

MINUTES
Special Meeting – Beach - **May 21, 2020**

The Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Allenhurst was held on the above date with Mayor McLaughlin presiding and Commissioner McLoughlin and Commissioner Bolan answering the roll call. Also in attendance was the Borough Clerk and Borough Attorney.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. with a salute to the flag.

Mayor McLaughlin announced that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 had been satisfied by delivering the required notice to the Coaster, posting the notice on the board in Borough Hall and filing a copy of said notice with the Borough Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Borough Administrator thanked the member of the Public Works Department for their tireless work getting the beach together and all their efforts during this pandemic. She also wanted thank Ronnie and Patty in the Borough Office for all the extra hours and effort they have put in during the past few weeks. The Mayor concurred.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #2020-127

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Comm. Bolan

WHEREAS, State law permits the exclusion of public in certain circumstances; and,
WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Allenhurst finds that such circumstances currently exist; and,

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners will make public, minutes of the closed session when confidentiality no longer exists;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners that they are hereby authorized to enter into closed session to discuss legal/contractual matters which are exempt from the public meeting under the Sunshine Law.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Comm. Bolan-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

ITEMS TO DISCUSS

The mayor stated that tonight's meeting was called to talk about the beach and the summer of 2020. The Mayor advised that the process has been very fluid and changes continuously. The Mayor and the Borough Administrator have been in contact with the County and the State weekly and it has taken many weeks to get answers as to when, and how, to open beaches in NJ. The Mayor stated that Allenhurst, along with a handful of other beaches, is unique as they have a beach club and a public beach and there were many things to discuss.

The Mayor advised that the Borough COVID-19 Guidelines for the Beach and Beach Club were released. They are available for view on the Borough Website, the Beach Club Website and were shared with the County. The Mayor advised that the guidelines are not up for debate. He encouraged everyone to review these guidelines and become familiar with them.

The Mayor wants everyone to understand that this summer is going to be different. Social Distancings is going to be the norm.

The Mayor stated that Cabana Members may not bring down the contents of their cabana over Memorial Day Weekend. Those members should contact the Cabana Supervisor and arrange a time for loading. This is being done to encourage social distancing during the process. The Pool will not be open until the Governor allows. The Mayor stated that on the pool deck Lounges will be set up six feet apart. Masks will not be required but are encouraged. He also asked that everyone be mindful of their neighbors and give each other the space that is needed.

The Mayor stated that the beach club will be selling guest passes, and asked that everyone be aware that other towns are not necessarily doing so. With that in mind, the management, will have the discretion to stop accepting passes if the beaches and club become crowded beyond the capacity

that is considered acceptable in order to comply with the Governors Guidelines. The Mayor advised that the decision to consider not accepting passes on the 4th of July weekend is because the beach is traditionally already crowded and guest passes will just make it more difficult to maintain the required distancing between groups. Everyone will have to spread out, but there is only so much beach to go around.

The Mayor stated that he has been asked by many “How will you protect me?”. The Mayor advised that the Borough has guidelines that they expect people to follow, but ultimately, people must make their own choices to protect themselves if they are concerned. For Cabana members, they will not be able to sit in front on the cabanas this year. The Cabana boys will not be setting up the chairs and furniture in front of the cabanas. The members will need to do that themselves as it is up to the members to maintain social distancing, The Mayor also reminded everyone that there should be only one beach chair per member stored on the beach or within cabanas.

The Mayor stated he expects everyone to follow the guidelines provided. The Management will not tolerate people who do not. If you do not follow the guidelines the management can and will eject you from the club for the day, for a month or even for the season. The Mayor stated that everyone’s cooperation is needed.

Comm. Bolan stated that while there will be zero tolerance, the staff and management of the beach club are not the Police. Members, guest and other beach goers are expected to be aware of the guidelines and follow them. Comm. Bolan stated that if anyone ever felt unsafe at the beach they should make their own choice as to whether this is an activity that they should be participating in. It is no-one’s job to make you feel safe.

