

**THE CITY OF WHITE PLAINS
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
April 19, 2018**

Attendance

Present

Commissioner Wayne Bass
Richard Sanchez
Kevin Scully

Deputy Commissioner Fran Croughan
Leonard Gruenfeld
Sia Tofano

Absent

Honorable Nadine Hunt-Robinson, Chairman
Caroline Furry
Charles Morgan
Evelyn Santiago
Cayne Letizia
Frank Williams

Johnathan Schere
Christopher Kent
Michele Schoenfeld
Joanna Falisi

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Bass

Supervisory Report

Commissioner Bass introduced Sia Tofano, Community Center Director. Sia reported the following:
Community Center- Some programs previously placed in the Active Older Adults section of the City Guide were placed in the Adult Program section in an attempt to attract the younger more active senior. We also focused on creating more attractive and appealing program names and descriptions and adjusted program meeting times in an effort to attract this group of Seniors who may be employed during the daytime hours. The changes have resulted in an increased interest and participation in programs. Visits to the center has also increased. Classes and trip registrations has increased and there have been fewer program cancellations due to low enrollment during the Spring Session.

Camps- Camp Panawok (Pre-K-2nd grades) and Camp Quarropas (3rd-5th grades) are full and we are taking new applicants and placing them on a wait list. The wait list is reviewed weekly and spots are filled if a camper notifies us that they are cancelling and are no longer coming to camp. Space at Teen Camp is still available but being filled quickly. Sia has also noted an increase in interest of parents with children with different abilities. To date she has interviewed approximately 12 children. Camp numbers to date: Panawok-170, Quarropas-140 both at capacity, Teen camp-65. New for this year; Camp Quarropas and Teen Camp will be held at Highland Middle School. They will have free breakfast, lunch and snacks daily. Different color wrist bands will be provided to all children with epi pen, allergy and/or any medical concerns. Security personnel will be added to all camps.

Commissioner commented that over the years Sia has managed changes at the Senior Center and Camps well and does a great job. The committee thanked Sia for coming.

Old Business

Community Pass-Commissioner reported that Community Pass is progressing and there are still some issues to solve as is expected with a new system. Deputy Commissioner stated Membership cards are now available. The card printers are now installed and working. The same for Point of Sale items (pool guest passes, tennis coupon, rink daily fees, etc.). Commissioner stated the staff has grasped the logic of the system and becoming more confident at handling problems. The system has proven to be user friendly; more registration is occurring on-line than ever.

Jump In and Swim-Marissa McClendon, Olympic Silver medalist visit was postponed due to snow. However, all of the other planned activities at the YWCA , Recreation Dept and Youth Bureau were held as scheduled. Ms. McClendon is scheduled to fulfill her commitment to appear on Wednesday April 25th through Saturday, April 29. She will visit five elementary schools and conduct clinics with the YWCA and White Plains High School Swim teams. Her visit will culminate on Friday after her visit to a community water safety program hosted by the Recreation Department.

Visioning and Employee Engagement

Commissioner stated he has not had the opportunity to meet with members on the four committees for a progress report. Commissioner said the committees have met but have not reported updates to him. The Social Committee is having a pot luck luncheon and during that time committees will give him an update.

New Business

Camp Registration- Reported by Sia earlier

Staff Reassignments-The following staff were re-assigned: Martha Guarin was reassigned and will be working at the Community Center and will now be overseeing operations as they relate to the Nutrition program and seniors activities and trips. Ellen Albers has moved to 85 Gedney and will be responsible Pre-School, Swimming, Dance classes and Partner programs. Mary Carey was moved to the Senior Center and Helen LaMarche is now coming to 85 Gedney. Deputy Commissioner Croughan also noted that part time hourly employee, Roxanna Caceres, is now working at the Community Center as well. Commissioner Bass said changes give the staff different experiences which in the end will make the staff more versatile and valuable to the department as they learn different positions and take on new responsibilities . Deputy Commissioner Croughan said the change was a breath of fresh air for the staff; they welcomed the change but the seniors were upset for a while. Overall the change was good.

Budget-Deputy Commissioner Croughan reported budget submitted and hearing schedule for next week. Deputy Commissioner said to avoid budget cut in supplies and salaries, the department had suggested giving back a new car to replace car #175. She said to her surprise, the car remains in the budget and there were no additional budget cuts.

Upcoming Events

Cherry Blossom
Jill Solomon Bicycle Festival
Bicycle Helmet Day
Truck Day
Loucks Games
Answer to Cancer 5K Run and One Mile Walk, Sunday, May 20

Deputy Commissioner Croughan said the Solomon family will donate 150 new helmets to children at camp in addition to the helmets they are donating for Helmet Day.

Summer

Performers and entertainers booked
West Point Benny Haven's Band will be performing for Independence Day
"Hamlet" for Shakespeare in the Park
Jazzfest in September

Swim Schedule

Camps will swim at our pools this summer: Teen Camp and Camp Panawok will swim at Kittrell Park. Camp Quarropas will swim at Gardella Park. Youth Bureau will swim mornings at Gardella Park and Grace Church during lunch hours at Kittrell Park.

Public Pool Hours: 2:30-7:30 p.m.

Commissioner requested motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Scully.