

**LEONIA RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF November 22, 2022**

Chairman Jon Abouaf called the meeting to order at 7:31 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 Dennysse Hernandez, Commissioner Vito Mazza, Commissioner Anthony Vassallo, Superintendent Sean Krakower, Program Director Destiney Sampson, and Administrative Assistant Jayjoon Sin.

**ABSENT**

Commissioner Ken Fernandez, Commissioner Marilyn Mulato, and Council Liaison Louis Grandelis.

**MINUTES**

Approval of Minutes October 18, 2022

A motion was made by Commissioner Andrew Choi to approve the meeting minutes from October 18, 2022. A second motion was made by Commissioner Vito Mazza. There was no discussion and the whole Commission was in favor of approval.

**FINANCIALS**

NONE

**PUBLIC PORTION**

**Allen Terrell - 97 Gladman Ave.**

A proposal has been made by Allen Terrell suggesting the main level of the Senior Center to become an art gallery to inspire artists from around Bergen County. This would be a good way to expose the programs for the Leonia Recreation and Senior Center to bring in new participants. Allen Terrell wants to build a shelving system to exhibit the art work, which he would be the one funding the project. Overall, the project would be a rotating exhibit, that can be a monthly or bi monthly rotation. Allen Terrell has a plan to have 5-6 artists from surrounding areas to exhibit. In addition, it would motivate students that are taking art classes to exhibit their work. This is a great opportunity that is not intrusive or disruptive and can be managed on a professional level. It will require minimal efforts to maintain any minor issues. The diversity would come from curating and elevating each person's work. Allen Terrell wants people to find the value in curation. Commissioner Mazza asked who the target audience and main purpose regarding location. Allen Terrell responded that the library can only hold a

couple of pieces and the Senior Center can bring in more opportunities. Commissioner Mazza asked if the artists are just exclusively from the Recreation Department. Allen Terrell said that it would not be just the artists from the Recreation programs, but others as well. Allen Terrell said the target audience is the surrounding towns and Leonia residents. This would be beneficial to the Recreation Department because it can bring more interest for all of the programs.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

NONE

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

NONE

### **Chairperson**

NONE

### **Program and Fees**

NONE

### **Program Director**

Program Director Sampson stated that the preseason basketball clinic will start Sunday, November, 27. She got in touch with Jeremy Kaplan of Ascend Athletics to have a free strength training clinic for all registrants of the Winter Basketball League on December 12. He has a personal trainer background and worked with kids before. Our Turkey Trot is doing well with 125 participants. We are almost done with the creation of the Winter Brochure and will be ready for print with registration starting January 2nd.

Commissioner Mazza questioned the indoor soccer program. Program Director Sampson responded how Zeno has a program for children 9 and up outside of the USSI. Commissioner Mazza talked about rec sponsored programs while there are 3rd party vendors that are targeting the same demographics. Program Director Sampson mentioned that there are different days and age groups. USSI only does December, while Zeno does January-March.

### **Sports Booster**

None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **NJ Department of Community Affairs' Local Recreation Improvement Grant**

Superintendent Krakower discussed the Local Recreation Improvement Grant and mentioned that he had a meeting with the Borough Administrator and Engineer.

Application date is May 24th. He reached out to many organizations to receive quotes and is in progress for further updates. Superintendent Krakower mentioned that Dudley Allen Park can be made into a pickleball court especially with the demand of the growing sport. Commissioner Vassallo questioned if there would be noise complaints because pickleball creates loud noises from the rackets hitting the ball.

## **2022 Capital Budget**

Superintendent Krakower mentioned that there are three projects where money was allocated for Capital Improvements. The three projects are the improvements to the lower level of the Senior Center, the Recreation Center lower roof, and plans and specs to renovate the Recreation Center building. All three projects are underway.

**Permit Policy** - Commissioner Choi suggested to add what goal sizes are allowed to be used when using the outdoor fields.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Art Gallery**

Commissioner Mazza asked if the Mayor and Council had been given the decision to approve or deny having an art gallery. Commissioner Choi mentioned that this is to encourage artist to show their work especially the ones that have not shown their work before. The Rec Commission has decided that it is best to obtain guidance from the Mayor and Council and to have Senior Coordinator Margaret Browne's input on this. Chairman Abouaf wants Senior Coordinator Browne to write a paragraph or talk to her regarding some of her thoughts and ideas involving the conversations with Allen Terrell. Commissioner Mazza is requesting that the Mayor and Council provide more guidance on what is allowed to take place in the Senior Center.

### **Loss Control Report**

Superintendent Krakower met with DPW to discuss what needs improvement. Commissioner Mazza asked if this is just looking for potential hazards and safety, to which the answer was yes.

Motion to go into closed session to discuss the Superintendent of Recreation's salary increase was made by Commissioner Mazza. A second motion was made Commissioner Choi. All in favor. Closed session started at 8:22pm.

Closed session concluded at 8:28pm.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution 22-05 - Superintendent Salary Increase

Motion: Commissioner Choi Second: Commissioner Mazza. Carried

Resolution 22-06 - Part-Time Senior Coordinator Annual Non-Contractual Percentage Salary Increase

Motion: Commissioner Hernandez Second: Commissioner Mazza. Carried.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

NONE

At 8:33PM, a motion was made by Commissioner Abouaf to adjourn, second by Commissioner Choi. Approved.

