

**LEONIA RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 18, 2023**

1. Chairman Jon Abouaf called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM, duly publicized, and in accordance with the Sunshine Law in the Leonia Recreation Meeting Room.

PRESENT

Chairman Jon Abouaf, Commissioner Andrew Choi, Commissioner Anthony Vassallo, Commissioner Dennysse Hernandez, Commission Alternate Jason Klein, Council Liaison Louis Grandelis, Superintendent Sean Krakower, Program Director Destiney Sampson, Administrative Assistant Jayjoon Sin, and Commissioner Marilyn Mulato at 7:34pm

ABSENT

Commissioner Ken Fernandez and Commissioner Vito Mazza

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes for the March 21, 2023 Recreation Commission meeting have been tabled to the August 15th meeting due to not having a quorum to vote.

The minutes for the May 16, 2023 Recreation Commission meeting have been tabled to the August 15th meeting due to not having a quorum to vote.

The minutes for the June 20, 2023 Recreation Commission meeting have been tabled to the August 15th meeting due to not having a quorum to vote.

3. **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Superintendent Krakower summarized the quarterly financial reports to the Commission. He mentioned that we are showing excess money in the Activities Trust and Swim Club accounts because we have not started paying our expenses yet. The Recreation Commission had no questions and all were in favor of approval of the financial reports.

4. **PUBLIC PORTION**

Mitchell Thompson from 340 Howard Avenue, Leonia, NJ 07605 requested that monkey bars be added to the amenities in Wood Park. He passed out a petition with 72 signatures that agreed with the addition of monkey bars.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chairman Report - None

Programs and Fees - Program Director Sampson will be sending out an email on July 19th to request a programs and fees committee meeting before the next Commission meeting. The agenda will include sponsorships for the winter basketball league and coaches clinics for the winter basketball league.

Program Director Update - Program Director Sampson mention the Summer Night Basketball League has been moved to Edgewater Recreation because our gym wall divider is broken and left in the downward position. Commissioner Mulato asked why the gym divider had taken so long to fix it. Program Director Sampson explained the divider has been built wrong and the technician has to strategize on how to fix it. With three out of the four straps down, our gym divider cannot raise up. Commissioner Mulato questioned why we do not play outside? Program Director Sampson replied it is due to the condition of the Wood Park basketball courts being cracked and unsafe to play on. Superintendent Krakower added that we have been awarded a grant for fixing the court. Commissioner Vassallo asked if we could make it to two full courts. Superintendent Krakower spoke to the Borough Engineer and it would be a very costly expensive to do so and the amount award from the grant will not cover the project. Commissioner Choi mentioned that all four hoops are used in the evening when people are shooting. Commissioner Alternate Klein suggested a half court facing Leonia Avenue.

Swim Club Committee Report - Commissioner Choi reported what was discussed at the June 27th Swim Club Committee meeting. One of the discussion points was adolescent behavior and changing of protocol when rules are constantly broken. Another discussion points was an assistant manger had concerns about staffing and communication. Superintendent Krakower had a meeting with the staff hierarchy to go over these concerns as well as highlight any oversights. Overall, everyone walked away satisfied.

Sports Booster Report- Commissioner Mulato mentioned the Sports Boosters is currently finalizing the details and food trucks for the Carnival that is being held August 16th-20th. Flyers are currently being prepared for distribution.

Council Liaison Report- Council Liaison Grandelis mentioned a different parking structure, reverse angle parking in town. This statistically will cause less accidents and is safer. The Governing Body had an interesting discussion considering there's a lot of traffic in town from the bridge. Council Liaison Grandelis brought the environmental concerns for idling cars and trying many ways to eliminate traffic. There were many different solutions brought up during the meeting that included different signage, street markings, speed bumps, etc. The county and state have no interest in helping us. The Governing Body gave the Mayor executive power in the state of emergency to change traffic patterns such as road closings or one way roads. Council Liaison Grandelis was happy to report that our new CFO has been great and we are in good shape for the rest of the year. Commissioner Vassallo asked what is the next big ticket item as a town besides the municipal building. Council Liaison Grandelis mentioned there are

competing priorities between Borough Hall that needs renovation, renovating the Recreation Center, and renovating the Fire House. We had architects visit to see the renovations for the Recreation Center. Commissioner Vasallo asked why is the Recreation Center not a priority considering the number of Leonia Residents that visit it. Council Liaison Grandelis mentioned there is power in numbers and voices.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

Superintendent Krakower still needs to go on one final parks walk with Commisisoner Andrew Choi. Our playground inspector is coming to do a Lost Control Report on July 27th.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

Superintendent Krakower had reached out to our risk managers about the monkey bars. They replied with the companies that we buy our playground equipment form have the state mandates on playgrounds and will abide by them to make them covered under our insurance. Superintendent Krakower will be contacting playground equipment company to compile costs. The Commission agreed that if we can get a cost effective set and find a spot for them then they would be willing to put them into Wood Park. This topic will be decided on at the next Recreation Commission meeting.

Superintendent Krakower inform the Commission that he will be taking a paternity leave when his first child is born.

The Recreation Commission had decided that they will be meeting in August. The Recreation Commission meeting will take place August 15, 2023 in the Recreation Center Meeting room at 7:30pm.

8. **CORRESPONDENTS**

None

9. **RESOLUTION**

None

10. **PUBLIC PORTION**

None

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the July 18th Recreation Commission meeting was made at 8:20pm by Commissioner Mulato. A second motion was made by Commissioner Hernandez. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned.