

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EMERSON RECREATION COMMISSION WAS HELD ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2019, AT 8:00 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE RECREATION CENTER.

I Call to Order

Presiding Officer Bob Quinones thanked everyone for attending and called the Regular Meeting of the Recreation Commission to order at 8:02 p.m. on Thursday November 21, 2019.

Motion to open the meeting made by Paul Coombes, seconded by Anthony Gismondi. Passed unanimously.

II. Roll Call

Anthony Gismondi, Paul Coombes, Phil Gianatasio, Bob Quinones, Eilish Viggiani, Willie Ortiz

Apologies: Steve Paino, Mike Graham

Councilwoman McGuire was also in attendance along with representatives from the Sports Boards as follows:

Baseball:	Bobby Healey
Football/cheer:	Josh Urban
Soccer:	Mike Saccente
Softball:	Nicole Wohlrab
Track:	Chris Pesce
Wrestling:	Bryana Paino

V. Program Updates and Reviews

Soccer Mike Saccente

Recreation soccer season has finished. There were about 300 players from recreation and club. The fields are being closed; nets put away etc. The fields were in very good condition this season, the best they have been in a while.

The soccer social was held November 1st at the Knights of Columbus and over 100 people attended. The event went well and the raffles were very successful.

Softball Nicole Wohlrab

Registration is open on-line through Blue Sombrero and there will be an in person registration as well.

Softball completed their first fall softball league with about 50 girls playing at three levels.

The netting for the batting cages has been put away.

Softball has started informal winter sessions.

Baseball Bobby Healey

The fall season is finished. Dates for registration will not be confirmed until a decision has been taken on whether or not Emerson Baseball will join the Little League

Benkovic field has been renovated with new dirt and cutouts.

The baseball fundraiser is scheduled for St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2020.

Baseball will start winter clinics at the high school after the holidays. There is no charge and they expect between 40 and 50 kids. This year they are hoping to add a program for 5th to 8th graders.

They are still looking for volunteers

Football/Cheer: Josh Urban

The season has just finished. They had 40 boys across pre-K, K (instructional) and 1st grade (play against other teams). The teams went 3:4 and 4:3.

There were 20 girls in cheer.

Football registration will open in summer 2020. There was a suggestion that this might be more successful if it started in the spring and this will be taken back to the football/cheer board. Another possibility is doing it at a local pizza place who will often give a percentage of the evening's takings as a donation.

The football/cheer fundraiser will be held on January 24, 2020 at the Knights of Columbus in Washington Township. It will be a casino night.

The Football Board has 8 members but they need more cheer coaches. Children of all the existing coaches are aging out of the program. There is one mother who will stay on and Eilish will support them.

Cheer is planning to use the services of a professional choreographer next season so that the girls have their own routines. This will be done in conjunction with the high school coach who is using the same choreographer.

There was a discussion about using Facebook more proactively to recruit new coaches and publicize fundraisers. Anthony will reach out to the Sports Boards to ask for flyers. There was also a suggestion of having a table at the Summer Kick Off Town Picnic which could have a member of each Sports Board and one Recreation Commissioner to talk about the sports programs. The possibility of having a table at Back to School night was discussed. This may be a way of getting more pre-K and K parents involved.

Eilish reminded the meeting about the 'MAMALIERS' game the day after Thanksgiving at the high school at 11 am. It is played between Emerson and Hillsdale moms for fun and to encourage people to bring non-perishable good for Hillsdale and Emerson Helping Hands food pantries.

Track: Chris Pesce

Track had a successful spring season with track with 125 kids some of who went to Regionals and Nationals. The Emerson Track team has been accepted into New Jersey Striders as a team member and not just an associate. This will reduce the cost.

There was a fall cross country team with about 25 participants who attended three meets.

Track is currently trying to recruit coaches for track in the spring.

They are still in the process of setting up as a 501 3 c but have around \$1,800 left from the initial allocation of funds to set up the program so there is time to get this approved. The 2020 budget will be \$500.

There is a discussion ongoing about whether to break cross country off as a separate entity. There could be a separate board or it could be a sub-board of the existing Track Board. The fees would be different which means they may have to have a separate fee ordinance. This would probably not be the case if cross country were self-funded.

