

**LEONIA RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2022**

Chairman Jon Abouaf called the meeting to order at 7:33 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 Anthony Vassallo, Commissioner Dennyse Hernandez, Commissioner Marilyn Mulato, Superintendent Sean Krakower, Program Director Torres, Council Liaison Louis Grandelis.

**Absent:** , Commissioner Vito Mazza, Commissioner Ken Fernandez, Commission Alternate Jason Klein,

**MINUTES:**

Approval of Minutes, February 15, 2022

Motion to approve the February 15 minutes was made by Commissioner Mulato and second by Commissioner Choi. All were in favor. Approved.

**FINANCIALS**

None.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Chairperson:** Chairperson Abouaf met with Superintendent Krakower, Commissioner Hernandez and Councilman Grandelis about how and who will move forward with Leonia Day in the future. It was decided that a representative from each in town committee will be on a Leonia Day committee. Every year we will switch between each committee to be the head of organizing Leonia Day.

**Programs and Fees:** none.

**Swim Club:** none.

**Program Director-** Program Director Torres informed the Commission that our Summer Camp registration numbers are doing very well this year. We have 80 registrants in our Wood Park Summer Camp and 30 in our ACS Summer Camp. He explained to the Commission that our application system for CITs and Counselors was moved to an electronic application instead of paper this year. Commissioner Hernandez asked how

old you have to be to become a counselor. Program Director Torres answered that you have to be 15 years old.

**Councilman Report** - Councilman Grandelis stated that the Mayor and Council is currently preparing for the introduction of budgets but audits and financial battles are pushing things back. Since these battles are happening our topic of full-time bus driver has been pushed off of the HR/Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday March 15 and they will have it at a future meeting. Chairperson Abouaf asked Councilman Grandelis who was on the HR/Finance committee. Councilman Grandelis replied that Councilwoman Benadette Flaim, Councilwoman Joanne Terrell and Councilman Bill Ziegler are on the committee.

**Sports Boosters Report:** Commissioner Mulato reported that the carnival will be July 15th-25th this year. She said that the Bergen County Parks Department is giving them an issue with the placement of the carnival because they are worried about the grass being ruined where it usually is. Commissioner Vassallo asked if there are any other major events being run by the Boosters. Commissioner Mulato answered that the Boosters are donating jackets to the High School baseball team. Commissioner Mulato also would like to report that the scoreboard that they donated to the High School has not been installed yet. She stated that Lady Lion's Friday Night Lights is moving forward and they are looking into doing a movie night for the ladies after the event in Wood Park.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Capital Budget Update:** Superintendent Krakower has told the Commission that we have received approval from the Mayor and Council to go out to a public bid.

**Eagle Scout Project:** Superintendent Krakower updated the Commission that Eagle Scout was approved by the Mayor and Council with approval from our JIF. The JIF will need final drawings and final inspection from the Borough Engineer so they can move forward with putting it on the insurance.

**Table Tennis Tournament:** Program Director Torres informed the Commission that the organizers of this tournament are looking for a different date because the date they requested was the same day as Treat Street. That day is the day they wanted to run so they are not sure if they are going to use our space anymore.

**Temporary Ice Rink:** Superintendent Krakower contacted Magic Ice USA for a proposal and quote of the Ice Rink. The price came out to around \$400K without the generator or gas included. The reason we will need a generator for this is because the Recreation Building does not have the power to do so and the Electrician is uncomfortable with upgrading the building to that power because he is afraid that it will do damage to the building. Superintendent Krakower and the Commission agreed that it is not wise at this time to move forward with the temporary ice rink idea.

**Leonia Day/4th of July:** Superintendent Krakower states that Leonia Day is going to

include a lot of the same entertainment that the 4th of July event has. Our recommendation is to make it all one event therefore we are not running multiple events with the same attractions.

**New Business:**

**Spring Celebration:** Superintendent Krakower invites the Commission to our annual Spring Celebration where we will be doing egg hunts and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

**Baseball/Softball Clinics:** Superintendent Krakower informed the Commission that we are going to offer both baseball and softball clinics this Spring. He states that this is the first step to gaining interest in two wonderful sports that have not been a part of the Recreation Department in years.

**Office Manager:** Chairperson Abouaf informed the Commission that himself, Superintendent Krakower and Program Director Torres conducted interviews before the Commission Meeting. He stated that both candidates were qualified for the position.

**Swim Club Assistant Manager:** Superintendent Krakower explained that we are having trouble getting anyone to apply for the position of Assistant Swim Club Manager. Commissioner Vassallo asked if anyone is able to step up internally. Chairperson Abouaf mentioned that he had a discussion with Pool Manager Tim Ryan and Mr. Rayn said no one internally is ready for the position. Chairperson Abouaf states that our worst case scenario would be that Superintendent Krakower will have more hours at the Swim Club rather than less this year. Commissioner Vassallo asked if it is possible to merge the position of Office Manager and Assistant Pool Manager together. Chairperson Abouaf said that would be very hard to do. Commissioner Choi asked what college kids are we reaching out to? Chairperson Abouaf stated that Pool Manager Ryan has reached out to past staff and he has received no interest.

**SoundProofing Gym:** Commissioner Vassallo would like Superintendent Krakower to look into sound proofing the gym for better acoustics. He says that while he was in the gym for the Basketball League games it was not an enjoyable experience and the buzzer is too loud. He suggested that maybe putting something on the walls instead of the ceiling because the ceiling needs to be fixed. He also suggested that we get a net to protect the new scoreboards.

Motion to go into closed session made by Commissioner Mulato and was seconded by Commissioner Choi. Closed session begun at 8:03pm.

Closed session ended at 8:13pm

**RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution #22-01 Authorize the hire of the Office Manager. Carried

**PUBLIC PORTION**

At 8:14 P.M, a motion was made by Commissioner Mulato to adjourn, second by Commissioner Choi. Approved.