

**LEONIA RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2024**

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 Ken Fernandez, Commissioner Dennyse Hernandez, Commissioner Anthony Vassallo, Council Liaison Louis Grandelis, Superintendent Sean Krakower, Program Director Destiney Sampson, and Administrative Assistant Jay Joon Sin

Commissioner Judah Zeigler at 7:42 pm

ABSENT

Commissioner Jason Klein

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes for the April 16, 2024, Recreation Commission Meeting were reviewed by the Commission. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commission Choi. A second motion was made by Commissioner Vassallo. All were in favor of approving the minutes.

3. **FINANCIAL REPORTS-** Superintendent Krakower reported that we are currently still on a temporary budget. The Activities Trust Fund has \$237,130.45. He mentioned that this is so high because we took in our Summer Camp registration fees and have not paid anything out yet. That current monetary value will drop throughout the year and you will see a more realistic final number in the financial report of September. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Commissioner Choi and a second motion was made by Commissioner Hernandez. All were in favor.

4. **PUBLIC PORTION-** NONE

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chairman Report- Chair Abouaf updated the commission on the outdoor pickleball courts with the Mayor and Council. Courts at Sylvan Park have been approved based on the specification that were provided in previous meetings. He also attended a revitalization meeting with Superintendent Krakower and the idea of the meeting was a brainstorm about the renovations of current Borough buildings such as Recreation, Fire

and Administration. The information that Chairman Abouaf and Superintendent Krakower gain from the meeting is the Fire Department seems like the priority and Recreation was put on the backburner. Members of the Planning Board, Redevelopment Committee, the Mayor and the Fire Department were all represented at this meeting. Council Liaison Grandelis said the situation is complicated and the Fire Department Building has to meet state mandates.

Programs and Fees- NONE

Program Director Report- Program Director Sampson announced that the Spring programs started this week. In addition, the numbers for Wood Park Summer Camp with Field Trips are looking good right now with 204 participants.

Senior Coordinator Report- Superintendent Krakower read this report on behalf of Senior Coordinator Maggie Browne. The Senior Center is researching creative ideas to reach out to the Korean population for the new Music and Movement classes. Senior Coordinator Maggie Browne is requesting an app that transcribes voicemails to a document so that it would be easier for the bus line and easily accessible for everyone. She has her intern from Pace University creating a spreadsheet and potential services for this type of system.

Sports Booster Report- Commissioner Vasallo gave the Sports Boosters report. He stated that the Sports Boosters are working on food trucks for the Summer Pool Party on June 8th. Superintendent Krakower mentioned that June 8th is the day of the Pride event at Recreation.

Council Liaison Report- Council Liaison Grandelis reported that at the last Mayor and Council meeting they brought in a Lawyer to discuss the new the Affordable Housing Act. This new Act will mandate the town to construct several affordable housing developments into Leonia. We are responsible for affordable housing, but no municipalities are currently meeting the new requirements. He stated that arbitrary lines were drawn through the states and districts based on census data and for Leonia, it is required that we need 459 houses. We currently have 222 units.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

Outdoor Pickleball Court- Superintendent Krakower shared that on April 1st, 2024 the Mayor and Council approved the pickleball court project by resolution using permissible surfacing.

Vending Machine- The Board of Health asked Councilman Grandelis to request to Superintendent Krakower and the Recreation Commission to put less sugary drinks into the soda machines in Wood Park and the Recreation Center. There has not been any further discussion since then.

NEW BUSINESS

Swim Club Staff- Superintendent Krakower present the 2024 Swim Club hires and their rates to the Recreation Commission. We only have one assistant manager and want to discuss having some further potential opportunities with the Swim Club Committee. A motion to approve the Swim Club hires was made by Commissioner Vassallo and a second motion was made by Commissioner Zeigler. All were in favor.

Swim Club Bathroom Roof- During a wind storm, a portion of the roof at the Swim Club was damaged. Superintendent Krakower had reached out to our Joint Insurance Fund agents and found out we have a \$2,500 deductible. Superintendent Krakower is hopeful our insurance will cover the rest of the cost to fix. Councilman Grandelis asked if any grants will cover it. Superintendent Krakower will ask the grant writer.

Sports Boosters Funding: Superintendent Krakower spoke with the Sports Boosters and they mentioned that they have money to donate. They are interested in funding a portion of the \$67,000 for outdoor pickleball courts that the Capital Fund will have to cover in 2025. They are also interested in helping with fixing the Wood Park tennis wall.

College Swim Club Discount- Superintendent Krakower has been requested to see if we can implement the same discount High School students get for college students. The Commission asked if there are a lot of College students that sign up for the pool. Superintendent Krakower responded with no. The Commission agreed to allow College students to get the same discount as High School students starting in the 2025 season.

Leonia Day- Superintendent Krakower invited the Recreation Commission to Leonia Day on Saturday, May 4th, 2024 from 12-4pm. Leonia Day will look similar to the 2023 Leonia Day. The Fire Department will be giving away hotdogs, Hackensack Brewing will be running a Beirgarten, and Joe's Ice Cream truck will be sponsored by Kulite. Leonia Committees, Commissions and Organizations will have tables to promote what they do to make Leonia such a great town. We as the Recreation Department have our instructors come and market their programs.

Memorial Day Parade- Superintendent Krakower was emailed by the American Legion Commander Denis Castro asking if the Recreation Commission would like to walk in this year's Memorial Day Parade. The Commission has not walked in the parade for several years. The Recreation Commission decided that they will not walk in the parade this year.

7. **ADJOURNMENT-**

A motion to adjourn the Recreation Commission meeting was made at 8:00 pm by Commissioner Choi and a second motion was made by Commissioner Hernandez. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.