

**THE CITY OF WHITE PLAINS
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
May 17, 2018**

Attendance

Present

Honorable Nadine Hunt-Robinson, Chairman
Commissioner Wayne Bass
Richard Sanchez
Kevin Scully
Charles Morgan

Deputy Commissioner Fran Croughan
Leonard Gruenfeld
Caroline Furry

Absent

Johnathan Schere
Evelyn Santiago
Cayne Letizia
Frank Williams

Christopher Kent
Michele Schoenfeld
Joanna Falisi

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hunt-Robinson

Old Business

Bicycle Helmet Day- Deputy Commissioner Croughan reported due to rain, the event was held inside at Ebersole Ice Rink. The helmets are donated yearly by the Solomon family in honor of their daughter; approximately 85 children received helmets.

Truck Day- Deputy Commissioner Croughan said Department of Public Works estimated approximately 3,000 in attendance and approximately 1,000 children received hard hats.

Community Pass-Commissioner Bass reported the new Registration system is going well. Tremendous increase in online registration since implementation. Deputy Commissioner Croughan added emailing capability is great.

Visioning and Employment Engagement – Commissioner stated a recent staff pot lunch luncheon was held, which was personal engagement, very enjoyable and successful.

Chairwoman Hunt-Robinson reiterated the importance of employee appreciation. It's employee engagement that allows the employee to know others are aware (Mayor, RAC, co-worker(s), etc.) of their performance and it is much appreciated. Commissioner Bass and Chairwoman Hunt-Robinson announced the June meeting will be an appreciation recognition get together for all Recreation staff host by the RAC, the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner. Chairwoman Hunt-Robinson again emphasized the importance of recognition and engaging employees regardless of their job or job level. Appreciation is harmless, needed at all levels and a sure morale booster at all levels.

Camp- Deputy Commissioner Croughan reported Camp Panawok and Quarropas are filled; Teen Camp has approximately 25 openings. Personnel requirements are now in process: organizing camp and employees paperwork, RTE and Lifeguard Certifications, etc.

Chairwoman Hunt-Robinson request approval of April minutes; motion to accept May Minutes by Kevin Scully, Seconded by Caroline Furry.

New Business

Guest Speaker - Chairwoman Hunt-Robinson stated she is excited about the NY Liberty team move to Westchester County. She introduced Nakkeia Clark, New York Liberty Basketball. Ms. Clark said she is the V. President for the Liberty basketball team handling ticket sales, sponsorships, community and public relations. Her purpose is to promote and introduce the Liberty basketball team to Westchester County. A team that is community-minded, interested in promoting and helping communities in positive, meaningful ways throughout Westchester County. The Liberty home game grand opener is May 25. Ms. Clark introduced Teresa Witherspoon, original Liberty player 1997, who is now the Liberty Franchise Development Director. Ms. Witherspoon said “engaging” is key. The children must enjoy and/or like what they are doing to develop interest in whatever it is. Ms. Witherspoon said they are role models and want the young children to see positivity and that it’s OK to make a mistake and what is learned from it. It is about teaching the children how great they are. Ms. Witherspoon is a great motivator.

Commissioner said Summer Kittrell Park Basketball League is partnering with the Liberty and the end of season Summer Youth Basketball Award program will be at one of the Liberty games.

Farmers Market - Begins on Saturday pending upon weather. Market will consists of new and existing participants.

Recreation Parking Lot— Deputy Commissioner said they want to limit use of recreation parking lot. They want it to be limited to Recreation and Parks activities only, three hours maximum. All others will be ticketed. Committee agrees. Chairwomen Hunt-Robinson said to make sure ample notification time is given before implementation.

Update

Memorial Day – Deputy Commissioner Croughan said White Plains selected once again to host 20 soldiers and sailors from Fleet week for Memorial Day Parade. A float will be available for senior veterans to ride. Parade will begin at 10 a.m., memorial ceremony at Rural Cemetery, lunch served at Community Center and VA post next door will be open.

Upcoming Events

Answer to Cancer Walk, May20.

Memorial Day Parade, May 28

Outdoor Art Festival, June 2 & 3

Juneteenth Parade and Festival, June 9
Chairwoman Nadine Hunt-Robinson is Honoree
Shawn Kirkpatrick is Grand Marshall

Fireworks at WPHS, July 3