

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 20, 2014**

Tom Valente 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: Andy Wingfield, Tom Valente, Robert Lahue, Doug Arone, Jeff Eischen, Sue Buchanan, Heather Alnor, Moe Ismael, and Brian Scanlan

Absent: Russ Whiteman, Peter McGuire, Ed Pettit, and Chris Vanuga

Guests Present: None

The minutes of the September meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes of the 9/15/14 meeting was made by Moe Ismael and seconded by Doug Arone. All present were in favor.

**Recreation Director's Report:**

**Travel Baseball and Softball Tryouts**

Tryouts for the 9u through 14u travel baseball and softball teams were held during the weeks of October 6<sup>th</sup> and October 13<sup>th</sup>. "A" and "B" teams were formed at the u10 and u12 travel softball levels as well as the 10u, 11u, 12u, 13u, and 14u travel baseball levels. There were not enough boys at the 9u level to form a second team but steps are underway to recruit additional boys to play at this level. The Recreation Director relayed concerns about the tryout process due to several parents being upset with either not being selected to a team or not being selected to the team of their liking. It was recommended by the Board that the Department investigate alternatives to having our Recreation Director and non-partial program coaches run the tryouts. The idea of having local college coaches and their teams, or area baseball training facilities run the tryouts was presented and the Recreation Director will start looking into this for future years' tryouts.

**Travel Baseball/Softball Head Coach Recommendations**

The Board reviewed the list of head coach nominees for Travel Baseball/Softball. The list of the Recreation Director's recommendations was reviewed thoroughly and unanimously approved.

**Travel Basketball Tryouts**

Tryouts for Travel Basketball for Boys and Girls in Grades 3-8 have begun and will continue into November. The Recreation Director reported that based on the Travel Baseball issues that arose after those tryouts, communication with Travel Basketball tryout participants, especially in

those groups where we have over 30 trying out, will increase ahead of the team selection notifications.

**Backstop & Fence Replacement Project**

The Recreation Director reported that the Backstop & Fence Replacement Project at Sicomac School and Eisenhower School’s big field is complete. The funds for this project were divided between the Township, the Wyckoff Board of Education, and the Bergen County Open Space Grant Program from which the Township received 50% of the funds to complete the task at Eisenhower. The new fencing and backstops will improve safety for those children that play on these fields, spectators that observe the games there, and even residents in the immediately adjacent area. The backstops were constructed larger than the original ones so that foul balls would not leave the playing field as easily as they have in the past.

**Field Use Resolution**

The Board reviewed the current rules for renting out the recreational fields in town. It was noted that the current rates appeared rather low but the Recreation Director advised that he has researched this within the past year and our rates are in line with local communities for natural fields (not turf). In addition, the Recreation Director informed the Board that there have been instances in the past where groups asking to rent the fields have offered useful equipment instead of a check. The Board agreed that there may be times when it is fiscally responsible to accept such equipment depending on its value, but if the Township is to consider any exchanges outside of monetary transactions, then these exceptions would need to be reviewed and approved by the Board prior to approval by the Recreation Director. The Recreation Director will request the language in the Field Use Resolution be changed by the Township Committee to reflect this decision.

**Pulis Field**

With the anticipated construction on Pulis field expected to continue through May 2015, there will be a loss of field space in town for the upcoming Spring season, primarily for our Boys Lacrosse program. Our Boys Lacrosse Director and the Recreation Director are exploring alternatives for field space including having most/all of our boys games played away in 2015 and utilizing other local fields that may be available.

**Open Comment Period:**

None

**Report from Board Members:**

There were no reports from board members.

**New or Old Business:**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andy Wingfield  
Director of Parks & Recreation