



**BOROUGH OF LEONIA**  
**Leonia Planning Board**  
**MINUTES – REORGANIZATION MEETING**

**JANUARY 25, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

**LEONIA SENIOR CENTER**

The Borough of Leonia Planning Board held its Re-Organization meeting on JANUARY 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. located at 305 Beechwood Place, Leonia NJ.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Judah Zeigler, Chairman Michael DeGidio, Vice Chair Ira Gold, Councilman Pasquale Fusco, Patrick Botten, Timothy Ford, William Russell, Sean Thompson, Ron Wolf, Haeseok Ko.

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** Damee Choi.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Planning Board Attorney - Daniel Steinhagen, Planning Board Engineer – Drew DiSessa, Zoning Officer – Adam Myszka.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM

**FLAG SALUTE, OPENING MEETING STATEMENT**

**OATH’S OF OFFICE TO NEW/RE-APOINTED MEMBERS**

Mayor Zeigler administered the Oath of Office to the following Members

- Councilman Pasquale Fusco – Class III Member
- Patrick Botten – Class IV Member
- Timothy Ford – Class IV Member
- Haeseok Ko – Alternate I Member

**ROLL CALL**

**ELECTIONS**

Motion to Elect Michael DeGidio as Chair of the Planning Board was made by: Mr. Botten and Seconded by Vice Chair Gold:

On roll call, the vote was recorded as follows

Mayor Zeigler:	yes	Chair DeGidio:	yes	Councilman Fusco:	yes
Vice Chair Gold:	yes	Mr. Russell:	yes	Mr. Ford:	yes
Mr. Botten:	yes	Mr. Thompson:	yes	Mr. Wolf:	yes
Mr. Ko:	yes	Ms. Choi:	Absent		

Motion to Elect Ira Gold as Vice Chair of the Planning Board was made by Mayor Zeigler and Seconded by Councilman Fusco:

On roll call, the vote was recorded as follows

Mayor Zeigler:	yes	Chair DeGidio:	yes	Councilman Fusco:	yes
Vice Chair Gold:	yes	Mr. Russell:	yes	Mr. Ford:	yes
Mr. Botten:	yes	Mr. Thompson:	yes	Mr. Wolf:	yes
Mr. Ko:	yes	Ms. Choi:	Absent		

**RESOLUTIONS FOR APPOINTMENT**

Motion to appoint Daniel Steinhagen of Beattie Padovano, LLC as Planning Board Attorney was made by Mr. Botten and Seconded by Vice Chair Gold:

On roll call, the vote was recorded as follows

Mayor Zeigler:	yes	Chair DeGidio:	yes	Councilman Fusco:	yes
Vice Chair Gold:	yes	Mr. Russell:	yes	Mr. Ford:	yes
Mr. Botten:	yes	Mr. Thompson:	yes	Mr. Wolf:	yes
Mr. Ko:	yes	Ms. Choi:	Absent		

Motion to appoint Drew DiSessa of Pennoni Associates Inc. as Planning Board Engineer was made by Mr. Botten and Seconded by Mayor Zeigler:

On roll call, the vote was recorded as follows

Mayor Zeigler:	yes	Chair DeGidio:	yes	Councilman Fusco:	yes
Vice Chair Gold:	yes	Mr. Russell:	yes	Mr. Ford:	yes
Mr. Botten:	yes	Mr. Thompson:	yes	Mr. Wolf:	yes
Mr. Ko:	yes	Ms. Choi:	Absent		

Motion to appoint Sanyogita Chavan of H2M Associates, Inc. as Professional Planner was made by Mr. Botten and Seconded by Vice Chair Gold:

On roll call, the vote was recorded as follows

Mayor Zeigler:	yes	Chair DeGidio:	yes	Councilman Fusco:	yes
Vice Chair Gold:	yes	Mr. Russell:	yes	Mr. Ford:	yes
Mr. Botten:	yes	Mr. Thompson:	yes	Mr. Wolf:	yes
Mr. Ko:	yes	Ms. Choi:	Absent		

Motion to appoint John Corak of Stonefield Engineering & Design LLC as Planning Board Traffic Engineer was made by Chair DeGidio and Seconded by Mr. Botten:

On roll call, the vote was recorded as follows

Mayor Zeigler:	yes	Chair DeGidio:	yes	Councilman Fusco:	yes
Vice Chair Gold:	yes	Mr. Russell:	yes	Mr. Ford:	yes
Mr. Botten:	yes	Mr. Thompson:	yes	Mr. Wolf:	yes
Mr. Ko:	yes	Ms. Choi:	Absent		

**ADOPT ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE**

Motion to adopt the planning board annual meeting notice and post in the designated newspapers was made by Mayor Zeigler and Seconded by Councilman Fusco:

On roll call, the vote was recorded as follows

Mayor Zeigler:	yes	Chair DeGidio:	yes	Councilman Fusco:	yes
Vice Chair Gold:	yes	Mr. Russell:	yes	Mr. Ford:	yes
Mr. Botten:	yes	Mr. Thompson:	yes	Mr. Wolf:	yes
Mr. Ko:	yes	Ms. Choi:	Absent		

**DESIGNATE NEWSPAPERS**

Motion to designate The Bergen Record and The Star-Ledger as the Official Newspapers for the Planning Board was made by Chair DeGidio and Seconded by Mr. Botten:

On roll call, the vote was recorded as follows

Mayor Zeigler:	yes	Chair DeGidio:	yes	Councilman Fusco:	yes
Vice Chair Gold:	yes	Mr. Russell:	yes	Mr. Ford:	yes
Mr. Botten:	yes	Mr. Thompson:	yes	Mr. Wolf:	yes
Mr. Ko:	yes	Ms. Choi:	Absent		

**REPORTS**

Chair DeGidio introduced a year end activity report to the board. He stated that the planning board had a very productive year. He presented some stats from the year;

- 14 total Meetings, 12 regular meetings and 2 special meetings
- 11 new applications received
- 6 carryover applications from 2021
- 1 request for a time extension
- 1 conceptual review
- 10 application approvals
- 4 application denials
- 1 application withdrawn
- 2 applications carried to 2023
- 3 proposed ordinance consistency reviews, all of which have been passed into law
- Area in need of redevelopment study, Grand Avenue, adopted by the mayor and council
- Produced the Borough of Leonia Master Plan
- Developed a Housing Element Fair Share plan, adopted by the Mayor and Council
- Area in need of redevelopment study, Grand Avenue and Willow Tree Road, which is pending

Chair DeGidio thanked the board for their attentiveness on these matters.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – CORRESPONDENCE:**

There was no public comment.

With no further business presented, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by: Mayor Zeigler and Seconded by Councilman Fusco

All in Favor – Motion Passed

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Greco  
Planning Board Secretary