

LEONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 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 Marilyn Mulato, Commissioner Ken Fernandez, Commissioner Dennyse Hernandez, Commissioner Vito Mazza, Superintendent Sean Krakower, Program Director Destiney Sampson, and Administrative Assistant Jayjoon Sin

ABSENT

Commissioner Anthony Vassallo, Council Liaison Louis Grandelis

MINUTES

Approval of Minutes June 21, 2022

A motion was made by Commissioner Mazza to approve the minutes. A second motion was made by Commissioner Hernandez. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved.

Approved of Minutes for June 21, 2022

A motion was made by Commissioner Mulato to approve the minutes. A second motion was made by Commissioner Fernandez. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved.

FINANCIALS

Superintendent Krakower briefly reviewed the financials reports. Commissioner Mazza inquired about where permit revenue comes from. Superintendent Krakower explained most permits are from outside organizations that use Sylvan Park. Furthermore, Commissioner Hernandez inquired about why Special Events were negative. Superintendent Krakower explained that we do not receive revenue from the line item and it is all expenses. Commissioner Mazza asked what are our center expenses. Superintendent Krakower explained that our center expenses go towards Trugreen and Quench Irrigation system which maintains Sylvan Park. Commissioner Mazza questioned the services of Trugreen. Superintendent Krakower explained that Trugreen handles the services of seeding, insect control, etc while DPW only cuts grass. To continue. Superintendent Krakower explained the Recreation Operating budget to the Commission. He noted we have \$13000 left for REC OE, salaries at \$65,000 left. Superintendent Krakower went on to explain the Senior Operating budget, which consists of approximately \$7000 left and \$30,000 left in salaries. Commissioner Choi asked if this budget is expected to zero out. Superintendent Krakower replied that the expectation is to zero out.

Swim Club Review - Superintendent Krakower highlighted the budget in the Swim Club review. He mentioned that we had a anticipated budget of \$301,000. He then mentioned that we are

expected to have an \$84,900 surplus. We had around 2000 members join the pool which is the most we have had in history. 300 of that total membership were “non-residents.” Another major note was we made \$40,000 in guest fees which is about \$10,000 higher than what was expected. Superintendent Krakower explained that there is no current guideline to the limiting memberships. He also explained that there is no daily limit for people coming into the pool. It is judge by the manager on staff by how full the pool. The Commission and the Recreation Staff will discuss if there should be a cap to the pool and if to raise the rates at a future meeting. Commissioner Mazza asked if there is any issue with crowding, Superintendent Krakower replied no. Superintendent Krakower explained we over budgeted for chemical costs because of inflation. Commissioner Mazza asked what is the anticipated use of surplus? Superintendent Krakower explained that the CFO had informed him that the surplus goes back to the town and the Mayor and Council can decide how they want to use it. Commissioners wanted more clarification on where the surplus is kept and how it is spent. Commissioner Mazza wanted to make sure that the CFO is aware of the independent pool entity. Superintendent Krakower would like to replace the roof of the swim club building.

A motion to approve the financials was made by Commissioner Mulato. A second motion was made by Commissioner Mazza. There was no further discussion and all of the Commissioners were in favor of approval of the financials.

PUBLIC PORTION

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson- NONE

Program and Fees- NONE

Program Director - Program Director Sampson review Summer Camp with the Recreation Commission. She stated that it was very successful and that we had 240 kids registered. She stated that we spent a little over budget regarding inflation, increased pay rolls, and costs but we still came out in the positive. We added a new peer leadership program which had positive feedback. The program had our 6th, 7th and 8th grade campers assisting with seniors and our mini camp. Commissioner Mulato does not recommend going back to Xtreme Energy as a trip for the older campers. Program Director Sampson would like to add more activities for the extended day kids while waiting for parents. Commissioner Choi asked if trip costs were increasing. Program Director Sampson replied yes due to inflation but mentioned that we only went a little over \$1000 for the budget. Superintendent Krakower mentioned that we save on bus costs because we are able to use Leonia Board of Education buses instead of outside companies. Program Director Sampson went on to say other than Summer Camp, Basketball registration began and winter brochure will be ready to be mailed next month

Sports Booster- Commissioner Mulato informed the Commission that the annual tree sale will begin the day of the Recreation’s Tree Lighting event. She also mentioned that the Sports Boosters are looking to support girl's basketball league

OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Krakower mentions he is speaking to the engineer and contractors to receive costs for the ideas that the Commission brought forth for the the Recreation Local Improvement Grant. One idea was pickleball courts and Superintendent Krakower has spoken to a company to receive quotes. Superintendent Krakower also spoke with the Borough Administrator regarding other projects brought up in the last meeting.

Turkey Trot- Superintendent Krakower stated that we have started the registration process. Program Director Sampson reported that we will only be doing 1st, 2nd and 3rd trophies, the rest will get participation medals. Commissioner = Choi mentioned small corrections that needed to be made to the flyers and registration.

Superintendent Krakower mentioned that our intern Sean Sailer is a wonderful addition to the team and we are glad we moved forward with him.

Park Permit Policy- Chairperson Abouaf mentioned that there is not anything in the permit policy regarding Recreation room rentals. Chairperson Abouaf also mentioned that the fees should be in an appendix for easy access and adjustments. Commissioner Choi mentioned the equipment down at turf field outside of the large goals are not meant to be used by permittees. Commissioner Mazza asked about how the choices are made regarding special day single events. Superintendent Krakower replied with it is up to the staff's discretion.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Krakower mentions that the budget is going to send the budget to the Mayor and Council on December 10th. He would like the Commission to review the budget presented and discuss at the November meeting before we bring it to the Mayor and Council on December 10th.

Superintendent Krakower mentions we were allocated the funds and we are ready to spend. Superintendent Krakower mentioned we are ready to move forward on the new roof for the lower level of the Recreation Department. Commissioner Mazza asked if there are any efforts being made to fix the upper roof as well. Superintendent Krakower replied that we are still working on it. Chairperson Abouaf wanted more details regarding why the both roofs were not approved.

A motion to move into closed session to discuss the Senior Coordinator was made at 8:30pm by Commissioner Choi. A second motion was made by Commissioner Mazza.

A motion was made by Commissioner Choi to come out of closed session at 8:45pm. A second was made by Commissioner Mulato.

The Commission has decide to move forward with having Senior Coordinator Margaret Browne receive her percentage increase that all non contractual employees received in the year 2022. Commissioner Choi wants to talk about budgeting for another bus driver part time and looking forward to adding it in 2023.

RESOLUTIONS
NONE

PUBLIC PORTION
NONE

At 8:50 p.m, a motion was made by Commissioner Mulato to adjourn, second by Commissioner Fernandez. Approved