

**LEONIA RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF January 17, 2023**

Chairman Jon Abouaf called the meeting to order at 7:33 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 Dennyse Hernandez, Commissioner Marilyn Mulato, Commissioner Anthony Vassallo, Council Liaison Louis Grandelis, Superintendent Sean Krakower, Program Director Destiney Sampson, and Administrative Assistant Jayjoon Sin.

**ABSENT**

Commissioner Vito Mazza, Commission Alternate Jason Klein.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Commissioner Andrew Choi was reappointed to a five year term on the Recreation Commission by the Mayor and Council at their reorganization meeting on January 4th, 2023. Council Liaison Louis Grandelis conducted an oath of office to Commissioner Andrew Choi.

**MINUTES**

The minutes for the November 22, 2022 meeting were motioned to approve by Commissioner Choi. A second motion was made by Commissioner Hernandez. Approved.

The minutes for the December 20, 2022 meeting were tabled due to not having a quorum to vote on them.

**SELECTION OF OFFICERS**

A nomination was made by Commissioner Vassallo to re-appoint Chairperson Jon Abouaf to the position of Chairperson. A motion was made by Commissioner Vassallo. A second motion was made by Commissioner Hernandez. All in favor.

A nomination was made by Chairperson Abouaf to re-appoint Commissioner Dennyse Hernandez to the position of Vice Chairperson. A motion was made by Commissioner Choi. A second motion was made by Commissioner Mulato. All in favor.

A nomination was made by Chairperson Abouaf to re-appoint Commissioner Vito Mazza to the position of Treasurer. A motion was made by Commissioner Mulato. A second motion was made by Commissioner Fernandez. All in favor.

## **SELECTION OF COMMITTEES**

Commissioners Hernandez, Choi and Maza have all volunteered to make up the Swim Club Committee

Commissioners Vassallo, Mulato and Fernandez have all volunteered to make up the Programs and Fees Committee

Chairperson Abouaf must be one member of the Personnel and Finance Committee. Commissioners Mazza and Hernandez both volunteered to fill the final two slots of the Personnel and Finance Committee.

A discussion was held about if there was a need to have a marketing committee. The Commission decided they were not in favor of having one. Superintendent Krakower states that the addition of the High School marketing intern helps put a focus on the Recreation Departments social media. If we can continue to have that intern the social media marketing will continue to thrive. Commissioner Fernandez mentioned if we are able to get clips and more videos for our Winter Basketball League. Superintendent Krakower mentioned that he was glad that was brought up because it is one of our goals for this year. Commissioner Fernandez mentioned how people like to see the videos and pictures of the Jerseys. Commissioner Mulato mentioned on top of it an intro and editing to express our programs. Superintendent Krakower mentioned how coaches should be writing down notes for the end of the year meeting and strongly encourages to mention them.

## **FINANCIALS**

Superintendent Krakower discussed the year end financials to the Commission. He highlighted that the reason there was money left over in the Rec Operating Budget was because we did not have to pay the Administrative Assistants salary for two months due to Program Director David Torres' resignation and Office Manager Destiney Sampson's promotion to Program Director.

Additionally, Superintendent Krakower mentioned that we had gone over our Miscellaneous and Professional services budget lines in the Swim Club Budget because of an emergency well repair, sidewalk repairs and Aqua Protech sending us a bill from 2021. Overall, we made \$40,000-\$50,000 in revenue and did not exceed our budget. Superintendent Krakower stated that he had gone over the salaries line because he had budgeted for a minimum wage of \$11.10 instead of \$11.90 because of a stipulation in the NJ minimum wage requirement. That stipulation was removed one month before the season started therefore we had to raise the hourly rate of all of our lifeguards and front desk staff.

Commissioner Vassallo questioned what our Special Events in our Rec Activities. Superintendent Krakower mentioned that this budget is used for special occasions such as Movie Nights, the Christmas Tree Lighting, etc.

Commissioner Vassallo also asked about the negative balance for the Tai Chi and Bounce out of the Stigma programs. Superintendent Krakower mentioned we decided to run a free Tai Chi for the Seniors to see if it would be of interest in the future. Which it is and we now have a consistent Tai Chi program. Our Bounce out of the Stigma was reimbursed by the 2022 ROID Grant, which is why it was free of charge and our financial reports are stating a negative balance.

### **PUBLIC PORTION**

NONE

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

NONE

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Program Director**

Program Director Sampson discussed that our winter programs start next week. She also mentioned that our Winter Basketball program is running really well with only one complaint about referee issues. Commissioner Fernandez who is a volunteer coach in our basketball program asked if light switches can be put back instead of using a key for the lights. Superintendent Krakower explained that the reason why we have that is because kids would sneak into the Rec at night and turn on the lights to play basketball. With the lights only being able to be turned on by keys if the kids would get in they could not play because they would not be able to turn on the lights. Chairman Abouaf supported this statement by mentioning how he has witnessed one of these situations happening in real time and he had to stop it.

#### **Council Liaison Report**

Council Liaison Grandelis said that every year they resurrected the government and added new council members. This year that new councilman is Christoph Hesterbrink. All other members that were up for re-election have been re-elected. Councilman Grandelis was elected as the Council President and Chairman of HR and Finance. Councilman informed the Commission that most work right now is being done on the budget and is having talks with Superintendent Krakower; however everything is good with Recreation. He mentioned that between cost of goods, inflation, the states passing of the increased insurance costs, and aiming for a 3% raise for employees, we have to cut into budgets. Overall, everything is going well.

#### **Sports Boosters Report**

Commissioner Mulato discussed the annual Tree sale's profit was \$7,800. The carnival is in limbo, and they are waiting for approval from the County Parks Department to use Overpeck Park. The carnival will take place the week of 4th of July but more toward the

end of July/Early August. Commissioner Mulato stated that all communication from the County vague right now. Chairman About asked Commissioner Mulato if the Mayor would be able help secure Overpeck Park. Program Director Sampson asked Commissioner Mulato if the Sports Booster received any updates about how the Girls Travel Basketball League is going about how the travel girls basketball program. Commissioner Mulato replied great.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Commission Phone Log:** Superintendent Krakower asked the Commissioners to make sure that all of their contact information was correct on the log.

**Commission Meeting Dates for 2023:** Superintendent Krakower mentioned that the dates were sent to the newspaper for publishing.

**Senior Center Cancellation Policy:** Superintendent Krakower mentioned that cancellation of trips and program the day of is starting to become an issue. Right now the excuses of being sick are acceptable and we give them refunds because these are medical reasons. We want to come up with a refund policy with the Programs and Fees committee that will redefine our permit policy. We want to note that if they can find a replacement for themselves that they will be allowed to get a refund. Superintendent Krakower mentioned that our current CFO is on board with us making stricter refund policies.

**New Electric Bus:** Superintendent Krakower mentioned that we were awarded with a \$250,000 Congressionally Direct Spending Grant for an electric bus. He explain how important this new bus is to add to our community. Commissioner Fernandez asked when we will get this bus. Superintendent Krakower said it could be a year away. Commissioner Choi asked about the charging infrastructures, to which Superintendent Krakower mentioned that there is one across the street and near the police station as well

At 8:22 pm a motion was made by Commissioner Mulato to go into closed session. A second motion was made by Commissioner Fernandez. All Approved.

At 8:38 pm a motion was made by Commissioner Choi to end closed session. A second motion was made by Commissioner Mulato. All Approved.

**RESOLUTIONS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hernandez to vote on Resolution #23-01 Re-appointment and Salary Increase of Seasonal Pool Manager - Timothy Ryan. A second motion was made by Commissioner Vassallo. Resolution Carried.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

NONE

At 8:43PM, a motion was made by Commissioner Mulato to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Commissioner Fernandez. All Approved.