Comm. McLoughlin stated that he is proud of the community he lives in and he loves the beach. He stated that people may not be able to sit where they want on the beach, and asked for patience. Comm. McLoughlin stated that he knows people’s nerves are frayed and that many are very excited to get out and enjoy the beach. He stated that we all need to be mindful of each other and understand that everyone has different concerns during this pandemic. He stated that everyone should pause and be mindful of their neighbor. He stated that he will wear a mask while walking around the club, but likely not while sitting at his beach chair with his family. He encouraged everyone to keep the health and safety of those around them in mind. If people do not, than stricter measures may be considered.

The Mayor stated that Allenhurst has a good size beach and everyone physically can spread out. People may not be able to sit up by the ocean. He also stated that the bathrooms will be limited to one person at a time and that cooperation is needed on everything.

The Mayor stated that the safety of employees is very important. He said that proper distancing with members and staff is required. He also asked that masks and gloves not be left on the sand or with any chairs that the staff will be handling. He asked that everyone bring those items home or throw into the trash receptacles themselves.

The Borough Administrator stated that eblasts will go out to all members with updates throughout the season. She also advised that the email addresses used for these eblasts are those that were provided at membership renewal and application. She stated that if your correct email address was not provided at that time, you are not on the list. If anyone wanted to be added to the list they should contact the beach management at either beachmanager@allenhurstnj.org or beachclubsupervisor@allenhurstnj.org or call the office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the public comment session the public asked questions on the following topics:

- How will are employees being protected? The Commissioners advised that masks, gloves and sanitizers are being provided. Plexiglas has been installed at all kiosks. Hands free payment options are being set up.
- Will the Snack Bar and Mr. C’s be open and how will they operate? Both the snack bar and Mr. C’s will be open for takeout. Social Distancing will be required. The snack bar guidelines will be posted at the club. Questions regarding logistics of Mr. C’s operation regarding ordering and curbside pickup should be addressed to Mr. C’s.
- How will bathrooms be handled for social distancing and cleansing? The Commissioners advised that only one person will be permitted at a time into the bathrooms. This flow will not be monitored by staff, but rather will be posted and expected to be complied with. The

Bathrooms will be cleaned many times a day, and sanitized with a machine at the end of the day and at least one time during the day.

- When will the pool open? If it does not open or opens for only a portion of the season, will refunds be issued? The Commissioners advised that they anticipate the Governor will allow pools to be opened soon. They are not currently considering any refunds.
- Will the bus be running? The Commissioners advised that the SS Allenhurst will be operational starting this weekend. The driver will wipe seats down after each run and social distancing seating will be encouraged. The Commissioners advised that bringing your own wipes to protect yourselves is encouraged.
- Can members have priority over daily passes for guests on busy holidays? The Commissioners advised that public beach access is required by law, and preference cannot be given.
- Can I be refunded for guest passes if I buy them and I am unable to use do to beach capacity closing? The Commissioners advised that if it occurs that purchased passes are left over at the end of the season because admittance was prohibited, cases would be reviewed by the Board of Commissioner for their merits on an individual basis.
- Will the Recreation Program and Swim Team run this summer? The Commissioners advised that they were still waiting for guidance from the state on these items.
- Will all entrances to the beach be open? All entrances will be open. Social distancing will be required to keep employees and fellow members and guest safe. Also the morning queue at the gate will have additional guidelines that will need to be followed. Beach Management will advise on that in the future.

The Commissioners stated that attending the beach and the club are voluntary recreational activities. The Borough has come up with guidelines for all to follow and they anticipate cooperation from everyone. The advised that if anyone feels unsafe in the environment that consider not coming at crowded times, or consider other methods to mitigate their own exposure.

There being no further business or comments, Commissioner McLoughlin moved, seconded by Comm. Bolan that the meeting move to executive session at 8:30 PM. Motion carried.

After reconvening, Commissioner McLoughlin moved, seconded by Comm. Bolan that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 pm. Motion carried.

Donna M. Campagna, RMC
Borough Clerk/Administrator