

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
January 13, 2014**

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.

Present: Director Andy Wingfield, Sue Buchanan, Tom Valente, Russ Whiteman, Ed Pettit, Doug Arone, Jeff Eischen, Heather Alnor, Moe Ismael, Bobby Lahue, Mayor Doug Christie

Absent: Peter McGuire, Chris Vanuga

Guests Present: None

The minutes of the December meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes of the 12/16/13 meeting was made by Russ Whiteman and seconded by Tom Valente. All present were in favor.

Recreation Director's Report:

Welcome New Board Members

Andy reported that, in addition to Frank Rocchio's term, the Board term of Chairperson Laura Morris also ended in December 2013. The Board welcomed Heather Alnor and Bobby Lahue to the Board.

Nomination & Election of Chairperson/Secretary

After discussion by the Board, a motion was made to nominate Tom Valente to serve as Chairperson of the Board by Sue Buchanan and seconded by Ed Pettit. All present were in favor. Next, a motion was made to nominate Moe Ismael and Bobby Lahue to serve as Co-Secretaries of the Board by Russ Whiteman and seconded by Doug Arone. All present were in favor.

Organization of New Code of Conduct Committee

The Board discussed constituting a new, three-person Code of Conduct Committee to receive and resolve or escalate conduct complaints made to the Board. The Board proposed Peter McGuire, Russ, Whiteman, and Ed Pettit to serve as initial Committee members.

Recreation Equipment Bid Opening Set for 1/23/14

Andy reported on the status of our bid process for Recreation equipment. The vendors will submit sealed bids to be opened and reviewed on January 23, 2014, at 11:00am at Town Hall.

Recreation Baseball & Softball Registration Set for 2/8/14 and 2/11/14

Andy reported on the baseball and softball programs for 2014. Registration is scheduled for February 8th and 11th at Eisenhower School.

2014 Recreation Baseball Program Director Recommendation

Andy made a recommendation to the Board that Andy Winston be nominated as the Recreation Baseball Program Director for 2014. After discussion by the Board, a motion was made to so nominate Andy Winston by Tom Valente and seconded by Ed Pettit. All present were in favor.

Recreation Baseball/Softball – Opening Day Parade Discussion

Andy reported that the Baseball/Softball Opening Day parade would be eliminated or restructured this year due to several concerns including lack of interest in recent years, financial concerns, and the desire to do something that the kids would enjoy more. After discussing historical participation in the parade and alternatives, the Board agreed to eliminate the parade in favor of a Pitch, Hit and Run competition for all players. Andy will report back at February's meeting with the viability of the Pitch, Hit, & Run Competition. The Board also discussed the possibility of Recreation Baseball and Softball players marching in the Township's Memorial Day Parade.

Travel Basketball Discussion

Andy reported on an alleged unsportsmanlike misconduct issue involving the parent of a player on one of the Township's travel basketball teams. Andy reported that the Head Coach of the team recommended that no further action be taken because he had discussed the issue with the parent and received an apology and assurance that no further misconduct would occur. The Board discussed the issue at length, including its ability or inability to ban parents from public property and its disinclination to punish children athletes for their parents' misdeeds. The Board agreed to monitor the situation going forward after reminding the Coach, parents, and officials of the team's next game of the league rule mandating a two-game suspension for player and parent if a parent is ejected from a game for misconduct. Several Board members volunteered to attend future games for this particular team and report back at the next Board meeting.

Report from Board Members:

Sue Buchanan reported on the progress of the Wyckoff Parks and Recreation Foundation, including fund-raising targets and planning meetings with the Township.

New or Old Business:

Mayor Christie presented to the Board a report comparing participation rates in Recreation Programs from 2010 through 2013. The Board discussed the report, a potential correlation between the participation rate and the reported Board of Education school population, and ways to increase participation in Recreation Programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Arone
Wyckoff Board of Parks and Recreation