

**LEONIA RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2024**

1. Chairman Jon Abouaf called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, duly publicized, and in accordance with the Sunshine Law in the Leonia Recreation Meeting Room.

PRESENT

Chairman Jon Abouaf, Commissioner Andrew Choi, Commissioner Jason Klein, Council Liaison Louis Grandelis, Commission Alternate Christine Muir, Superintendent Sean Krakower, and Administrative Assistant Jay Joon Sin

ABSENT

Commissioner Ken Fernandez, Commissioner Dennyse Hernandez, Commissioner Anthony Vassallo, Commissioner Judah Zeigler, and Program Director Destiney Sampson

OATH OF OFFICE

Council Liaison Grandelis administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Alternate Christine Muir

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes for the February 20, 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 Klein. All were in favor of approving the minutes.

3. **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

NONE

4. **PUBLIC PORTION-**

Jaime Sclafene, 254 Glenwood Avenue, Leonia, NJ - Presented the Recreation Commission a framed picture collage from the All Girls Basketball League as appreciation for our support with the Leonia Recreation.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chairman Report- Chairman Jon Abouaf reported that the outdoor pickleball courts at Sylvan Park was an agenda item at the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, March 18th. We had a lot of residents come to show their support for the project. In the first public portion, many Leonia residents spoke in favor of pickleball and how it would benefit the community. Based on Superintendent Krakower's presentation, the feedback was great, cleared the confusion, and confirmed that the grant has to be accepted by

April. Commissioner Klein asked if there was any opposition. Chairman Abouaf said Council President Hesterbrink was against cutting trees down in any park.

Programs and Fees-

NONE

Program Director Report- Superintendent Krakower reported that the Winter Basketball League Championships are this Saturday, March 23rd. Additionally, Commissioner Klein said that basketball referees are really good compared to last year. Our Summer Camp registration has started and the discount period ends March 30th. We had interviews for counselors with around 70 applications, which is very good compared to last year. We are now able to make decisions and have substitute counselors for this year. Chairman Abouaf asked about what determined the increase in summer camp counselor applications. Superintendent Krakower reported that we marketed more this year in different communities, and currently have a great relationship with the Superintendent of Schools therefore it was marketed in the High School extremely well. Superintendent Krakower also noted that Leonia residents will still be the priority for these positions.

Sr Coordinator Report- High School Intern, Roshni, is finishing this April. We were able to get another intern, Anthony from Pace University who needs 24 hours in a tech internship using Excel. He is working on data entry and creating a list of churches as some of the responsibilities given to him at the Senior Center. We have also submitted the ICEF paperwork for the South Korea externship application and are waiting to see if an internship match comes up. We have applied for the AARP Community Challenge grant which will support extra walking trips using the Senior Bus. Some programs that are coming up are the St Patty's luncheon, Grab and Go from Wolf IT, Foodie Club, and Sr. Wellness Fair on June 7th in Wood Park. Commissioner Choi commented on suggesting activities such as a Senior Citizen Prom. It is nice because expenses are relatively low, DJ can be a resident, and high schoolers can volunteer for the event.

Council Liaison Report-

NONE

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

Outdoor Pickleball Court- The Mayor and Council will be making their final decision on April 1st, 2024 about this project.

2024 Grant Discussion- Superintendent Krakower reported that we received an initiative from the Mayor and Council to look into grants that are not matching and many of the proposed ones to the Commission in January were matching.

NEW BUSINESS-

Spring Celebration- Superintendent Krakower informed the Commission that an email was sent out and the event taking place 10:30am -12:00pm with Easter Bunny and pictures. In the event of bad weather, pictures will be in the Recreation Center Dance Studio.

Acoustic Fabric Panels- Superintendent Krakower and Commissioner Vassallo looked into two quotes and both companies are noise cancellation panels for the gym walls. These panels will help the sound levels to help with more efficient communication in the gym. One quote came to a total of \$13,500 and the other one is \$16,000. Superintendent Krakower recommends the lower one because it is similar. We can request that DPW do the installation because both companies said they are pretty easy to install. The panels are helpful because sounds bounce off and capture and cut reverberation time from 3 to 1.9 which is a considerable difference. Commissioner Klein questioned if these are durable and do they work. Superintendent Krakower asked Edgewater and they said they help. Superintendent Krakower has seen them in a ton of High School gyms and other facilities around the county. A motion was made by Commissioner Choi to move forward with the installation of acoustic paneling to lower noise levels in the gym. A second motion was made by Commissioner Klein. All Commissioners were in favor.

Wall in Woodpark- Superintendent Krakower is in the process of getting price quotes for fixing the tennis wall in Wood Park. The project is projected to be over \$20,000 project with the lowest verbal cost is \$22,000. The job description will contain ripping off the plaster and accessing the wiring if they can fix it or will need to be a completely new mesh and cap it with a metal piece which will prevent the water. Chairman Abouaf asked who would work on it. Superintendent Krakower responded that there will be nearby local contractors. Council Liaison Grandelis asked what the range was. To which, the response was around \$18,000 to 22,000. Sports Boosters asked Superintendent Krakower to go to one of the meetings and they could help to fund the project.

Vending Machine- Superintendent Krakower was approached by the Board of Health through Councilman Grandelis to ask about putting healthier items in the vending machines at the Rec and in Wood Park. The vending machine company should provide a list to the Recreation which can be brought to the Board of Health to find healthy alternative drinks and snacks.

ACS Gala Request- The Leonia Homa and School Association is requesting a free pool membership for their annual Gala auction. A motion to approve giving the free membership was made by Commissioner Jason Klein. A second motion was made by Commissioner Muir. All were in favor.

7. **ADJOURNMENT-**

A motion to adjourn the Recreation Commission meeting was made at 8:15pm by Commissioner Klein and a second motion was made by Commissioner Choi. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.