Wrestling Bryana Paino

Registration was recently completed and 42 kids have signed up. This is about the same number as last year. Ten new kids signed up including three from fourth grade. There are no eighth grade kids.

Practices will start in January

Board now has a treasurer.

There will be a parent meeting on November 25. In the past wrestling have not had enough volunteers for the two tournaments that they are involved in. They need people to take payment at the door, work in the kitchen, working the scoreboards.

The wrestling board is considering a system where parents would pay a registration and volunteer check. If they completed their volunteer hours the volunteer check would be returned. If they did not it would be deposited. The concern with this is that some families would be happier paying the fee than doing the volunteer hours and they may lose what volunteers they have.

III Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the November 7 meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from November 7, 2019 meeting was made by Paul Coombes, seconded by Phil Gianatasio

Roll Call: Paul Coombes Yes, Anthony Gismondi Yes, Bob Quinones Yes, Phil Gianatasio Yes, Eilish Viggiani abstain (not at the meeting), Willie Ortiz abstain (not at the meeting)

IV Reports of Officers

Presiding Officer- The Presiding Officer had spoken at length to the Borough Administrator mainly about baseball. They agreed that they should meet and include Councilwoman McGuire in the meeting. The Borough Administrator will suggest dates to meet.

Alternate Presiding Officer- Nothing to report

Secretary-ID cards Councilwoman McGuire provided details of a company who produce cards as part of the background check package which will be researched further. She will also speak to the Borough Administrator who is familiar with the process in Mahwah.

The Recreation Commission still does not have a definitive list of which coaches received cards. The sports boards will be contacted with a request to provide this information. If a list of coaches who have passed two background checks and supplied a picture but have not yet received a card can be made then a card for this year can be produced.

During this discussion it was highlighted that the hyperlinks from the Borough website to the Sports Board websites don't work. This will be checked and corrected.

Borough Liaison – Councilwoman McGuire shared with the meeting that the Borough website is being updated to be more user friendly and giving it a much better appearance. A Borough Facebook page is planned. In addition to Borough communications there will also be the opportunity for boards and commissions to publicize events as well. The governing body is also considering a Facebook live session with the Mayor where she would take questions from residents.

The Emerson Christmas tree lighting will take place on December 1st.

The County is organizing a Christmas tree decorating event at Van Saun Park. Each town has its own tree to decorate and Emerson residents are invited to decorate the town's tree at 4 pm on December 4th. The focus is family and families are encouraged to laminate photos and use them as decorations. They will not be returned. If residents want to have an ornament on the tree but are not able to attend they can leave a decoration at the Borough Clerk's office by December 2nd and it will be put on the tree for them. If residents don't have a laminator, Councilwoman McGuire will do this.

V Unfinished Business

Budget

The Presiding Officer commented that the Recreation Commission had not approved the budget in the past. The CFO advised that some of the budget should be reallocated to fund Fingerprint checks as this line item was overspent in 2019. Field maintenance was

underspent in 2019 and it was suggested that \$1,500 will be moved from that budget to the Fingerprint checks. Individual Sports budgets will stay the same except Track which was a new program in 2019 and so was given startup funding in the budget. This is no longer required and the suggested budget for 2020 is \$550.

Motion to adopt the draft budget as discussed above was made by Willie Ortiz, seconded by Paul Coombes

Roll call: Paul Coombes Yes, Anthony Gismondi Yes, Bob Quinones Yes, Willie Ortiz Yes

Little League

At the last meeting Recreation Commission approved a motion to authorize Emerson Recreation Baseball Program to make an application to Little League International. The Alternate Presiding Officer informed the meeting that it was considered appropriate to vote on three motions concerning specific areas of the application to join Little League.

