

LEONIA RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

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

PRESENT

Chairman Jon Abouaf, Commissioner Andrew Choi, Commission Alternate Jason Klein, Commissioner Anthony Vassallo, Commissioner Marilyn Mulato, Commissioner Ken Fernandez, Commissioner Dennyse Hernandez, Superintendent Sean Krakower and Program Director Destiney Sampson and Council Liaison Louis Grandelis arrived at 8:07pm

ABSENT

Commissioner Vito Mazza

MINUTES

Approval of Minutes April 19, 2022 - A motion was made by Commissioner Vassallo and seconded by Commissioner Choi. No discussion ensued and the minutes were approved.

Approval of Minutes May 17, 2022 - A motion was made by Commissioner Choi and a second was made by Commissioner Hernandez. No discussion ensued and the minutes were approved.

Approval of Minutes June 21, 2022 – These minutes were tabled as there was not a quorum to be able to vote or discuss.

Approval of Minutes July 9, 2022 - A motion was made by Commissioner Mulato and a second by Commissioner Vassallo. No discussion ensued and the minutes were approved.

FINANCIALS

NONE

PUBLIC PORTION

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson:

Programs and Fees: A Programs and Fees Committee meeting was held on 7/21/22. The people present at this meeting were Superintendent Krakower, Program Director Sampson, Commissioner Vassallo, Commissioner Fernandez and Commissioner Mulato. The park/facilities permit policy was discussed and changes were brought to the full Commission. Chairperson Abouaf ruled to adopt and discuss the new changes at the October Recreation Commission meeting. Another discussion topic was the AYSO Core soccer program being transitioned to the Recreation Department. Lastly, a new Turkey Trot 5K event was discussed.

Swim Club: none

Program Director- Program Director Sampson informed the Commission that Fall programs have started. The new Leonia Recreation Soccer Program is running well and has about 80 registrants. She stated that we will be hosting our first Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning. Commissioner Choi suggested that on the flyer there should be a QR code to make it easier to get to our registration website. Lastly, Program Director Sampson reported that our Winter Basketball League sign ups will begin October 10th.

Sports Boosters Report: Commissioner Mulato mentioned that the Lady Lions Event was successful.

Councilman Report – Councilman Grandelis mentioned that the capital budget was approved and the new municipal building is moving along with its construction.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrative Assistant Position - Superintendent Krakower informed the Commission that our new Administrative Assistant was approved by the Mayor and Council and he will be starting 9/22/22.

AYSO Core Transition to Recreation Program - This topic was discussed during the Programs and Fees committee meeting on 7/21/22. We had decided to move forward with the program.

Park Permit Policy – The Programs and Fees committee alongside Superintendent Krakower and Program Director Sampson have suggested updating the park/facilities permit policy. They suggested that “single use large event permits” should be a permit category. They also suggested that there should only be six of these permits given out per year and one per month. We will also have blackout dates and months in the updated policy. Commissioner Abouaf ruled that the new policy will be finalized at the next Commissioner meeting on October 18th, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

NJ Department of Community Affairs’ Local Recreation Improvement Grant – Superintendent Krakower is looking to obtain the maximum amount of this grant which is \$500,000. Superintendent Krakower brought the idea to the table that he would like to

renovate the pool facilities with this grant. Commissioner Choi and Commissioner Mulato both brought the idea to the table of getting Sylvan Park turfed. Commissioner Fernandez mentioned renovating the Recreation Building. Commissioner Mulato mentioned the idea of adding new bathrooms in Wood Park. Commissioner Vassallo mentioned renovating the Wood Park basketball courts to make two full courts. Commissioner Choi mentioned extending the pool by kurtland but Commissioner Mulato and Superintendent Krakower mentioned it's a huge flooding zone. Superintendent Krakower will do his research and bring prices to the table in future meetings. The grant application needs to be submitted by May 2023.

Intern - A motion was made by Commissioner Choi to go into closed session at 8:01pm. A second was made by Commissioner Mulato. A motion was made by Commissioner Mulato to come out of closed session at 8:12pm and a second was made by Commissioner Choi.

Superintendent Krakower wanted to mention to the Commission that Halloween Treat Street will take place on Saturday, October 29, 2022.

RESOLUTIONS

PUBLIC PORTION

None

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