

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

January 14, 2008

Andy Wingfield opened the Recreation Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation Office 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: Richard Weiner, James Madormo, Ray Papera, Heidi Misovic, Laura Morris, Dan Hartigan, Frank Rocchio, Keith Karsian

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director; Tom Bunting, Travel Basketball Program Director

Public Present: Robert Zak, Kymm Zak, Kevin Cooke, Richard Ray

Absent: Gary Ward, Andy Kupec, Russ Whiteman

7th Grade Travel Basketball:

- Approximately two weeks prior to the meeting, the head coach of this team resigned his position due to work pressures. The assistant coach took his place in the interim and was due to be approved by the Rec Board as the new head coach at this meeting. However, on Friday, January 11, 2008, after a 7th grade travel basketball game at Eisenhower School, a verbal altercation took place between the coach and a parent which ultimately led to the new coach resigning prior to this meeting and pulling his sons off the team as well. Upon completion of this discussion, the Recreation Board discussed finding a new head coach for this team immediately so that the team could remain in place and continue to compete this season. Andy and the Program Director, Tom Bunting, will discuss this situation and find a suitable head coach replacement for the team. Andy also presented an idea to the Board to limit head coaching terms to two years (rather than three which is current policy) to give the children and parents a different coach, perspective, and philosophy every two years. This will also help coaches to avoid having relationships damaged and friendships ruined over children's sports. The Rec Board agreed to table this discussion item until the next meeting.

Rec Board Election:

- Rich Weiner stepped down from the position after 3 years. Andy thanked Rich for his support during his first 3 years as Recreation Director and explained to the Board that Rich has been a tremendous help at our meetings, in the public, and anytime Andy or the Township needed his assistance.
- Jim Madormo was elected as the new Recreation Board Chairperson.
- Russ Whiteman was re-elected as Secretary for the 2nd year.

Recreation Director's Report:

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- A motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting was passed. All present were in favor.

New Rec Board Membership:

- Andy advised the Board that Laura Morris has moved up from Alternate to voting member and welcomed two new Alternates to the Rec Board, Keith Karsian and Frank Rocchio.

Coach Background Checks:

- Andy reported that he met with representatives from Instant Verification, Inc. They presented their company as one that could perform background checks on coaches at almost the same cost as the State & FBI checks. There would not be, however, the fingerprint portion of the checks (which are unnecessary), thereby greatly reducing administrative work by the Police Department. Instant Verification would have reports and ID cards to the Township within 2-3 working days of receiving our paperwork. Andy advised that he has requested permission to begin using this company and conducting background checks on volunteer coaches during our Fall Registration in early March. The Township Committee is reviewing the memo.

Spring Registration:

- Spring registration for T-ball (boys and girls), baseball (boys) and softball (girls) is upcoming January 26, 2008 and February 2, 2008. The Board officially voted to allow 9th graders who do not participate on their high school team to partake in the rec baseball and softball programs in Wyckoff.

Winter Recreation Basketball:

- Recreation Basketball is underway and everyone has played two games so far. Problems with Eisenhower School's assistance have been minimal and the problems with putting out bleachers, setting up for the rec program, etc. seem to be a thing of the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield
Rec Director (Russ Whiteman absent from meeting)