

**LEONIA RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2023**

1. Chairman Jon Abouaf called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM, duly publicized, and in accordance with the Sunshine Law in the Leonia Recreation Meeting Room.

PRESENT

Chairman Jon Abouaf, Commissioner Marilyn Mulato, Commissioner Ken Fernandez, Commission Alternate Jason Klein, Superintendent Sean Krakower, Program Director Destiney Sampson, Administrative Assistant Jay Joon Sin, and Commissioner Anthony Vassallo Remotely

ABSENT

Commissioner Dennysse Hernandez, Commissioner Andrew Choi, Commissioner Vito Mazza, and Council Liaison Louis Grandelis

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes for the March 21, 2023 Recreation Commission meeting have been tabled to the September 19th meeting due to not having a quorum to vote.

The minutes for the May 16, 2023 Recreation Commission meeting have been tabled to the September 19th meeting due to not having a quorum to vote.

The minutes for the June 20, 2023 Recreation Commission meeting have been tabled to the September 19th meeting due to not having a quorum to vote.

The minutes for the July 18, 2023 Recreation Commission meeting have been tabled to the September 19th meeting due to not having a quorum to vote.

The minutes for the August 15, 2023 Recreation Commission meeting have been tabled to the September 19th meeting due to not having a quorum to vote.

3. **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

None

4. **PUBLIC PORTION**

None

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chairman Report - None

Programs and Fees - None

Program Director Update - Program Director Sampson reported that the Turkey Trot is this Thursday and we have 193 people pre-registered. Our new All-Girls Basketball League registration is open. We currently have 39 girls over 4 teams. The Co-Ed Winter Basketball League practices has started and the first game will be December 16th at 9:00. This season we were able to have a coaches workshop thanks to Commissioner Mulato giving us Coach Edwin Maniago contact information. The coaches that were able to attend were extremely appreciative of the extra resources and would love to have more coaching clinics in the future. We had issues finding volunteers to coach this year but the ones that did volunteer there time were able to take on multiple teams. We would like to get more parent involvement with coaching next year. Our winter brochure is being created and will be printed next week. Once we receive them they will get sent to homes in Leonia early December.

Swim Club Committee Report - None

Sports Booster Report- Commissioner Mulato stated that the trees are ordered and will be dropped off on Monday November 27th. Program Director Sampson added that the volunteers for the Tree Lighting from the schools do not come to us until the week prior. The Sports Booster Committee will be managing the donation table. Commissioner Mulato will reach out to all the Leonia girls sports school teams to get more volunteers to help sell trees.

Council Liaison Report- None

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

Tree Lighting - Superintendent Krakower met with Commissioner Mulato and discussed the Tree Lighting Event. The set up will be multiple tables coming into Recreation Center that the Sports Boosters will be selling for donations. The items being sold are glow sticks, knitted hats, and ornaments. Sports Boosters received a donation from Shoprite that included hot chocolate and donuts. This plan is meant to alleviate traffic inside for the pictures by adding other elements to the night outside the building.

Leonia Girls Travel Basketball - Discussed in Program Director report above.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

Swim Club Review - Superintendent Krakower presented the final Swim Club review to the Commission. The report included the final revenue and expense numbers. He revealed that we have around a \$55,000 surplus for the year. He noted that guest fees were down by \$10,000 this year due to a rainy season. He mentioned that the total membership number was 2,144 which was a increase from 2022. Superintendent Krakower reported to the commission that the budget will be increase by 28% next year due to mandatory infrastructure improvements. He stated that we will be asking for money from our Swim Club surplus to offset that increase. Offsetting the increase will allow us to raise rates minimally if we need to at all.

2024 Budget Proposal - Superintendent Krakower brought forth to the Commission a 3% increase in the Senior Budget and a 11% increase to the Operating Budget. A motion was made by Commissioner Mulato to approve the proposed budget and a second was made by Commission Alternate Jason Klein. All were in favor.

Grant Funding Project - Superintendent Krakower showed the Commission a breakdown of what Grant funding we apply for each. He asked th Commission to come up with a wish list of projects to take to the Mayor and Council for approval. He feels that if we get projects approved at the Mayor and Council level early it will be a smoother application process to submit the grants.

A motion to go into closed session to discuss the Superintendent's salary increase was made by Commissioner Mulato. A second motion was made by Comission Alternate Klein. All in favor and closed session was started at 8:00pm.

The Commission returned from closed session at 8:03pm.

8. **CORRESPONDENTS**

None

9. **RESOLUTION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Mulato to vote on Resolution #23-04 - Superintendent Salary Increase. A second motion was made by Commissioner Vassallo. Resolution #23-04 was carried with four votes for yes, zero votes for no and four commissioners were absent.

10. **PUBLIC PORTION**

None

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the November 21st Recreation Commission meeting was made at 8:12pm by Commissioner Mulato. A second motion was made by Commissioner Alternate Klein. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned.