

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 13, 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: Doug Arone, Jen Saxton, Mike Ferrara, Chris Beane, John Giovacco, Chris Perneti, Moe Ismael, Patti DePhillips

Members Absent: Rich Sica, Tom Valente, Jeff Eischen

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director  
Tim Shanley, Township Committee Liaison

Public Present: No

The minutes of the October 16, 2023 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Doug Arone and seconded by Moe Ismael. The motion was carried.

**Recreation Director’s Report:**

**Girls Volleyball Season Complete:**

The Director reported that the Girls Volleyball season is complete, having culminated with playoff games and a championship game on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The program missed Coach Parks’ leadership this year but the varsity volleyball players from Indian Hills were outstanding and helped continue this great program in a positive direction. The program numbers were at maximum capacity again this fall.

**Recreation Soccer Wrapping Up This Weekend:**

The Director advised that the recreation soccer season is ending on November 19<sup>th</sup>. We once again participated with Oakland and Franklin Lakes at the 3/4<sup>th</sup> grade level and re-entered the Northwest Bergen Soccer Association, as discussed earlier this year, at the 5/6<sup>th</sup> and 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade levels. The feedback from the coaches was positive as the league has come off some of its previous restrictions and overzealous fining methods. We were one of only 3 towns that didn’t receive any fines from the league and fines across the league were lower than when we previously participated. It seems likely we would continue with the league next year at the older levels and continue to keep it more local with Oakland and Franklin Lakes for 3/4<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Boys & Girls Spring Lacross Registration Ongoing:**

The Director reported that Boys and Girls Lacrosse registration is still ongoing so that all that wish to register without fear of a late fee or a wait list can do so.

### **Roller Hockey & Wrestling Registrations Complete:**

The Director reported that Roller Hockey registration is complete and, in addition to the clinic level, have a large team at the midget level and a team at the junior level this winter. Initially, our numbers at the Junior level were not sufficient to have a team so the plan was to join with Oakland. However, joining with Oakland didn't work numbers wise and while deciding on what to do, a few more junior level players registered with us so that we could have our own junior team after all.

The Director also reported that wrestling numbers have climbed to over 100 participants and some adjustments to our previous planning are being made. Additional singlets will need to be purchased and we have to figure out how to get over 100 kids into the lower gym at Ramapo High School on practice nights. Having over 50 in two 90 minute sessions is a bit much for the space so we are considering going later on Monday and Wednesday evenings (9:30 instead of 9:00) and breaking the practices into 3 time slots instead of two. This will relieve some of the overcrowding in the gym making it easier for the participants and coaches to work.

The Director informed the Board that an email had been sent to the Township Committee complaining about the high school not providing us with time on a Saturday during the winter so that we could host a meet. The email was premature as the Director had already worked out a Saturday afternoon with the Ramapo Athletic Director the previous day. The email to the Township Committee ascertained whether or not the high school 'must' provide us with time and the Director advised the Board that his response to the Committee was that we are not entitled to any space at the high school but over the past 20 years, he has been able to schedule many events there with no issues whatsoever and this year is no exception. The high school and the Recreation Department have a great working relationship in which we constantly help each other out with space when needed.

Finally, the Director made a recommendation for Wrestling Program Director. After brief and very positive discussion, Chris Beane motioned to approve the Program Director and Moe Ismael seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **Travel Basketball Tryouts Finishing This Week:**

Other than our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys, the Director reported that travel basketball tryouts are complete for the girls and the boys and that team announcements have been made. Wyckoff will have one team at the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade boys level and two teams at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys levels, along with one girls team at each level except for 6<sup>th</sup> grade where we had sufficient numbers and ability levels to make two teams. The Director will update the Board on 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys at our next meeting.

### **Travel Basketball Head Coaching Recommendations:**

The Director presented a list of head coach recommendations to the Board for the boys and girls travel basketball teams that have been announced. John Giovacco motioned for all of the coaches to be approved and Doug Arone seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **Football Season Complete:**

The Director reported that football season came to an end for our program this weekend with our PeeWees losing a hard fought game to undefeated Ramsey in the PeeWee Super Bowl while our Senior team beat Mahwah in the senior level Super Bowl, finishing a season where the team was undefeated, unscored upon, and didn't have to punt the ball one time. The Senior team will be

recognized by the Township Committee for its magical season on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Our juniors team also won its final game of the season, an overtime win over Hawthorne in the Patriot Division final. All three teams, and all of our B teams had very successful seasons and the feedback for the program, the boosters, and our coaches continues to be extremely positive.

In addition, the Director pointed out that he watched the 4<sup>th</sup> grade cheerleading halftime show at the PeeWee Super Bowl and was amazed at the skill, precision, and overall presentation by the 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls. The applause for the girls was just as loud as any touchdown that was scored that day.

**Open Comment Period:**

No comments

**Report from Board Members:**

None

**New or Old Business:**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andy Wingfield  
Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks