

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
October 16, 2023

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Meeting at the Wyckoff Recreation office at 195 Woodland Avenue at 7:30 p.m. with the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act. “This Regular meeting of the Wyckoff Department of Parks and Recreation Board is now in session. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting has been posted on the bulletin board in the Memorial Town Hall and the Recreation Office; a copy has been filed with the Township Clerk, *The Ridgewood News*, *The Record*, and *The North Jersey Herald and News*, all papers with general circulation throughout the Township of Wyckoff.” At least 48 hours prior to this meeting the agenda was similarly posted, filed and mailed to said newspapers.

Members Present: Jen Saxton, Rich Sica, Doug Arone, Jeff Eischen, Moe Ismael, Mike Ferrara, Tom Valente, Patti DePhillips

Members Absent: Chris Beane, Chris Perneti, John Giovacco

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

Tim Shanley, Township Committee Liaison

Public Present: None

The minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Valente and seconded by Jen Saxton. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director’s Report:

Travel Baseball Tryouts Complete:

The Director reported that the travel baseball tryouts for 9u-12u are complete and that the 13u and 14u tryouts were taking place this week. As has been the case for several years, Wladyka Baseball, an independent baseball organization from Rutherford, NJ, ran our tryouts and are submitting their results to the Director who will then announce the teams shortly. The program will have two teams at all 4 levels and will definitely have enough participants for competitive 13u and 14u teams next spring and summer.

Travel Basketball and Girls Softball Tryouts Scheduled:

The Director advised that the tryouts for travel basketball and girls softball should be complete by next month’s meeting. An independent company is again running the basketball tryouts for the program and will communicate their results to the Director. For travel softball, the Director explained to the Board that the company that used to run our tryouts just recently advised our program director that they are no longer providing that service so we are in the process of finding a new vendor or coaches from the area. Jeff Eischen made an excellent recommendation of a local coach and the director will follow up.

Boys & Girls Spring Lacross Registration Begins:

The Director reported that Boys and Girls Lacrosse registration is starting on October 30th and will continue for 4 weeks after that.

Summer Camp Bids Expiring:

The Director advised the Board that the bids and subsequent extensions for our K-8 Summer Camps have expired and recommended that we put these camps back out for bid for the next

two summers. The only change that the Director recommended, based on conversations with the Wyckoff YMCA who ran our summer day camps for the past four years, was to revert back to K-5 for the younger camp instead of K-4, and go back to grades 6-8 for the middle school camp. The YMCA had suggested this because the 5th graders were just too young to participate in certain activities with 8th graders and it would enable the camp to do better field trips with more mature kids at the older camp. The Board agreed to put these camps back out for bid and agreed to shift the age groups back to K-5 and 6th-8th.

Facility Use/Rental Applications Review:

The Director requested the Board review the following field use applications, based on the Township's procedure of involving the Recreation Board in the approval process for field rental after a review of the paperwork by the Recreation Director and Township Administrator. Two applications were discussed by the Board and approved for use/rental. The applications at this meeting included the following:

1. Wyckoff YMCA: The YMCA would like to run some summer camps next year at Community Park and our Tennis Courts.
2. Barnstable Academy – This Wyckoff based school would like to utilize Community Park this fall for three soccer games for their high school students.

The Director advised the Board that that his review of the applications, Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreements, and Certificates of Insurance for these requests determined the applications to be in order.

Finding the application in order and discussing the history of successful use by both programs, the Recreation Board unanimously approved both of the above applications after a motion to approve them was made by Doug Arone and seconded by Tom Valente.

Wrestling:

The Director advised the Board that he received a phone call from the head of Oakland Recreation inquiring about wrestling. He asked if we were taking Oakland residents into the Wyckoff program this year. The Director advised him that we typically put out of towners on a wait list to start to see if we have room for them at the end of registration. He explained that they had changed program directors recently and some of the Oakland residents weren't happy with the decision and were stating that they would be leaving Oakland and going to Wyckoff. The Director explained to him that if they would not officially 'release' their participants to Wyckoff, that the standard policy is that we could not take them in. He advised that Oakland would not release wrestlers to Wyckoff so I told him that no Oakland wrestlers would be permitted to sign up in Wyckoff. He further stated that several Franklin Lakes wrestlers, who don't have a program in Franklin Lakes, might be looking to register in Wyckoff. The Director thanked him for the heads up and called Franklin Lakes Recreation to confirm they didn't have a program and asked if they would prevent their kids from going to either town. Their Sports Director advised that they would not prevent anyone from going where they wanted to go.

The Director then explained to the Board that an influx of Franklin Lakes kids, depending on the size of the group, could negatively impact the Wyckoff program. At the time of the meeting, there were only 15 Franklin Lakes wrestlers on our wait list and the Director told the Board that, after discussing with our program director, 15 kids would be acceptable, provided our numbers don't rise to over 85. The Director then asked the Board if they would be comfortable accepting the Franklin Lakes wrestlers and the Board agreed that 15 wrestlers from out of town would be

the max as long as it didn't put us over an amount that we couldn't handle. The Director will work with our program director to keep things at a manageable level.

Fall Weather:

The Director reported that the weather this fall has been atrocious with rain every weekend since Labor Day. This has caused many cancellations of practices and games, especially at the younger levels, but the Director has allowed those who wanted to, to run sessions during the week and has decided to extend the season for K-2 soccer and football until 11/18. The Board approved of the move to get the kids some more experience in their respective programs.

Football Update:

The tackle football program is entering its final two weeks of the regular season. The season is progressing well with our PeeWees and Seniors having real opportunities to make it to the Super Bowl and our Juniors with an outside chance. By next meeting, the Super Bowl champions will be decided and the Director will update the Board with the results.

Open Comment Period:

No comments

Report from Board Members:

None

New or Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks