

LEONIA RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Chairman Jon Abouaf called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m, duly publicized, and in accordance with the Sunshine Law in the Leonia Recreation Meeting Room.

PRESENT:

Chairman Jon Abouaf, Commissioner Andrew Choi, Commissioner Dennyse Hernandez, Commissioner Vito Mazza, Commissioner Marilyn Mulato, Superintendent Sean Krakower, Program Director Torres.

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

MINUTES:

Approval of Minutes, January 18, 2022

Motion to approve the January 18 minutes was made by Commissioner Mazza and seconded by Commissioner Choi. All were in favor. Approved.

FINANCIALS

None.

PUBLIC PORTION

Jaime Scaflane, 254 Glenwood Ave. Leonia, NJ 07605

Mrs. Scaflane presented to the Commission an event that's purpose is to grab the girls attention and get them more involved in sports. She is driven by this idea because registration numbers for girls sports are low across Recreation, Middle School and High School. She has stated that she went to the Sports Boosters to sponsor the event and they loved the idea. The event will be a Friday in June where volunteers made up of parents, high school coaches and players, will be able to interact with the girls and play exhibition games. Different organizations such as, AYSO, Sports Boosters, Recreation, etc., will be able to attend to promote the programs that each of them run. The event would include music, commentary, and a female to sing the National Anthem. The event will also include an ice cream truck with one free ticket per registrant. What Mrs. Scaflane is asking for the Commission to use Wood Park as the site to hold the event.

CORRESPONDENCE

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairperson: Chairperson Abouaf mentioned that Judah Zeigler from AYSO United called about a concern that a permit holder that we had issued is using AYSO goals that they are not supposed to be using. Superintendent Krakower has reached out to Athletic Director Steve Perrotta to review the video surveillance of the field to see if we can find out if in fact the permit holder was using the goals. Chairperson Abouaf also brought forth to the Commission that our Assistant Pool Manager Patrick Ryan will not be returning this summer and we have advertised for his position.

Programs and Fees: Superintendent Krakower summarized the Programs and Fees Committee meeting that was held 2/3/2022. The major points that were discussed in the meeting were; Fields and Parks permit policy update, summer camp field trips, 4th of July event, suspension from program policy, and Open Rec. Chairperson Abouaf wants to make sure that we do not over commit and be responsible for both Leonia Day and a 4th of July event. Councilman Grandelis wants Superintendent Krakower to reach out to the Shade Tree Commission to have a meeting to learn how Leonia Day is operated. Chairperson Abouaf reiterated that he would not like the Recreation Department to run it and would rather another department or committee run it. Commissioner Mazza asked if we could change the date of Leonia Day. Councilman Grandelis was unsure and needed to speak with the Mayor and Council about it. Program Director Torres is concerned that we do not conflict with the fireworks that the Sports Booster do each year. Commissioner Mulato stated that the Sports Boosters will be doing the carnival from July 15th-25th therefore there would not be a conflict. Commissioner Mulato also stated that we should be doing a 4th of July event because the community loved it. Commissioner Mazza stated that if we do run the 4th of July event it should be recognized that the Recreation Department is the one running it and benefits from that. Commissioner Choi says that if we do run the event again we should keep the free popcorn and cotton candy station for the kids, as well as the dunk tank and dunk the Recreation Staff.

Swim Club: Commissioner Choi reported a summary of the meeting that took place on February 10th, 2022. He reported to the Commission that it was a possibility of giving back to the members that stay with us through the "Covid years" 2020 and 2021. The possibilities would include free guest passes. Superintendent Krakower suggested that we raise rates next year. Commissioner Choi stated that it was discussed that we should go back to normal this season. No covid restrictions. Commissioner Choi asked if staff will need to wear masks. Superintendent Krakower noted that he will need to ask the Health Department for an answer on that question. Commissioner Choi stated another thing that was discussed was the idea to bring new activities down to the pool. These activities may include volleyball, table tennis tournaments, music, kahoot, and water fitness. Commissioner Choi also stated that the bathrooms should be checked by staff daily. Lastly, Commissioner Choi mentioned that maybe we can put a bigger covered picnic area in Kirkland Park outside the fence of the pool.

Program Director- None

Councilman Report - None

OLD BUSINESS

Capital Budget Update: Superintendent Krakower has told the Commission that we have received a quote and that we are awaiting another one.

Eagle Scout Project: Superintendent Krakower updated the Commission that Eagle Scout David Meyer has met with the building department and permits to build are not needed. David Meyer will be presenting to the Mayor and Council for approval at the next Mayor and Council meeting. After approval from the Mayor and Council we will need to receive approval from the Joint Insurance Fund.

New Business:

Holi Event: Superintendent Krakower informed the Commission that this event will be happening but a date has not been confirmed yet. All Department Heads have been informed as well. Superintendent Krakower has notified the event organizer that a permit fee will be required.

