

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 18, 2015**

Tom Valente 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: Tom Valente, Heather Alnor, Rob Lahue, Moe Ismael, Rich Sica, Chris Beane

Members Absent: Ed Pettit, Jeff Eischen, Doug Arone, Sue Buchanan

Staff Present: Recreation Director Andy Wingfield, Township Committee Liaison Brian Scanlan

Staff Absent: None

Guests Present: Sal Sassano, Boys Lacrosse Program Director

The minutes of the April 20, 2015 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes of that meeting was made by Heather Alnor and seconded by Moe Ismael. The motion was carried.

**Recreation Director’s Report:**

**Lacrosse Incident:**

The Director invited Sal Sassano, our boys Lacrosse Program Director to this meeting to discuss an incident that occurred at one of our lacrosse games last week. Mr. Sassano spoke with the Board about the incident after which the Board discussed a potential solution to the issue. The Recreation Board did not invoke the Code of Conduct Sub-Committee at this time. The Director was tasked by the Board with speaking with the parties involved to determine an appropriate course of action and report back to the Recreation Board for their consideration.

**Passive & Adult Recreation Programming Update:**

The Director requested that Mr. Lahue update the Board regarding the purchase of an Outdoor Entertainment System to be utilized at our new “Movies In The Park” programming and the partnership between the Coolidge PTO and the Board of Recreation in which the two would split the cost of the system (\$4200) and use the equipment twice each per year. Mr. Lahue communicated the information to the Board and advised that he would draw up an agreement between the Board and the Coolidge PTO regarding the purchase and use of the new equipment. The Director reported that the date for our first movie would be June 20<sup>th</sup> at Community Park and that the Recreation Department would begin advertising the event this week. The Director also reported that this date would coincide with the Mayor’s Wellness Program kickoff event on the same day from 3-5pm at the Community Park. The Wellness Committee is currently preparing plans for that event as well and the Board was encouraged to attend both events that day. The Mayors Wellness Campaign is a statewide program that gives mayors tools and

strategies to champion healthy and active living and to improve the overall health of their communities.

Mr. Sica then spoke about further Passive Recreation events that he has investigated such as hosting a Miniature Golf Day for residents and running a Skate Night at the Memorial Roller Hockey rink in the summer. He reported that the Mini Golf idea comes with a rather large expense and that renting skates is also expensive. The Board agreed that a Skate Night would likely be well attended as people often have their own skates or roller blades. The Director advised that the rink itself is being resurfaced sometime this year and once that is complete, the plans to host a Skate Night could commence.

#### **Travel Baseball – New Policy Discussion:**

The Director requested that the Board devise a policy for travel sport participants who originally do not accept a roster spot on a travel team but later decide that they would like to accept the position. The Board developed a policy wherein the player would be accepted back on a first come-first served basis provided there is still a roster spot available within the program. In travel baseball, if there are 12 players at a level where there is only one team, or 24 players where there are two teams, the rosters would be considered full and the request would be denied. But if there are fewer than that number of players on the roster(s), the participant would be granted the position on the roster deemed appropriate by the Recreation Director and the Board of Parks & Recreation. In travel basketball, if there are 10 on a single team, or 20 among two teams, the rosters will be considered full and participation would be denied to those that wish to return prior to the season beginning. Requests when rosters are fewer than 10 or 20 would be granted after review by the Director and Board. The Board also decided that these requests in travel baseball would only be considered if made prior to the Friday before Memorial Day Weekend of any given year and the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving of any given year for travel basketball. Tom Valente motioned for this new policy to be forwarded on to the Township Committee for their approval and Rich Sica seconded the motion. All Recreation Board members voted in favor of the new policy so the Director will submit a written request to the Township Committee to have this new policy approved for travel programs.

#### **Resolution #15-111 / Facility Rental Review**

The Director requested, based on the Township's new procedure of involving the Recreation Board in the approval process for field rental after a review of the paperwork by the Recreation Director and Township Administrator has revealed that the Application, Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement, and Certificate of Insurance, 4 applications were discussed by the Board and approved for use/rental. The applications at this meeting included the following:

1. Special Olympics New Jersey – this is a non-profit organization requesting the use of one Tennis Court at the Wyckoff Memorial Facility for their tennis participants competing in upcoming Special Olympics tournaments and matches.
2. Bergen's Best Soccer Camp/Ramapo High School Soccer – the Ramapo High School Soccer team hosts a tournament each year and would like to utilize the new Pulis Turf Facility for some games this year. Due to the reciprocal arrangement approved by the Recreation Board in March of this year between the High School and the Township wherein field use is granted to each other's facilities at no cost, the

- group requested that the fee be waived for this event since all of the monies raised goes directly to the Ramapo High School soccer program.
3. Bergen County Charity Classic – this is also a non-profit organization that runs a Memorial Day Weekend baseball tournament and donates its proceeds to charity. They are requesting the use of Community Park Baseball Field #3 for its 11 & under portion of the tournament on May 23 and May 24 and, in return, will have our Wyckoff 11u team participate in all 3 of its games at their own field. Due to the giving nature of this tournament, they do not have a budget for field use and requested the fee for the use of the field for the two days be waived.
  4. Wyckoff YMCA – Another non-profit organization, the Wyckoff YMCA is requesting the use of the Wyckoff Community Park Facility for its Tribe Lacrosse Bootcamp on June 6<sup>th</sup>, the Wyckoff Memorial Tennis Court Facility during the months of June – September, and the new Wyckoff Turf Facility for their Tribe Lacrosse program practices this spring.

The Director advised that his review with the Township Administrator of the application, Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement, and Certificate of Insurance and the Township Administrator's review with the Joint Insurance Fund Manager of the Certificates of Insurance for all of the requests determined the applications to be in order.

The Recreation Board unanimously approved all four of the applications after a motion to approve them was made by Bobby Lahue and seconded by Moe Ismael. The Board also unanimously approved the fee waiver requests of #s 2 & 3 so the Director will forward the request to the Township Committee for its approval.

#### **Donation Review and Discussion:**

The Director reported that a resident who owns and operates a fitness facility in Wyckoff and other towns offered to donate an artificial turf section of flooring comprised of artificial grass blades and a quarter inch of padding to be used as a new floor covering for the football team room in the basement of Fire Company #1. The Director reported that while the flooring would be terrific in an indoor room where dirt and mud would not be constantly tracked in, the DPW staff expressed a concern that the dirt and mud tracked into the room during the football season would not be able to be easily cleaned given the makeup of the flooring. The Board also expressed concern about the flooring getting wet and the potential for mold which ultimately led to the Board unanimously rejecting the offer of the donation for the football room. The Board did ask that the Director convey their thanks for the generous offer to the resident.

#### **Playground Week – Safety Inspections:**

The Director reported that the Township Committee passed Resolution #15-146 declaring that April 20-24 is National Playground Safety Week and “that the Recreation Department will continue to perform playground equipment inspections in April and in reasonable intervals to prevent unsafe playground equipment.” The Director reported that playground inspections will be completed once a month during the spring, summer, and fall and any unsafe conditions will be remedied as soon as possible. The Director reported that in March, a crack in the playground tunnel above the playing surface was discovered and that a replacement tunnel has been received

and will be installed very soon. The Director was able to have the tunnel replaced under warranty at no expense to the Township.

**Football Update**

The Director reported that our new football league schedule will be issued this month. This is a positive improvement compared to previous years when the football schedule was finalized by the governing board of the previous football league the week prior to the season in September. All agreed that this is another tremendous improvement for the upcoming football season.

The Director also reported that there continues to be little activity in the Football Boosters even with registration currently ongoing. Heather Alnor reported that she has initiated the Raiderwear Fundraiser for the participants who wish to purchase sweatshirts, t-shirts, shorts, etc. for their personal use. The Director reported that he did email the current president regarding the plans for the 2016 season including updating her on the current positive trend with the new league but has not heard back yet. He will attempt to make contact again in the coming month so that a positive communication can be sent to the football participants in June.

**Pulis Turf Facility:**

The Director reported that the new Turf facility at Pulis Field is almost complete and that the Mayor has announced a June 13<sup>th</sup> Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The Director invited the entire Board to attend the ceremony where our boys and girls lacrosse programs will christen the field on the morning of June 13<sup>th</sup> with scrimmages and exhibitions from some former and current Wyckoff players, the Township Committee will hold the Ribbon Cutting ceremony at 11am, and the Torpedoes Soccer Club will conduct intra squad scrimmages in the early afternoon.

**Open Comment Period:**

None - no public present

**Report from Board Members:**

No report.

**New or Old Business:**

None presented

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield

Director of Parks & Recreation