

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EMERSON RECREATION COMMISSION WAS HELD ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2020, AT 8:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF EMERSON BOROUGH HALL.**

**I Call to Order**

Presiding Officer Bob Quinones welcomed everyone to the Regular Meeting of the Recreation Commission which was being held in the Recreation Center as the Environmental Commission were meeting in the Council Chambers Thursday February 19, 2020 and called the meeting to order at 8:04 pm. Motion to open the meeting was made by Paul Coombes, seconded by Anthony Gismondi and approved unanimously.

**II. Roll Call**

Anthony Gismondi, Steve Paino, Joe Vigna, Eilish Viggiani, Paul Coombes, Bob Quinones  
Apologies: Phil Gianatasio, Willie Ortiz, Mike Graham

Councilwoman Jill McGuire and Council President Hoffman were present.

Representatives from the Sports Board were also present; Mark Sterinsky-Softball, Chris Pesce-Track and Keith Smith-Baseball

**III Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the January 2, 2020 meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes from January 2, 2020 meeting was made by Paul Coombes, seconded by Joe Vigna. All were in favor.

**IV Reports of Officers**

Presiding Officer-Nothing to report.

Alternate Presiding Officer- Will report on the summer kick off when that part of the agenda has been reached.

Borough Liaison – Councilwoman McGuire reminded the meeting that the Borough requires copies of all Recreation Commissioners Driving License. The Recreation Secretary will ensure that these are provided for all members of the Commission, including the new ones. The checks are repeated annually. This is a requirement of the JIF.

**V. Program Updates and Reviews**

Softball Mark Sterinsky

106 girls registered so far which is a little down on 2019 when softball had 119. There will probably be 10 teams. The fundraiser has been rescheduled to June 6<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the Summer Kick Off/Town Picnic.

Baseball Keith Smith

230 boys have registered for the season which is about the same as 2019. The boards are compiling a list of which coaches have cards. Uniforms have been ordered and all the fields have been booked.

The transfer to Little League went smoothly and it is very popular with players and families. It is hoped that this will encourage more younger kids to join the baseball program.

Track: Chris Pesce

Registration is open and the flyers have been sent home in back packs through the schools. The Track board took a decision not to include five and six year old children in the program. They are too young to compete in meets and at that age it is harder to keep them focused. It could have worked better if parents had stayed for the practices. The Recreation Commission suggested the Track Board could look into speed and agility classes for the five and six year old's so they are not lost to the program when they are older.

Seven to twelve year old's will be eligible. Track will be holding an open house Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Recreation Center.

Wrestling: Steve Paino

The season has just finished. The program had 15% more kids that last year. Bryana Paino has resigned as President of the Wrestling board as there are not enough volunteers. The board are considering adding a \$50 fee, returnable when parents have fulfilled their volunteering requirement. There is still the issue of parents who will pay the \$50 not to have to volunteer. Families are only asked to work for 2 hours at each of the tournaments. These tournaments are a good way of raising money. Bryana will stay on until a replacement is found. She has been a really good president and very responsive to questions. It was suggested that wrestling advertise on the Recreation Commission Facebook page.

Football/Cheer: Eilish Viggiani

Football and Cheer are looking for new board members and coaches for the first and second grade cheer teams. They have had some success posting on Facebook and Instagram

Soccer Bob Quinones

Registration for soccer opens April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**VI Unfinished Business**

Summer Kick Off/Town Picnic

The date for the event is Saturday June 13, 2020 with a rain date of Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>. Anthony has a list for fundraising and a copy of this was distributed to the meeting. It was suggested that the new members of the Recreation Commission could bring new sponsors. Chris Sassi will organize the grills through Taylor Rental. Paul Coombes is organizing high school students to dress up as the characters Mickey, Minnie, Sponge Bob and Elmo. Costumes will be hired from Taylor Rental at a cost of \$50-\$75 per costume. An area will be set up for kids to have their picture taken with the characters but there won't be a photographer. The band is booked and they will donate their time. The Library has changed the date for their Family day and will hold it on the same day as the Summer Kick off/Town picnic. They will be having a magician. The date for the picnic is fine for the fireworks vendor. They want to meet with the fire official and this is currently being organized.

There was a discussion about what could be done for the seniors at the picnic. Bingo has been suggested with some of the gift cards that are being donated used as prizes. It would run at a particular time and not for the whole picnic. Two more tents are needed and these will be rented. Advertising the event was discussed. The flyer being created could be put in the local newspaper and in local stores. Donation letter and flyer has been updated and there was a discussion about whether recognition incentives should be offered. Provision of these may be too much work and/or too costly. They can be acknowledged in the flyer and Bob offered to send them a letter thanking them for their donation. If this is done, it means all the information about tax would also have to be included. The face painters who were used last year will be contacted again. There will be three rather than two as there were last year. The DJ's contract will be amended to reflect the correct location for the Summer Kick Off/Town Picnic. The secretary will find out who should sign the contract. In 2019, expenses were \$11,832.

#### Senior Prom

Thursdays and Fridays in April (except April 9) are the best dates but the dance would have to be held between 12 and 4pm. Phil Gianatasio would be able to do the set up on the day and then clean up and breakdown could be done in the evening. If it is not possible to do set up in the morning it could be done the night before. Ken Roman has offered a couple of Seniors to help if necessary. Lyons Entertainment will provide a DJ and there will be a photo booth. Food will probably be provided by Franco's and Paul will see if they can get a discount. Decorations will be bought at the Dollar Store. Paul will provide a spreadsheet with costs which will include photo booth, DJ, food, desserts, decorations and soft drinks.

#### 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade dance

The event, being held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, has been renamed the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade social as so it will be more appealing to the boys. The flyer for the dance has been approved and will be posted on the Recreation Commission Facebook page and other Emerson social media sites. There is a link to Sign Up Genius where parents can sign up their kids. It includes their child's name, an emergency phone number and whether they would like to chaperone. There was a question about whether the volunteers should be background checked. The consensus was yes but there was some doubt as to whether this could be achieved in the time for the social. Recreation Commissioners will act as chaperones. Denise Downing has offered to provide the food. If this doesn't work out pizza, small bottles of water and cookies will be provided. There will be a photo booth and glow sticks. The glow sticks will be ordered through Lyons Entertainments who are providing the DJ. Eilish will provide a spreadsheet with costs.

## **VII New Business**

Fundraising-Discussed under Summer Kick Off/Town Picnic.

Events- Discussed under Unfinished Business.

Field Scheduling-Bob has worked with Dave Zimmerman to schedule Benkovic and Hillman for baseball and this is complete. Jill Donnegan has done the scheduling for the high school fields. Soccer and softball have been done through Giovanna at the Board of Ed.

Communications- ID cards were discussed with the Borough Administrator who said the Recreation Commission should put in writing how they want to produce the cards. He would take the proposal to the Mayor and Council for approval. The Sports Board presidents have been contacted for a list of coaches who have received cards. These will expire during 2020 and so new ones will be required. A list of active coaches will be requested from the sports board presidents so this can be checked against last years.

Kris Lechman will be contacted to find out what is being done to ensure that all the relevant information about attendees of the camp is readily available to the appropriate counselors and directors along with a liability waiver. Bob and Paul will try and meet with him and invite him to the next meeting.

### **VIII Open Session (Public)**

Motion to open the meeting for public comment was made by Steve Paino seconded by Paul Coombes. All were in favor.

There being no public comment a motion to close the open public session was made by Steve Paino seconded by Paul Coombes. All were in favor

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Paul Coombes seconded by Anthony Gismondi. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Morris  
Recreation Secretary