Table Tennis Tournament: Program Director Torres has been in contact with Korean American Table Tennis Association of New Jersey who is sponsored and organized by Seung Min Ryu. This organization has reached out to inquire about running an accredited table tennis tournament in the Recreation Center on Saturday, November 19th from 8am-8pm. A permit will be required for this event. Commissioner Mazza asked what their budget was for this event. Program Director Torres was unsure because the event is 10 months out. Commissioner Mazza asked how many people are expected to attend and what will be the fee? Program Director Torres replied with 150 people and \$800 for the fee. Commissioner Mazza asked if we are going to require a security deposit and that the deposit should be equal to the fee charged. Commissioner Choi asked the Commission if we want someone onsite to keep the facility safe. Commissioner Mazza stated then the organization would have to be charged extra for staffing fees. The Commission agreed that we should staff the event or have a Leonia Table Tennis member there whether it is a paid person or volunteer.

Indoor Mask Policy: Superintendent Krakower informed the Commission that the Mayor and Council repealed the indoor mask policy effective February 10th. It states that the public is no longer required to wear masks indoors.

Summer Camp Policies: Program Director Torres informed the Commission that we will be bringing back trips and asked the Commissioners if we should limit trips to outdoor activities and places that will be private just to our camp. Chairperson Abouaf does not see a problem with any limitations. The Commissioners agree. Program Director Torres added that we do not need to pay our counselors minimum wage because we are exempt. Program Director Torres asked Commissioner Mulato if it was possible to open the carnival to camp during the day? Commissioner Mulato will find out

the price to open the carnival just to camp.

Swim Club Policies/Guest Fees: Commissioner Mazza asked if we were open to other organizations to rent out the pool during the summer. Superintendent Krakower replied with no only SACC, Wood Park Camp and the Summer School programs are allowed down the pool during the summer.

Dog Park Update: Superintendent Krakower informed the Commission that a water pipe has burst and froze over in the dog park therefore due to dangerous slippery conditions we had to close the park down. During the time the park was closed the Mayor and Council wanted the park closed due to hazardous protruding tree roots. Superintendent Krakower told the Commission that he met with the DPW Superintendent and they snow fenced the areas that were hazardous and opened the park back up to the public. Once the grounds dry DPW will be able to get their machines into the park to cover the protruding tree roots with soil.

Poker Tournament: Superintendent Krakower had a conversation with Councilman Grandelis and the Councilman wanted the Superintendent to bring up this opportunity to the Commission. Chairperson Abouaf said that we should have Councilman Grandelis talk to the Mayor to see if this is legal. Commissioner Choi asked the Commission if they had an appetite for this. Commissioners Abouaf, Mazza and Mulato are ok with it. Commissioner Choi likes this idea for a fundraiser event if possible. Program Director Torres states that it would be a great idea because it pulls in an age group of people that we struggle to get numbers in our programs. The middle aged and senior male group.

Annual Senior Town Meeting: Superintendent Krakower and Senior Coordinator Maggie Browne would like to have a BBQ in Wood Park where the Fire Department could cook hot dogs and hamburgers. The Commission loved the idea.

Ice Rink: Commissioner Mazza suggested that the Recreation Department research temporary ice rink rentals. He stated that the American Legion looked into it but they have no room in their backyard for it. Commissioner Mazza stated that there is an upfront fee for the rinks but the money could be recouped and possibly create an income through rentals. Chairperson Abouaf asked where we would put it and we should ask the Joint Insurance Fund if this would be covered under our insurance policy? Superintendent Krakower stated either Wood Park or Kirkland Park. Commissioner Mazza states to the Commission that this would be a unique opportunity for the Department and it would make us stand out. Chairperson Abouaf states that this should be added to old business next meeting and to get the company in for a presentation.

Commissioner Mazza reiterates his concern for the Sports Boosters Lady Lion's Sports Event. He wants to make sure that we are not losing out to other organizations. Chairperson Abouaf states that there are no conflicts and they are just looking for field

space in which we cannot deny. Commissioner Choi reiterates that the premise for this event is to help the gaps in girls sports. Commissioner Mazza would like the timeline of the event adjusted to favor our program's timelines. Chairperson ABouaf states that it is not a lack of programming for girls, it's a lack of participation and an event like this can solve that. Program Director Torres believes that it stems from a lack of experience and that if we have clinics to teach the girls fundamentals they will be more comfortable registering for a more competitive setting. Commissioner Mazza expresses frustration with exclusionary groups and reiterates that he does not want this event to become that.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

PUBLIC PORTION

At 9:13 P.M, a motion was made by Commissioner Mulato to adjourn, second by Commissioner Choi. Approved.