

**LEONIA RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF February 21, 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 Vito Mazza, Commissioner Marilyn Mulato, Commissioner Anthony Vassallo, Council Liaison Louis Grandelis, Superintendent Sean Krakower, Program Director Destiney Sampson, and Administrative Assistant Jayjoon Sin.

**ABSENT**

Commission Alternate Jason Klein.

**MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes for the December 20, 2022 meeting was made by Commissioner Mazza. A second motion was made by Commissioner Fernandez. Approved.

A motion to approve the minutes for the January 17, 2023 meeting was made by Commissioner Vassallo. A second motion was made by Commissioner Mulato. Commissioner Mulato mention that her name was spelled wrong in the Sports Boosters section of the minutes. Superintendent Krakower will make the corrections before making the minutes public. The minutes were then approved by the Commission.

**FINANCIALS**

NONE

**PUBLIC PORTION**

NONE

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Joseph Vicente, the Winter Basketball League referee assigner, had sent an email to Program Director Destiney complimenting how well our Winter Basketball program is run.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Program and Fees Committee**

Commissioner Vassallo summarized the January 26th, 2023 Programs and Fees Committee Meeting. He state that they talked about a Senior Department name change and the Senior Center cancellation policy. There were four names that the Programs

and Fees committee wanted to bring to the Commission to vote on. Those options were; Older Adult Center, Adult Center, Elder Center and The Golden Center. Council Liaison Grandelis suggested it be called the LV Center. Chairman Abouaf asked what other towns call their Senior Centers. Commissioner Fernandez added that they call it Older Adult Center in New York City. Commissioner Hernandez suggested we call it the OG Center. Commissioner Vassallo made a final suggestion of Leonia Older Adult Center. Commissioner Hernandez made a motion for the name change to Leonia Older Adult Center and everyone was in favor.

The Senior Center cancellation policy was discussed and drafted in the Programs and Fees Committee meeting. Commissioner Vassallo mentioned that Seniors are cancelling trip day of or one day before the event.

### **Program Director**

Program Director Sampson invited the Programs and Fees committee to the end of the year Winter Basketball League coaches meeting. Superintendent Krakower mentioned that only three Commissioners can attend due to Sunshine Laws. He stated that if more than three would like to come we would need to Sunshine notice the meeting and it would become public. More than three commissioners would like to attend therefore a sunshine notice will be sent out by the Superintendent. Program Director Sampson mentioned that one of our coaches owns a restaurant and will be providing the food. She finally mentioned that our playoffs and championships will be on March 18th and 25th. Commissioner Mulato questioned how the playoff seeding will work. Program Director Sampson mentioned that the fifth seed will not make the playoffs. Commissioner Vasallo suggested that we should have all five teams make the playoffs and suggested a format that would allow all five teams to play. Program Director Sampson mentioned that we will be able to accommodate the new playoff bracket.

**Summer Camp:** Program Director Sampson has been working on the Summer Camp Trips. She mentioned the trips that she is planning are Urban Air, Humdingers, Powerhouse Studios and The American Dream where they have places such as Legoland and the Water Park. Commissioner Mulato said the waterpark is fantastic when she walked through it. Program Director Sampson also mentioned a mad science type show to help with costs and Summer Camp Director Jessica Bernath will have other activities for that day as well. Program Director Sampson reminds the Commission that we have a hard stop on registration for camp on April 30th. She recommends to the Commission that we are able to take no trip registrations until June. Commissioner Mulato was concerned about extra counselors if we do extend the date. Superintendent Krakower responded and said we do not hire counselors until late May therefore it will make it easy for us to adjust how many counselors we will need.

Program Director Sampson informed the Commission about new staffing. We are looking for a part time Talent, Art Director to help with the camp. We are looking to also hire substitute counselors as well so we are not short staffed if there are vacations or sickness. These substitute counselors will be placed on standby and will be informed

that this is the role they will be in. Commissioner Mazza asked about the purpose of this. Superintendent Krakower mentioned that counselors are going on vacation and do not have control with vacation plans. Commissioner Mazza how many people would call out on average if we had the numbers. Superintendent Krakower responded that we do not have the numbers, but there are multiple counselors. Commissioner Mazza asked if it would be better to have two other counselors where they are able to fill in the gaps and know what they are doing and be used as utility. Superintendent Krakower mentioned that we are thinking about having a floater counselor that will be on staff each day in addition to substitutes. Commissioner Mazza asked if they are paid hourly, to which Superintendent Krakower said yes.

Program Director Sampson mentioned that we should be increasing camp prices. She brokedown registration fee inresease to the Commssion. She compared our rates to other towns in the surrounding area and how they are charging more but doing less. Chairman About mentioned that a \$700 to a \$900 dollar increase is a 33 percent increase. Superintendent Krakower mentioned that prices have not increased for the past 7-8 years. Chairman About suggested we raise it a \$100 this year and another \$100 the following year. Commissioner Mazza asked if we are losing with the camp, to which Superintendent Krakower responded we will go negative when minimum wages goes up next year but not this year. Superintendent Krakower mentioned that once people start calling around, they will not find anything cheaper. Commissioner Mazza mentioned that this can be an all or nothing situation where if we raise our prices too much, there will be less enrollment. Commissioner Choi mentioned that we offer programs at a very attractive price and rate. Commissioner Fernandez asked, what it will mean if two family members sign up? Superintendent Krakower answered that we have a 10 percent family discount. Commissioner Mazza mentioned that there should not be a discount period where Council Liaison Grandelis agreed as well. Superintendent Krakower mentioned that the discount period allows us to get a good feel of what our numbers will look like earlier.

The Commission debated about having a scholarship program for families in tough financial situations. Council Liaison Grandelis said we should be careful with giving scholarships for the camp and we should just add a \$100. Superintendent Krakower said this is a big red flag for audit purposes and to build a formal criteria. Commissioner Mulato mentioned such as getting a reduced lunch at school as proof of giving discount.

The Commission then voted on a price increase for Summer Camp. Superintendent Krakower mentioned three options \$50, \$75, \$100 and the Commission voted on it. Commissioner Mazza motioned to increase the camp prices by \$75. Commissioner Choi seconded the motion. The Commission was in favor.

### **Council Liaison Report**

Council Liaison Grandelis reported that the Mayor and Council is looking into the Capital Budget. He reported that our CFO has given notice that he will be resigning. Lastly he mentioned that the HR Committee has plans to restructure the finance department.

### **Sports Boosters Report**

Commissioner Mulato reported that the Sports Boosters has a proposal for a whole bunch of fundraisers for the upcoming year. They are working towards locking a date in for the Sports Boosters pool party but need to work around dates such as Father's Day and Graduation. The Carnival is happening and it will be in August.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Leonia Senior Center Cancellation Policy** - Superintendent Krakower read the policy to the Commission. All in were favor of the policy to be adopted.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Pickleball Noise Complaint** - Council Liaison Grandelis was contacted by a resident that neighbors the Wood Park Tennis Courts. The resident had an issue with the noise that is being made by the pickleball rackets

**Permit Policy Addition** - Superintendent Krakower mention there needs to be wording added about paid instruction happening on fields and facilities. He also mentioned that pickleball hours should go into the Wood Park Tennis Court section of the policy.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

NONE

### **PUBLIC PORTION**

NONE

At 9:02PM, a motion was made by Commissioner Mulato to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Commissioner Choi. All Approved.