A Motion to allow the future Emerson Little League LLC access to the Emerson Recreation Commission funds as allocated per the 2020 Recreation Commission budget, contingent upon that 75% of their players must reside in the Borough of Emerson, New Jersey. Also, if any group should lobby to form an Emerson Recreational Baseball Board under the Emerson Recreation Commission, this new Emerson Recreational Baseball Board would have priority to any or all funds budgeted for an Emerson Baseball Program was made by Paul Coombes, seconded by Willie Ortiz

Roll call: Anthony Gismondi Yes, Willie Ortiz Yes, Paul Coombes Yes, Bob Quinones Yes

A Motion to allow Emerson Little League LLC access to Emerson Borough Fields, contingent upon that 75% of their players must reside in the Borough of Emerson, New Jersey. Also, if any group should lobby to form an Emerson Recreational Baseball Board under the Emerson Recreation Commission, this new Emerson Recreational Baseball Board would have priority to any of the fields allocated for an Emerson Baseball Program. Also, for the 2020 season Emerson Little League LLC should remain under the Borough's Insurance with JIF, but additional coverage beyond 2020 would need to be reviewed by the Emerson Recreation Commission for feasibility was made by Paul Coombes, seconded by Willie Ortiz.

Roll call: Anthony Gismondi Yes, Willie Ortiz Yes, Paul Coombes Yes, Bob Quinones Yes

A Motion In regards to the Emerson Code of Conduct under Ordinance No. 1337.07, a review of the Little League International Code of Conduct must be reviewed by the Emerson Borough Attorney to determine that it meets or exceeds what is required under

the Emerson Code of conduct (Ordinance No. 1337.07) was made by Paul Coombes, seconded by Willie Ortiz.

Roll call: Anthony Gismondi Yes, Willie Ortiz Yes, Paul Coombes Yes, Bob Quinones Yes

The Presiding Officer said that the three motions had been proposed to allow the Borough Administrator and Mayor and Council to review them and comment as appropriate. It is hoped that the motions will provide clarity and address some of the issues raised by Councilman Hoffman at the November 12 Mayor and Council meeting. With respect to the Code of Conduct, Phil Gianatasio confirmed that any issues that arose with coaches under Little League would be communicated back to the Recreation Commission as some of these individuals may coach other sports in the Recreation Program.

It would be expected that the Little League would attend Recreation Commission meetings.

VI New Business

Fundraising-nothing report. A list of sponsors from this year's summer kick off town picnic will be circulated to the Recreation Commission for review. New sponsors can be added and inactive ones removed.

Events-No events are planned before the end of the year. 4th/5th grade dance and summer kick off town picnic will go ahead. There was a discussion about whether an event themed around the ice rink could be held in February. The issue of where it will be stored needs to be resolved before planning can be started. A senior prom was also suggested for April/May. It was agreed that all members of the Recreation Commission would bring ideas for events to the first meeting in January so a schedule will be put together.

Field Scheduling-Nothing to report at the moment. Baseball will be putting in their request in the near future.

Communications-Dates for 2020 meetings. The original proposal was for the second and fourth Tuesday of the month but this will create 4 possibly 5 conflicts. A review of the draft 2020 calendar for Council Chamber showed that it was free for most 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. There could be a conflict with the Baseball Sports Board meetings but they should be able to work around this.

A concern was raised by Willie Ortiz that if the Recreation Commission meets on dates other than those specified in the by-laws, they would violate the by-laws. The by-laws will need to be amended and the process for doing this will be confirmed.

Motion to introduce the dates for the 2020 meetings as per Resolution 1-19 with the first meeting being January 7th was made by Paul Coombes, seconded by Anthony Gismondi

Roll call: Anthony Gismondi Yes, Willie Ortiz No, Paul Coombes Yes, Bob Quinones Yes

VII Open Session (Public)

Willie Ortiz made a motion to move to open session. Seconded by Paul Coombes.

Roll call: Anthony Gismondi Yes, Willie Ortiz Yes, Paul Coombes Yes, Bob Quinones Yes

There being no matters to discuss Willie Ortiz made a motion to close the open session. Seconded by Paul Coombes.

Roll call: Anthony Gismondi Yes, Willie Ortiz Yes, Paul Coombes Yes, Bob Quinones Yes

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Willie Ortiz, seconded by Paul Coombes.

Roll call: Anthony Gismondi Yes, Willie Ortiz Yes, Paul Coombes Yes, Bob Quinones Yes

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Morris
Recreation Secretary