

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EMERSON RECREATION COMMISSION WAS HELD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2018, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE RECREATION CENTER.

Presiding Officer Afrim Hoxha called the Regular Meeting of the Recreation Commission to order at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Presiding Officer Afrim Hoxha, David Cannici, Anthony Gismondi, Bob Quinones Paul Coombes, Richard Solimando, Eilish Viggiani, and Council liaison Brian Downing

Excused Absence: Willie Ortiz ?

I Christmas Tree Lighting Event

The Recreation Commission will hold their fall event the same night as the Tree Lighting Ceremony. After the ceremony, the Recreation Commission will provide apple cider donuts and hot chocolate at the Fire House. Santa will be at the Borough Hall and then the Fire House where children will be able to have their picture taken with him. Someone from the Recreation Commission will contact the Fire Chief to confirm the date and time of the event and what the Fire Department are planning. Additionally, they will contact the photographer for a cost to take and print pictures at the event.

II Baseball Issues

The current president of the Baseball Board Ken Benkovic has circulated an email stating concerns about the Recreation Commission limited communication and lack of attendance at Baseball Board meetings. It was pointed out that despite the fact that the Recreation Commission does not meet in the summer the Recreation Commission Liaison for baseball attended several meetings in July and tried to keep in contact through email and phone. This perceived lack of communication has been a recurring issue and usual concerns field usage. In March of this year a team was put together to provide suggestions as to how this could be improved but their recommendations do not appear to have been followed. To help resolve this a suggestion was made that instead of recreation commissioners attending the sports board meeting, one member of each of the sports boards will be expected to attend one Recreation Commission meeting per month. (See motion at the end of this section). In the interim Mike Graham will take over as liaison to the Baseball Board

A second issue concerning children who do not live in Emerson who play on Emerson teams was discussed. The situation raises two concerns, firstly are these children insured and secondly, a team with a high percentage of non-Emerson players may end up getting priority over one with just Emerson children. The Borough Attorney is drafting an ordinance based on one that was recently approved in another town which will cover, amongst other things, field usage and insurance. The field usage priority will be Emerson Recreation teams then Emerson Travel Teams then club teams. There will be a fee for

non-Emerson teams which must be collected for every field request from non-Emerson teams.

A first draft of the ordinance will be circulated to all members of the Recreation Commission. Each member will thoroughly review this and suggest amendments based on their experience as coaches and board members. A final draft will be produced which will be discussed at a Recreation Commission meeting at which the Borough Attorney will be present. Once the Ordinance has been finalized and approved by the Mayor and Council it will take precedence over any by-laws of individual sports boards.

The background check ordinance has been approved and will be implemented after the changeover in secretaries.

Motion by Mike Graham:

Effective January 1, 2019 the Recreation Commission puts the onus on the each of the sports boards/sub-committees i.e. baseball board, softball board, soccer board, wrestling board, and football board, to send a representative to the posted Emerson recreation commission meetings once a month for the purpose of support, communications, updates, questions concerns.

Motioned seconded by Rich Solimando

Passed unanimously

Disappointment expressed that the president of baseball did not come to the meeting. For the record a communication will be sent out the rec commission president directly to the party who wrote this email and he is going to be requested to attend our next meeting. If he doesn't, language will be in the email stating that if he is not compliant with good reason he will be suspended from his standing on that board.

III Sport-by-Sport Review

Baseball

See above

Wrestling

Gianna (?) said the number of children signed up for wrestling is down on last year. The reason is not clear but may be due to availability of coaching staff.

Soccer

The program is in good shape with good number of kids signed up. The recent soccer social was a success. There is a new board member, Suzie Smith. The process for collecting fees has been streamlined so they transfer straight from Blue Sombrero to the Borough. The Borough CFO Lauren Roehrer has been a tremendous help.

Football

Good season which ends November 11. Sixteen out of nineteen second graders participated in the Pascack Valley showcase. Park Ridge A & B who have a number of

Emerson children playing on their teams are undefeated. They will be playing in the championship game on November 12.

Softball

The treasurer has stepped down and Jeff Brenner will take over. New board member Nicole Wolrop joined the board, bringing the total number of board members to ten. Field requests have been submitted to the Board of Ed.

IV Resolution No. 1-18, re: 2019 Meeting Dates

This will need to be amended to reflect the new start time, see section V

Minutes of the October 18, 2018 meeting were approved

V Open Public Comments

Motion by Rich Solimando to move the start of the meetings from 7:30 to 8 pm
Passed unanimously. Resolution 1-18 will need to be amended.

Each of the sports boards will be mandated to provide a copy of their by-laws to the Recreation Commission by the first meeting Recreation Commission in January 19, 2019

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Bob Quinones, that the Recreation Commission meeting be adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Morris
Recreation Secretary