

**THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EMERSON RECREATION COMMISSION WAS
HELD ON WEDNESDAY JULY 15, 2020, AT 8:00 P.M.**

This meeting of the Recreation Commission of the Borough of Emerson was held via the teleconferencing app GoToMeeting on July 15, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

ACCESS INFORMATION

Emerson Recreation Commission meeting, July 15, 2020 at 8pm

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I. Call to Order

Alternate Presiding Officer Eilish Viggiani welcomed everyone to the special meeting of the recreation commission and called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm. Motion to open the meeting was made by Willie Ortiz, seconded by Anthony Gismondi. All were in favor.

II. Roll Call

Anthony Gismondi, Willie Ortiz, Eilish Viggiani, Phil Gianatasio, Joe Vigna, Steve Paino

Apologies: Paul Coombes, Mike Graham

Councilwoman Jill McGuire and Councilman Ken Hoffman were also present.

III. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the meetings on June 17 & 24, 2020.

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2020 meeting made by Willie Ortiz and seconded by Anthony Gismondi. Approved by Eilish Viggiani, Willie Ortiz, Phil Gianatasio, Anthony Gismondi and Joe Vigna. Steve Paino abstained.

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2020 meeting made by Willie Ortiz and seconded by Joe Vigna. Approved by Eilish Viggiani, Willie Ortiz, Phil Gianatasio, Anthony Gismondi and Joe Vigna. Steve Paino abstained.

IV. Sports Updates and Reviews – Recreation Commission Liaison

Softball- Mike Graham Nothing to report as Mike was absent.

Tennis-Mike Graham Nothing to report as Mike was absent.

Soccer-Paul Coombes Nothing to report as Paul was absent.

Baseball-Phil Gianatasio. Practices started last week but as there has been a lot of rain they haven't really got going yet. No other towns which play in the same Little League district as Emerson were able to form a team so the Emerson teams are playing Emerson teams. At a recent Little League meeting, most other towns said they didn't feel comfortable fielding teams. Westwood seemed to be able to field a team, but they have been difficult to contact.

Track- Anthony Gismondi. Nothing new to report

Wrestling-Steve Paino Nothing new to report, just waiting to see what will happen in the next few months.

Football and Cheer-Eilish Viggiani The board is discussing their plan for the fall. They put out a survey and have about 30 children who want to play and 14 volunteers who are willing to coach. They are waiting to see what is going to happen.

Fields-Joe Vigna There have been a couple of requests but so far it has not been too busy. The system has been improved as in the past neither the applicant nor the Recreation Commission were notified about applications or processing. Now the emails are being sent to Joe, Eilish and Paul. The recreation secretary asked to be added to the list of email recipients. She also reminded the commission that there is a further step before a permit can be issued. The insurance needs to be approved by the Borough's insurance broker and the applicant needs to complete a Field usage application. Eilish will see if Civic Permits are able to add the form to the website used to request field time. If the secretary is part of the email group she would be able to check the progress of any application. Joe agreed to let her know when an application has been submitted and then she can make sure that the other documentation has been received, approved and signed off on. When outside entities are using the field, they are required to sign a Covid-19 waiver and guarantee that their teams or groups will adhere to the state guidelines.

V. Unfinished Business

End of Summer Blast

Paul and Eilish are working with UE the Fireworks contractor. Paul and the recreation secretary are working on the ABC permit.

Anthony asked what the situation was with providing food and if he should contact Stop and Shop for donations. Willie suggested contacting the Department of Consumer Affairs to confirm that grilling and serving food is permitted. Steve said that if a ServSafe certified individual did the grilling and serving this shouldn't be a problem. As this would be more expensive than the usual option and people often bring their own food anyway the meeting discussed whether providing food was a good idea. The Commission wanted to provide

food but there was a concern about risks to residents, volunteers and the town in doing this. Councilwoman McGuire was asked for her thoughts and she said ultimately the decision was the Recreation Commission's but they may want to consider just providing prepackaged food. Councilman Hoffman agreed that the commission needs to be mindful of the current environment and the decision is theirs. Steve suggested that the commission investigate using food trucks. Phil agreed this was a good idea and asked how serving in the beer garden was going to be handled. He also asked whether or not the home run derby, punt, pass and kick and Red Bulls demonstration would be taking place. Eilish confirmed that these events would happen.

The option of food trucks was discussed further and there was a suggestion from Willie that the vendor could be paid a flat fee and then serve whatever the residents want. One of the advantages of this is that it removes liability from the town. Eilish asked the everyone to reach out to any food truck vendors that they know of.

There was a discussion about how the event will be funded. There are funds in the trust account and it was suggested that some limited fundraising could also be done with businesses that have not been so badly affected by the pandemic, for example restaurants that have been able to do curbside pickup and banks.

Summer Drive in Movie Event

Willie has secured the date 15th August with the 16th as a rain date with the vendor. Dr. Gatens has not yet received the approval of the Board of Ed but he does not think there will be any problem with them approving it at their next meeting. Willie suggested an Avengers type movie and the commission was asked to come up with other suggestions for the next meeting. The event will require participation by the commission members and the police department. A motion to hold a drive-in movie event in Emerson on August 15th with a rain date of August 16th and authorizing Willie Ortiz to move forward on the logistics was made by Eilish Viggiani and seconded by Steve Paino. All were in favor and none opposed.

VI. New Business

No new business

VII. Open Public Comment

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

Kate Stutzel, 186 Eagle Drive

Ms. Stutzel commented that the Recreation Commission is doing a great job. Her son is in the baseball program and really enjoying it. She thinks what is being done for the end of summer get together and the drive-in event will be really appreciated by the town. She also thought that if it is not possible to provide food at the end of summer event that would be OK. All the recreation commission's work is not going unnoticed and they should keep it up.

There being no further comment by the public a motion to close the meeting to public comment made by Willie Ortiz and seconded by Steve Paino. All were in favor and none opposed.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Willie Ortiz, seconded by Eilish Viggiani. All were in favor and none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Morris
Recreation Secretary