

NYS TEMPORARY COMMISSION TO PREVENT CHILDHOOD DROWNING
FRIDAY, June 16, 2023
9:30-11:30 AM

Minutes

Reminder to start the recording of the meeting

Call to Order

COMMISSIONERS: PRESENT

- Heidi Reiss
- Brian Tobin
- Mike Switalski
- Marrick McDonald
- Kathryn Colglazier
- Kaitlin Krause
- Gwen McNamara
- Kevin Clark
- Casper Lassiter

OTHER ATTENDEES:

- Catlin Smith
- Timothy Shay
- Michael Bauer
- Rich Alden
- Shawn Slevin
- Brendan O'Melveny
- Reginald Chatman
- Bobby Hayson
- Rich Speck
- Leland Brown III
- Jennifer Maglieneti
- Dr. Joyce Pressley

Reminder: Commissioners need to be on camera. The volume needs to be unmuted. Your complete name needs to be displayed.

Guidelines: - Public Participation: Introductions:

Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting

Motion to accept the minutes from the June 2, 2023, meeting- Mike

Second: Brian Tobin

Spelling- Page 2 change Mayor to Marrick
Motion- Coach Mike- spelling

Motion Carried

Extension of the commission through 12/2024 - pending Governor's signature

Open Meeting Law: Extraordinary Circumstances Hearing

Guest Speaker #1: Richard E. Specht, Jr., Founder/CEO, The Rees Specht Life Foundation (Heidi)

Richard: <https://www.reesspechtlife.com/>

Richard shared the story of how his life changed just prior to Hurricane Sandy and how the kindness that followed encouraged him to form Rees Foundation to pay it forward. A part of this foundation is around water safety.

Message- You do not know what you don't know

The intention is education in order to make sure water safety is second nature.

Swim lessons and Adults always watching is a myth that needs to be addressed

Questions: Accessibility- education presentations for free, looking for grants- continue to look for funding. Schools pay for presentations- Schools have laws for bullying prevention- dignity for all students, this effort helps to pay for the program to support the foundation.

Heidi- Lessons were scheduled to begin at 2 years of age, where lessons available for the younger and are their programs available for middle and high school as that has been identified as a higher area. Richard, Second grade is the cutoff at this point.

Bobby: Why lessons not an earlier age - Richard - Pediatrician recommended lessons at the age of two.

Kate: Would the commission be open to exploring the consideration of lowering the recommended age to lower than one year of age? After some brief discussion, it was determined that this needs to be tabled for a future meeting.

Shawn Slevin- Working to educate on the dangers of water and have an education program as well and would like to explore more about more access in the school. However, there has been pushback since many schools do not have pools. We need to consider water safety from a broader perspective.

Thank you to Richard Specht for joining the commission to share his perspective and information on his foundation for consideration on the many important topics being addressed by the commission.

Guest Speaker #2: Leland Brown, III, Program Director: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, USA Swimming (Mike)

Leland- <https://www.usaswimming.org/news/2017/05/25/usa-swimming-foundation-announces-5-10-percent-increase-in-swimming-ability>

Intention: To identify the formula to increase success in this area.

At USA Swim they are looking to ensure that everyone is involved in reducing the drowning rates and providing education.

2023 Make-A-Splash Tour Recap



DEI strategy- need to ask communities what they need

Message: Diversity means everyone, what verb leads, connect,

If Diversity is practiced via connection, how does connection lead to implementation?

What is inclusion? Access to resources (noun) answer-accept (verb) to believe or come to recognize as valid or correct

Equitation for DEI: Connect, Accept, Provide

Commission questions: None

Public Questions: Brendan, sample video for the water safety hospital presentation for everyone's review.

U.S. National Water Safety Action Plan Webinar - Kate- tabled for next meeting along with age research

Discussion: - Where are we on each Goal?

Due to time, the review of the status of each goal recommendation, and our definition of terms was tabled for our next meeting

11:20 For the Good of the Group

Game Plan for next meeting - 6/30/2023.

Looking objectively at this being the Friday of a holiday weekend and confirming whether a quorum will be reached in consideration of any guest speakers. Decisions to be made as we get closer to the date of our next meeting.

11:30 Adjourned

Upcoming Events: Guest Speakers

6/30/2023: DIA (Mike)
Janelle Atkinson from DIA,