

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EMERSON RECREATION COMMISSION WAS HELD ON THURSDAY APRIL 18, 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 April 18, 2019.

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

Also present: Mayor DiPaola

Apologies: Bob Quinones

I 4th & 5th Grade Dance

The dance took place on April 5th and was a great success. About 130 4th and 5th grade students attended which is a record. Eilish has received many emails saying what a great time their children had at the dance. David commented that he had not seen a group of kids started to really enjoy themselves so quickly. Two hours seems to be a good length of time.

II Sport by Sport Review

Baseball - David Zimmerman

David reported that the baseball board is still looking for badges for a few coaches. The process of fingerprint, followed by Protect Youth sports checks was reviewed. The communication process is not as fast or accurate as it could be but as it settles in should get better. Opening day went well.

Track - David Zimmerman

The program is going well with over 100 kids signed up. The first meet is taking place on April 28th.

Softball – Mike Graham

Mike agreed that opening day went well and the new Kinderkamack Softball league is running. This means that there will be playoffs at the end of the season giving teams something to play for. Nancy ran the coaches clinics during the winter. The softball board is starting to put together the summer travel teams. The softball fundraiser will be June 1st. Flyer will go out after spring break and the event will be themed around dueling pianos like last year.

Wrestling – Paul Coombes

Nothing to Report

Soccer – Susan

Early bird registration has opened and regular registration will open on May 1. Tryouts for the club season will take place by the end of the month.

Pre-K soccer is starting in the spring on Saturday mornings using the grassed area near the golf course. The Recreation Commission is still waiting for final approval from the county to use this area but they do not foresee any problems. The recreation commission has been very helpful facilitating this.

Football – Eilish Viggiani

The last board meeting was cancelled. There are fundraisers being planned for the summer.

Summer Rec – David Cannici

Kris is running the program again and everything is on track.

Background Checks

There are some coaches who went for fingerprint checks several weeks ago and still have not had a card or any other information. The Recreation secretary will chase this up.

Field Usage

The Recreation Commission recently had to rescind the decline of issuing of a permit to the Bandits organization until the Borough, and Borough Attorney had reviewed the circumstances completely. Afrim received a letter from the attorney stating that the Recreation Commission was within their rights to act as they did and the following was drafted:

Pursuant to Section 61-5 and 200-8B a permit shall be obtained for organized activities on designated fields. In order to obtain a permit an applicant has to comply with subsection B1-A1. Accordingly the Bandits organization has not complied with these requirements as since March 24th 2019 the Bandits organization has been using these fields without a permit. Under section 200-10 a person convicted of violations can be liable for financial penalty of up to \$500 and up to six months of jail time. The Commission doesn't wish to elevate this to signing an official complaint under section 200-10. Therefore the Commission shall execute its discretionary authority and not authorize a permit for this group for 90 days effective immediately for failing to comply with subsection B1-A1.

A motion to send the above letter to the Bandits was made by Rich Solimando, seconded by David Cannici and approved unanimously.

The reason the initial refusal was rescinded was because the Borough Attorney was given incomplete and outdated information on the ordinances.

Signs will be posted on the fields to the effect that field usage is not allowed without a permit. The signs will detail the ordinance which states this and the penalties which could be incurred as stated in this ordinance.

Afrim will send an email with the statement approved by the Recreation Commission to the Borough Administrator who will send the letter to the Bandits organization.

III Approval of Minutes from February 21, March 7, 21 and 29, 2019 Meetings

Minutes from Thursday February 21, 2019 open session

Motion to approve the minutes from February 21, 2019 regular session was made by Mike Graham, seconded by Rich Solimando and approved unanimously

Minutes from Thursday February 21, 2019 closed session

Motion to approve the minutes from February 21, 2019 closed session was made by Rich Solimando, seconded by David Cannici and approved by David Cannici, Anthony Gismondi, Paul Coombes, Rich Solimando, Willie Ortiz, Eilish Viggiani. Mike Graham abstained as he was not present at this part of the meeting.

Minutes from Thursday March 7, 2019

Motion to approve the minutes from March 7, 2019 was made by Mike Graham, seconded by Rich Solimando and approved unanimously.

Minutes from Thursday March 21, 2019

Eilish was marked as absent and she attended the meeting. David was marked as present and was in fact sick so did not make the meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes from March 21, 2019 with these corrections was made by Rich Solimando, seconded by Mike Graham and approved unanimously.

Minutes from Thursday March 29, 2019

Motion to approve the minutes from March 29, 2019 with these corrections was made by David Cannici, seconded by Paul Coombes and approved by David Cannici, Anthony

Gismondi, Paul Coombes, Rich Solimando. Willie Ortiz, Eilish Viggiani and Mike Graham abstained.

IV Open/Public Comment

Mayor DiPaola commented that the Recreation Commission had the full support of the Governing body in their ruling on the Bandits field usage now the ordinance had been clarified. There was a discussion as to whether or not the Bandits should pay the fee for the times they had used the field on March 24th for which they would pay \$325 and April 21st for which they would pay \$150.

A motion to charge the Bandits these fees was made but then tabled for the next meeting on the basis that accepting payment implies that they were there with permission.

Motion to table a discussion as to whether or not payment from the bandits should be accepted was made by Mike Graham and seconded by Rich Solimando and approved unanimously.

Afrim reminded the Commissioners that they needed to chase up donations for the town picnic. The Chamber of Commerce will also be approached.

Mayor DiPaola mentioned that two bands; Carmen Micado and Emerson Project had approached her about playing at the town picnic. The question was asked as to whether or not they would be volunteering their time. Jason Lyons band had already volunteered and this was discussed at the March 21st meeting where it was agreed that the best place for them to play was in the beer garden. When the ABC permit application was submitted a request to place a temporary band stand was included. Jason Lyons has a temporary band stand as does the high school. They will be contacted to see if it would be available for use at the town picnic.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Willie Ortiz, seconded by Paul Coombes, approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Morris
Recreation Secretary