

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EMERSON RECREATION COMMISSION WAS HELD ON FEBRUARY 7, 2019, AT 8:00 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE RECREATION CENTER.

Presiding Officer Afrim Hoxha welcomed everyone and called the Regular Meeting of the Recreation Commission to order at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday February 7, 2019.

Roll Call: Presiding Officer Afrim Hoxha, David Cannici, Anthony Gismondi, Paul Coombes, Rich Solimando, Mike Graham, Willie Ortiz.

Apologies: Bob Quinones, Eilish Viggiani

I New Track Program

The Track Board attended the last Mayor and Council meeting to discuss the new Track program. The meeting went well and the Mayor and Council are supportive of the program. The Track Board will attend the next meeting on February 19 where the fee ordinance will be introduced. This will then be voted on at the March 5th meeting. The Track Board expressed concern at the timing as they would like to get practices started early March and in the absence of a fee ordinance that could be difficult. Afrim informed them that a source of funding has been identified. The initial thought was to use the Recreation Trust for initial expenses and then use the early registration fees to repay the fund. However, the Borough came up with another suggestion which is to use the \$550 for the Summer Hoops program which has lapsed and add another \$1500 from Borough funds. Afrim explained the process for expenses re-imburement. They will also look into setting up accounts with companies that they use or use an existing one.

The program already has 70 kids signed up. It has been so successful that there may not be a need to send out flyers to solicit interest. They were advised to send the flyer out through the schools so all students have had the same opportunity to sign up. The age breakdown is three five year olds, eleven six year olds, seventeen seven year olds, fourteen eight year olds, four nine year olds, seventeen ten year olds, one eleven and one twelve year old. The program is a little light on the older years which hopefully will be improved when the flyer is sent out.

The initial number of 19 volunteers has gone down as parents didn't want to coach and at the moment there are 9. It was suggested that parents could be encouraged to be assistant coaches if they weren't confident enough to coach.

The Track members are in the process of trying to set the program up as a 501 (3) (c) and are reaching out to baseball for guidance. They also asked if children and volunteers participating in Track were covered by the Borough's insurance.

Track will have to request fields for practice. In the interim Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday have been reserved until the Track program have agreed what nights they will practice.

IX Open/Public Comment

Maggie Burns, 225 Grand Blvd.

Emerson Music sponsor a concert given by a band called The Dick Valdonian band. This band practices at the high school and in return they give a concert. They are well known very talented and play the kind of music that would be appreciated by the Seniors. The seniors would not have to pay. The challenge is how to let them know about the concert and then how to get them there. Maggie wanted to know what support the Rec Commission could give. After some discussion it was agreed that the Rec would put a flyer on their Face Book page and the town's website. The Rec Commission is unable to offer any help with transport because of liability. A suggestion was made to reach out to the Senior living homes in Emerson to see if they have any transport. The Recreation Secretary will provide Maggie with contact details for the Seniors Club so she could publicize the meetings through that organization.

II Sports Board Round Table

Afrim welcomed the member of the Sports Board attending and asked him to introduce himself

Chris Sassi – Softball

Afrim explained the background behind the request for members of the sports board being asked to attend and said the last meeting had gone very well

III Sport by Sport Review

Softball

Softball are starting a new league, Kinderkamack Softball league for levels three through eight with seven other towns. Emerson, Westwood, River Edge and Park Ridge are taking the lead and providing four commissioners. These teams have played in the past but this is going to be formalized and the league will have playoffs. The softball fundraiser has been moved to June 1st as the previous date was too close to the Baseball Fundraiser.

Baseball

Nothing to report

Soccer

No report

Football

No report

Wrestling

Nothing to report

IV 4th & 5th Grade Dance

Date of April 5th is the preferred date. March 29th is the reserve. The dance will be held at Villano. Afrim will ask Eilish to speak to Jason Lyons about being the DJ for the dance. Brian Downing will be contacted about the food. Dance will last 2 hours.

V Date for Summer Kick Off

The date was agreed as June 22 with a rain date of June 23 subject to availability of the vendor that provides the fireworks. The meeting agreed that Boy Scout Matthew Dooley can have a table selling baked goods and holding a horseshoe throw to raise funds for his Eagle project.

VI Purchase of TV's (2x65") for recreation use and installation of Wi-Fi at the Rec Center

Using money from the firework fund and summer recreation program, the Borough will purchase two 65" TV's for the Rec center. Wi-fi will be installed by using a router to connect the Rec center to the Borough's internet provider. The router has been purchased.

VII Distribution of ID cards from Background Checks

Cards will be given to the appropriate Sports Boards for distribution to their coaches. The Sports Boards will provide a list of coaches who will be coaching to avoid any checks being done on volunteers who have decided not to coach. The suggestion was made that when the Sports boards give out the cards they will also provide coaches with a lanyard to put the card in. This would be worn at all times when the volunteers are coaching or training. The Rec Commission will organize the purchase of the lanyards and each of the Sports boards will make a contribution from their trust funds.

VIII Approval of Minutes from November 1, & 15, December 6, 2018, January 3, & 17 2019 Meetings

Changes to the November 1, 2018 Minutes

In the section Baseball Issues it was stated that Mike Graham would be the interim liaison between the Rec Commission and Baseball Board. This was incorrect and it will be changed to *offered* to be the interim liaison between the Rec Commission and Baseball Board.

The wrestling board liaison was incorrectly named as Gianna. This will be changed to *Bryanna*.

It was also stated at this meeting that the Sports Boards were required to provide a copy of their by-laws and names of each member and their positions to the Recreation Commission. It was agreed that this was not communicated to them. This will be done.

After some discussion about whether the minutes could be approved without the Recreation Commission seeing the changes it was agreed that they could be voted on.

Motion to approve the minutes from November 1, 15, December 6 2018, January 3 and 17, 2019 made by Paul Coombes, seconded by Rich Solimando. Motion passed with one abstention from Willie Ortiz.

Other business

Let Sports Boards know that they should be sending someone to the next meeting.

Chris Sassi was congratulated for putting together and circulating a clear and comprehensive email describing the process for being approved for and receiving ID cards.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by David Cannici, seconded by Rich Solimando, approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Morris
Acting Recreation Secretary