

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
September 14, 2020

Andy Wingfield opened the Recreation Board Regular Meeting at 8:30 p.m. on a Zoom Video Conference call 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: Sue Buchanan, Chris Beane, Jen Saxton, Moe Ismael, Chris Perneti, Mike Ferrara, Rich Sica, John Giovacco, Tom Valente

Members Absent: Jeff Eischen, Doug Arone

Staff Present: Recreation Director, Andy Wingfield
Township Committee Liaison, Tom Madigan

The minutes of the August 17, 2020 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rich Sica and seconded by Sue Buchanan. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director Report:

Girls Volleyball Program Director Recommendation:

The Director recommended James Parks as the 2020 Fall Girls Volleyball Program Director to the Board. The Director advised that Mr. Parks has run the program since its inception and has also run our summer volleyball clinics for the past several years. Mr. Parks has received numerous complimentary emails over the past several years and has a passion for teaching the sport of volleyball. After a motion to approve Mr. Parks was made by Sue Buchanan, and was seconded by Moe Ismael, the Board unanimously approved Mr. Parks as the Program Director.

Travel Baseball and Softball Tryouts:

The Director advised that registrations for Travel Baseball and Softball as well as Travel Basketball are ongoing. The 2021 Travel Baseball and Softball Tryouts will take place in late September/early October. Once again, the tryouts will be conducted by an independent evaluation group from outside the area to eliminate the perception of bias among the parents who felt that our own coaches who ran the tryouts years ago would select the teams based on who they knew. Our independent company now comes in, runs the entire tryout, and submits the results to the Recreation Office for distribution to the families.

In regard to Travel Basketball, we are waiting to establish a tryout date and start planning the season until the Governor issues an order on whether or not indoor sports competitions can resume this winter. Once we hear from the state and then obtain our own Board of Ed guidelines for using their gyms, we will be able to ascertain whether or not we can offer a travel basketball season this coming winter.

Fall Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director presented a list of all Head Coaches for both Football, Cheerleading, and Soccer for the Fall. The Board reviewed the list which met with their satisfaction. Rich Sica motioned to approve all coaches on the list and Mike Ferrara seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Fall Seasons Underway:

The Director advised the Board that Football, Soccer, and Cheerleading practices are all underway for the fall. The seasons look extremely different with temperature checks being done prior to every session, attendance being taken, and health questionnaires and waivers being submitted, but the coaches advise that the children are having a great experience thus far and the inconveniences of following a few more procedures are far outweighed by the smiles on the kids' faces at practice. The Director held a Zoom conference call with all of the fall Head Coaches a week ago and went over all of the necessary protocols for the season. Games are set to commence on Saturday, September 26th.

New Requirement for All Coaches and Volunteer Board Members:

The Director explained that our Municipal Joint Insurance Fund has enacted a new program called Protecting Children from Abuse. In addition to the new policies that are required such as bathroom policies and parent contact in case of injury policies, all coaches, administration, and board members are now required to watch a video on the JIF's website called "Protecting Children From Abuse." The video outlines what volunteers should do in instances where they have reason to believe a child may be being abused outside of the recreation program. The Director gave out instructions on how to complete the viewing of the video and asked that each board member view the video and provide the office with a completion certificate by the next meeting.

Football Coach Meeting:

The Director reported that he and Township Attorney, Rob Landel, met with the coaches on September 15th to emphasize our current Coaches Code of Conduct which includes not only the Code of Conduct itself but now also contains the Township policies on electronic communications among township employees and volunteers and the Anti-Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying policy. Mr. Landel advised the coaches that if they observe anything during the season that violates the Code or the policies discussed, they are to report it to the Director immediately. In addition, the coaches were made aware of the above new requirement for coaches and advised to view the Protecting Children from Abuse Video and submit their certificates of completion when done. Finally, in this year of new safety protocols due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Director went over all new protocols related to the pandemic. For example, the coaches were advised that temperatures would have to be taken prior to every practice and game, health questionnaires must be submitted by all coaches and players prior to every game this year, and that attendance must be taken at all practices as well. Additionally, the Director explained that there should be very limited contact between the players, the coaches, and the equipment on the field and that all equipment must be sanitized after every practice. Game times will be staggered this year as well to give everyone an opportunity to leave the facility before the next groups come in which will help to limit the exposure to more people. The meeting was very well received by the coaches and the Director thanked them for volunteering their time for the betterment of our football program and its participants.

Report from Board:

No report.

The Board adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation