

**THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EMERSON RECREATION COMMISSION WAS  
HELD ON WEDNESD JUNE 24, 2019, AT 8:00 P.M.**

**This meeting of the Recreation Commission of the Borough of Emerson was held via the teleconferencing app GoToMeeting on June 24, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency.**

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**ACCESS INFORMATION**

Emerson Recreation Commission meeting, June 24, 2020 at 8pm

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

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**I. Call to Order**

Acting Presiding Officer Paul Coombes welcomed everyone to the special meeting of the recreation commission and called the meeting to order at 8:10 pm. Motion to open the meeting was made by Mike Graham, seconded by Anthony Gismondi. All were in favor.

**II. Roll Call**

Anthony Gismondi, Paul Coombes, Mike Graham, Willie Ortiz, Eilish Viggiani, Phil Gianatasio, Joe Vigna

Apologies Steve Paino

Councilwoman Jill McGuire and Councilman Ken Hoffman were also present.

**III. Reorganization of the Recreation Commission**

As Bob Quinones is no longer presiding officer of the recreation commission new officers and responsibilities were nominated and voted on.

**Presiding Officer**

Motion to nominate Paul Coombes as Presiding Officer made by Mike Graham and seconded by Willie Ortiz.

Roll Call

Anthony Gismondi, Paul Coombes, Mike Graham, Willie Ortiz, Eilish Viggiani, Phil Gianatasio, Joe Vigna

### **Alternate Presiding Officer**

Motion to nominate Eilish Viggiani as Alternate Presiding Officer made by Paul Coombes and seconded by Anthony Gismondi.

### Roll Call

Anthony Gismondi, Paul Coombes, Mike Graham, Willie Ortiz, Eilish Viggiani, Phil Gianatasio, Joe Vigna

### **Sports Liaison Responsibilities**

Baseball	Phil Gianatasio
Football/Cheer	Eilish Viggiani
Field Scheduling	Joe Vigna
Soccer	Paul Coombes
Softball	Mike Graham
Tennis	Mike Graham
Track	Anthony Gismondi
Wrestling	Steve Paino

## **IV. Sports Updates and Reviews – Recreation Commission Liaison**

*Waivers*-Paul met with Councilwoman McGuire and the Borough Administrator. They received a copy of a waiver form from MEL-JIF which the Borough Attorney is currently reviewing. As there is a deadline, Councilwoman McGuire suggested the Commission approve the waiver pending approval by the Borough Attorney. Willie said he thought it would be prudent to have the Recreation Commission approve the waiver, after the Borough Attorney had done so. Mike commented that if the softball program had to wait another two weeks for the waiver to be approved it would be too late to start the program. He also said that in his experience the waivers received from JIF by other municipalities have been approved without any change. Councilwoman McGuire said the decision was rested with the Recreation Commission. Willie commented that as long as the JIF would cover all liability including Recreation Commissioner he thought the waiver could be approved subject to certain conditions.

A motion was made by Willie Ortiz, seconded by Paul Coombes to accept the waiver as received condition on the fact that JIF will insure us against all liability.

### Roll Call

Anthony Gismondi, Paul Coombes, Mike Graham, Willie Ortiz, Eilish Viggiani, Phil Gianatasio, Joe Vigna

Paul asked Councilwoman McGuire and Councilman Hoffman to continue to reach out to the Borough Attorney to approve the waiver.

There was a discussion about purchasing PPE's. Paul has spoken with Councilwoman McGuire, the Borough Administrator and the CFO. If the Recreation Commission and Sports Boards create a list of what is needed and send it to Mark Savino (OEM coordinator) he will submit it to FEMA. Paul asked Councilwoman McGuire what was the best way

to do this. She recommended that Paul, as the new Presiding Officer, reach out to Mark Savino and he will explain the process. Willie suggested that Paul should contact the CFO about submitting expenses through the CARES act. Paul said he had been told to submit through FEMA first. Phil, Mike and Chris Butler will be asked to provide a list of items for baseball, softball and soccer. Eilish said that football is already putting together a list and a foot pedal pedestal sanitation stations used instead of the hand dispensers. Based on this discussion the sports liaisons were asked to provide a list for all sports and any needs for the drive in event will be added. Mike commented that the softball season only runs through July so he has taken the initiative and is looking into thermometers and Chris Sassi into EPA sanitization as they are concerned that if they wait for supplies through FEMA they won't be available in time for the season. Paul agreed and said he would still ask for a list of requirements from each sport so the PPE's will be available for the future. Paul asked if the Little League were providing any PPE's. They are not. Baseball is taking the same approach as softball and purchasing what they need. Paul repeated his request for a list of supplies as he does not think the town will reimburse, only provide product. Eilish asked if the DPW would be able to help but unfortunately, they cannot and it will be up to individual teams and coaches.

## **V. Unfinished Business**

### Summer kick off

Paul and Eilish had a good meeting with the Fire Official and Fireworks contractor. He provided copies of all of last years paperwork and this will be requested for this year. Councilwoman McGuire and Councilman Hoffman were asked if they could follow up on the resolution needed to approve the fireworks.

Paul and the recreation secretary are working on the ABC permit.

In response to a question by Phil, Paul said that the sports events, Home Run Derby, Punt, Pass and Kick and a soccer demonstration by Red Bulls will be included if possible.

It was agreed that the event would be called 'End of Summer Blast'.

### Summer Recreation Camp

The Summer Recreation camp has been cancelled because they are not able to provide facilities for the campers to go indoors in the event of inclement weather.

### Summer Drive in Movie Event

Willie has spoken to the County and Dr. Gatens about using their respective sites for the drive-in event. Dr. Gatens was very amenable to the idea as long as the CDC guidelines were being followed. Willie will follow up with John Scotino, the Board of Ed attorney. He suggested that Councilwoman McGuire and Councilman Hoffman reach out to the Borough Attorney to ensure that any required approvals are processed quickly. To do this they need a plan. Paul commented that the vendor has experience in running in these events All that should be needed is a permit so Willie should reach out to them and confirm dates to move forward. There was a discussion about whether or not to charge and the consensus was to wait and see until the vendor has been contacted.

The vendor's cost is \$1200 and \$450 for the DVD license fee for an event that is free. If the Recreation Commission charge then the fee is \$550. The plan is to advertise to Emerson residents only but if they bring friends from another town that would be OK.

**VI. New Business**

Date of the summer meetings

After some discussion, the dates for the summer meetings were agreed as July 15, August 5 and August 19 at 8pm.

Motion to approve the meeting dates as July 15, August 5 and August 19 at 8pm was made by Paul Coombes and seconded by Willie Ortiz.

Roll Call

Anthony Gismondi, Paul Coombes, Mike Graham, Willie Ortiz, Eilish Viggiani, Phil Gianatasio, Joe Vigna

**VII. Open Public Comment**

Motion to open the meeting to public comment made by Willie Ortiz and seconded by Anthony Gismondi. All were in favor.

There being no further comment by the public a motion to close the meeting to public comment made by Paul Coombes and seconded by Willie Ortiz. All were in favor.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Paul Coombes, seconded by Willie Ortiz. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Morris  
Recreation Secretary