. Commissioner Mazza asked if the Recreation Commission was able to have any say in this policy. Chairperson Abouaf replied no. Commissioner Mazza asked if there is a work around to this policy for example having independent contractors for programs instead of hiring instructors as employees and should we fight this policy? Chairperson Abouaf replied I do not believe we should be trying to undermine the Mayor and Council's policies and we do not want to fight for 1 or 2 employees that do not want to comply with the new policy. Commissioner Springob asked if this will apply to Summer Camp and Swim Club employees and if there are religious and medical exemptions. Superintendent Krakower replied yes to both questions. Commissioner Mazza states that this policy is now interfering with people's incomes and is furious by this. Chairperson Abouaf informs Commissioner Mazza that he will need to take action against the Mayor and Council and not the Recreation Commission. Commissioner Mazza states that it is his understanding that this is a violation of Civil Rights and we are liable as a commission.

Summer Camp Review: Program Torres reported his overview of the 2021 Camp season. Commissioner Springob had a parent come to him and comment about how the interview process was via zoom and that it was not the best way to conduct interviews. Program Director Torres and Superintendent Krakower agreed and stated the only reason we had the interview process on zoom was because of COVID regulations.

National Fitness Campaign: Superintendent Krakower showed the Commission a short video of what the National Fitness Campaign is. The National Fitness Campaign is trying to bring an outdoor fitness gym to Leonia. Chairperson Abouaf thinks we should alert the High School and County Parks about this because it would be more useful to those two organizations. Commissioner Mazza asked if we can use other grants to offset the costs. Superintendent Krakower replied yes.

Esports: Superintendent Krakower told the commission that he had a conversation with a resident in town about esports. The resident has been a part of the esports community since the beginning. Superintendent Krakower told the Commission that based off of his conversation with the resident, we should try and focus on the social aspects of gaming first rather than go straight into the competitive market. The Commission recommended the resident sit in on the Programs and Fees meeting to get more in depth on how to go about bringing esports to Leonia.

Mask Policy: Commissioner Mazza asks what is our masking policy for programs. Superintendent Krakower explains that outside we do not have to wear masks but inside we are required to wear masks for all programs. Commissioner Mazza states that the Executive Order states that masks are not required for high intensity activities. Chairperson Abouaf states that Mayor Zeigler and the Health Department have final say on Covid related issues.

A motion was made by Commissioner Springob for the Recreation Commission to go into closed session at 8:39pm. Second by Commissioner Mulato. The Recreation Commission ended the closed session at 8:41pm

A motion was made by Commissioner Mulato to permanently employ Grace An as Office Manager. Second by Commissioner Springob. Unanimous yes vote by the Commissioner

A motion was made by Commissioner Springob to permanently employ Sean Krakower as Superintendent of Recreation. Second by Commissioner Hernandez. Unanimous yes vote by the Commissioner

RESOLUTIONS

PUBLIC PORTION

None

At 8:42 P.M, a motion was made by Commissioner Mulato to adjourn, second by Commissioner Mazza. Approved.