

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

Chairman Jon Abouaf called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM, duly publicized, and in accordance with the Sunshine Law in the Leonia Recreation Meeting Room.

PRESENT

Chairman Jon Abouaf, Commissioner Ken Fernandez, Commissioner Andrew Choi, Commissioner Vito Mazza, Superintendent Sean Krakower, Program Director Destiney Sampson, and Administrative Assistant Jayjoon Sin.

ABSENT

Commissioner Dennyse Hernandez, Commissioner Anthony Vassallo, Commissioner Marilyn Mulato, Commission Alternate Jason Klein, and Council Liaison Louis Grandelis.

MINUTES

Approval of Minutes November 22, 2022 has been tabled to the January meeting.

FINANCIALS

NONE

PUBLIC PORTION

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Director

Program Director Sampson stated that the 2023 Winter Brochures have been mailed out to the community and registration will start in two weeks. The Winter Basketball league practices have started and games will start January 14th. Each division has five teams. Each week one team will have a bye week. Chairman Abouaf asked about the potential for games on Sundays as it was a discussion last year. Program Director Sampson answered with there will be no need for Sunday games.

OLD BUSINESS

Park Permit Policy Adoption - Superintendent Krakower mentioned that Commissioner Choi's suggestion about changing language has been changed. A motion was made by Commissioner Choi to adopt the changes to the Park Permit Policy. A second motion was made by Commissioner Fernandez. All in favor.

2023 Budget: Chairman Abouaf mentioned that Program Director Sampson had to present our budget in place of Superintendent Krakower. He mentioned that the presentation went well and that the CFO complimented the Recreation Department on being on top of our budget. Superintendent Krakower also mentioned that the Mayor complimented our Senior Center.

Leonia Art Gallery Proposal: Superintendent Krakower has spoken on if we are able to use the Senior Center for the Leonia Art Gallery based on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) guidelines. He explained that in other grant guidelines such as Green Acres there is a percentage split in how the space is used. For example, we are allowed to build Recreation Offices on Green Acres land as long as 75% of the building is used for Recreation Offices and the other 25% is miscellaneous use. The Borough Administrator has told Sean that she will look into the use of space guidelines from CDBG. The Mayor feels that there should be no art in the Senior Center while the Mayor and Council meetings are in the Senior Center because art can be considered subjective. Commissioner Choi asked about Maggie's take on this. Superintendent Krakower mentioned that she is okay with it since it does not take away space from the Senior Center. He mentioned that she went over with Allen Terrell regarding logistics of how the space will be used. Commissioner Choi questions his judgment on it. Superintendent Krakower mentions that we can come back to this topic in a later meeting next year. Commissioner Mazza asked how long are we going to put this away for. Superintendent Krakower mentioned that it would be six months to a year until the new Municipal building is finished. Commissioner Fernandez asked if the money for the Senior Center is just for renovations. Superintendent Krakower said yes and that the Senior Center is in bad shape due to flooding where they are going to fix the ceiling, cracks outside the building, and windows coming out of the Capital Budget. Superintendent Krakower also mentions it will be a nice space for programs and seniors rather than floor tiles breaking where people would not want to go downstairs.

NEW BUSINESS

Swim Club Projections: Superintendent Krakower explained to the Commission his projections for the 2023 Swim Club season. Commissioner Choi mentioned that we are underestimating and still making the budget which is great. Superintendent Krakower suggests that we do not need to raise rates.

Summer Camp Projections: Program Director Sampson noticed that last year there was still a concern with Covid. Therefore this year we are projecting to have more campers in 2023. She mentioned that we will have a significant increase in payroll due to the minimum wage increase. She suggests that the rates do not increase.

Soccer: Chairman Abouf questioned if the Leonia Recreation Soccer Program will run in the Spring. Program Director Sampson said we will speak to Zeno Cho for the Spring to see if he wants to run a soccer program with us again. Chairman Abouf suggested that if David Torres is willing to work as the Special needs instructor we should request Zeno hire him because the students prefer him as an instructor.

RESOLUTIONS

NONE

PUBLIC PORTION

NONE

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