

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
January 12, 2015**

Andy Wingfield opened the Recreation Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the courtroom of Wyckoff Town Hall 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: Jeff Eischen, Heather Alnor, Rob Lahue, Moe Ismael, Doug Arone, Sue Buchanan, Township Committee Liaison Brian Scanlan

Members Absent: Tom Valente, Ed Pettit

Staff Present: Recreation Director Andy Wingfield

Staff Absent: None

Guests Present: None

The minutes of the December meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes of the 12/15/14 meeting was made by Doug Arone and seconded by Heather Alnor. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director's Report:

Nomination of Chairperson:

The Recreation Director asked for nominations for the 2015 Board Chairperson. Heather Alnor nominated Tom Valente for a second year as Chairperson. There were no other nominations and Jeff Eischen seconded Mrs. Alnor's nomination. All present were in favor. Tom Valente is the 2015 Wyckoff Parks & Recreation Board Chairperson. The Director also advised the Board that there are currently 3 vacancies on the Board and Brian Scanlan reported that Township Committee interviews are currently ongoing and that the vacancies should be filled by our next meeting in February.

Recreation Baseball & Softball Registration, Pirate Adventures Registration:

The Director reported that the 2015 registration for Recreation Baseball and Softball for children in grades K-8 was officially announced and the period to register is from January 1 – February 13, 2015. As of the meeting, 277 children had been registered through our Online Registration program. Additionally, the Director announced the department's second Arts & Crafts program for February and March; Pirate Adventures. This program is designed for boys and girls in Grades K-2 with a desire for Arts and Crafts. It was reported that the first Arts and Crafts session, Snow Fairies, which ran from November to December and had 13 children participating, received very positive feedback as a non-competitive recreation program.

Recreation Baseball Program Director:

The Director recommended Andy Winston as the 2015 Recreation Baseball & Softball Program Director. Sue Buchanan made a motion to approve and Heather Alnor seconded the motion. All in attendance voted in favor of the recommendation.

Pulis Field Update:

The Director reported that major progress has been made at Pulis Field. The foundation and base of the field have been completed as has the curbing around the perimeter and more. He advised that he has reported some concerns to the appropriate people regarding fence height behind the goal areas, proper field markings, and spectator seating areas and that these issues are being addressed. The Director and Brian Scanlan visited the site last week and were impressed with the quality of the work and the amount of work that had been completed. Board members were encouraged to visit the field to observe the progress periodically.

Football Program Update:

Based on feedback from the 2014 season, a season in which all of our teams had tremendous success on the field, the Director reported the following developments. In response to parents expressing concern over the scoreboard not being operated by volunteers during some of the home "B" games in 2014, the Director has received approval to appoint an extra official for all 2015 "B" games for the sole purpose of running the scoreboard. This will increase the cost of running each game by \$60/game which will be offset by a slight increase in the registration fee for football but will alleviate the need to find a volunteer for this task so that the Boosters can focus its efforts on making game days/nights more enjoyable for the spectators by finding more volunteers for the operation of the Concession Stand, which was also the subject of a complaint last season when no volunteers stepped forward on weekends to run the stand. The Board will be notified via email of the next Booster meeting in case anyone from the Board would like to attend to be updated on the Booster efforts. Second, the Director advised that the football league that we participate in (the Youth Football Association of North Jersey) just met last week and early indications are that new teams are interested in possibly joining our league which would increase the amount of teams we are able to play, reduce the duplication of teams on our schedule, and increase the level of competition across the league. The Director is hopeful that these new teams will forego their trepidation of years past of facing better competition than they typically face. Wyckoff and Ridgewood are considered among the more competitive programs in the area which has caused programs in the past to shy away from joining our league. Our league has taken significant steps to even the playing field among all of its members and the hope is that other towns recognize that and look to join.

Open Comment Period:

None - no public present

Report from Board Members:

There were no reports from board members.

New or Old Business:

Brian Scanlan addressed the Board about current field rental fees and asked if the Board felt that the current fees were sufficient. The Director informed the Board that it does appear that our current fee of \$25/hr with a 3 hour minimum (\$75/3-hour block) during the day is in line with local hourly rates but won't be for much longer. Some towns still charge \$25/day for their field rentals but bordering towns are charging \$25/hour with a \$500 minimum and \$100 per 3-hour block. The Board agreed that an increase to \$100 per 3-hour block was in order and requested that the Director make the recommendation to the Township Committee to change the language in the appropriate Resolution (#15-21) to reflect this increase. The Board recommended no change in the \$150 per 3-hr block for night rentals. The Board, after hearing that renting our fields out to groups during off hours and with no effect to our own programming generates revenue to the Township, was also unanimous in changing the language in the Resolution from "In Group 2, 50% of the participants must be Wyckoff residents," to "In Group 2, the team, organization, or group, must have Wyckoff representation in order to rent a field." The Director will make the recommendations and update the Board upon the Township Committee's decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Director of Parks & Recreation