

THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EMERSON RECREATION COMMISSION WAS HELD ON THURSDAY AUGUST 15, 2019, AT 8:00 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE RECREATION CENTER.

Alternate Presiding Officer David Cannici thanked everyone for attending at short notice and called the Special Meeting of the Recreation Commission to order at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday August 15, 2019.

Roll Call: David Cannici, Councilwoman McGuire, Anthony Gismondi, Paul Coombes, Willie Ortiz, Eilish Viggiani, Bob Quinones

Apologies: Mike Graham

I Resignations Review

Afrim Hoxha and Rich Solimando have both tendered their resignation. The Recreation Commission wanted to put on record what a fantastic contribution both Afrim and Rich made during their time on the Recreation Commission. Rich took on field scheduling and has been very involved in other programs. Afrim has been with Recreation sports since 2007 and over the years has taken on more and more responsibility. They will both be missed.

The resignations mean that there will need to be a reallocation of responsibilities.

The By-laws state that on the resignation of the Presiding Officer, the Alternate takes over that responsibility until the following January when individuals are reappointed either as a matter of course or by the Mayor. Despite this a motion was put to the floor to elect David Cannici, to the position of Presiding Officer.

Motion to nominate David Cannici as Presiding Office was made by Willie Ortiz, seconded by Anthony Gismondi, and approved unanimously.

The Commission requires an alternate presiding officer for the period September to December. There is also a need to reallocate responsibilities for this time period. In the re-organization meeting in these can be changed if needed.

Motion to nominate Paul Coombes as Alternate Presiding Officer was made by Bob Quinones, seconded by Willie Ortiz, and approved unanimously.

The Mayor will appoint two new members as Alternates. The time frame for this was not known at the time of meeting.

The by-laws will be circulated and posted on the website.

II Interim coverage plan

Coordinators-

A coordinator is a Recreation Commissioners who takes on the primary responsibility for coordinating activities and programs in specific areas. The following changes were suggested and agreed to:

Field Scheduling - Bob Quinones and Eilish Viggiani.

Field scheduling will cover communications with Sports Board members and other stakeholders and coordination with the Board of Ed. It will also include keeping the Civic Permits program up to date so it is transparent to all users. The Board of Health Secretary will have responsibility to action requests from non-rec or non-Emerson organizations that want to use the fields.

Fundraising and Social Media – Anthony Gismondi

Events – Paul Coombes

This will be mainly the summer kick off and winter wonderland for the present but expand should any other opportunities for events arise.

Communications – Mike Graham

The Communications coordinator will be the point person when formal communications need to be sent out and work with the Presiding Officer and Board of Health Secretary.

Budget – Willie Ortiz

Programs

The Recreation Commission will continue to have a representative from each sports board attend one meeting per month to provide updates covering what challenges they face, what they need from the Recreation Commission and what their calendars and board staffing looks like. There should still be a Commissioner assigned as the contact person for each sport.

Summer Recreation – David Cannici

Football/Cheer – Eilish Viggiani

Soccer – Bob Quinones

Baseball/Softball – Mike Graham

Wrestling – Paul Coombes

Track – Anthony Gismondi

If individual Commissioners want to change their responsibilities this can be discussed at the reorganization meeting in January.

Agenda Format

A new format was suggested and accepted with the addition of Registration to the Program and Updates and Reviews. A copy is attached with the minutes

III Long Term Planning

Councilwoman McGuire told the meeting that the 'Be street smart New Jersey' will be kicked off at the Police Campout August 24/25 and will continue through October 2 which is 'National Walk to School Day'. The organization Be Street Smart New Jersey creates posts which can be shared with residents to educate them about street safety. These will be posted on the Recreation Facebook page.

There was a discussion about the appointment of alternates. New appointments typically occur when someone resigns or is removed and they are made by the Mayor. The time scale for these appointments is not known at the moment. David Cannici has suggested to the Mayor that more women are encouraged to join the Commission. A comment was made that the Commission would appreciate the opportunity to discuss any future appointments with her before they are made. If anyone approaches the Commission they will be directed to contact the Mayor directly. Councilwoman McGuire will communicate this to the Mayor.

There was some discussion about term length and how it changes when a member moves from being an Alternate to a Full Member.

Attendance by the Sports boards at recreation commission meetings was discussed. It was agreed that the commission would inform the sports boards that they should attend the meetings on the third Thursday of the month. There will be an initial communication by Dave outlining this which will include the agenda and a list of points that they Sport's Boards would be expected to discuss, specifically their calendar, what are their upcoming events, update on board staffing including any problems, what challenges and roadblocks do they have, what actionable items do they have for the commission and an update on registration. The initial communication will be followed up by one from the relevant liaison. The Recreation Secretary will send a reminder the Monday prior to the meeting.

ID cards were discussed, particularly the production of the cards. The consensus was that the production of the cards was not as efficient as it could be and would be better done by an outside printer. There was an initial concern about confidentiality if this was sent to a printer but this did not seem to be an issue. As it was not clear how many cards had been produced and of these how many had been distributed Bob Quinones was actioned to clarify this with Rich Solimando. The meeting agreed that the necessity for coaches to have their cards and that they were visible at all times when they were coaching should be reinforced with the sports boards

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Bob Quinones, seconded by Anthony Gismondi, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Morris
Recreation Secretary

Agenda Format

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Reading and Approval of Minutes

IV. Reports of Officers

- Presiding Officer
- Alternate Presiding Officer
- Secretary
- Borough Liaison – Councilwoman McGuire

V. Program Updates and Reviews

- Upcoming Events/Calendar Review
- Board Staffing
- Program Challenges
- Requests of Recreation Commission
- Registration Update

VI. Unfinished Business

VII. New Business

- Committee Reports
 - Fundraising – Anthony Gismondi
 - Events – Paul Coombes
 - Field Scheduling – Bob Quinones/Eilish Viggiani
 - Communications – Mike Graham/Liz Morris

VIII. Open Session (Public)

IX. Adjournment