

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
October 15, 2018

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation Office at 195 Woodland Avenue 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: Doug Arone, Chris Beane, Moe Ismael, Tom Valente, Rich Sica, Hayley Rooney, Ann Smith, Jeff Eischen

Members Absent: Mike Ferrara, Sue Buchanan, Heather Alnor

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

Tim Shanley, Township Committee Liaison to the Recreation Board

Guests Present: Caroline Brothers

Doug Feick, Ellen Feick, Susan Steele

The minutes of the September 17, 2018 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Moe Ismael and seconded by Tom Valente. The motion was carried.

To start the meeting, the Board listened to requests from the guests at the meeting. Caroline Brothers, with the Board’s cooperation, started “Wyckoff Mommas” and she reported to the Board that it was a success to a degree. She feels that an evening session where the moms could come to the meetings without their children might be beneficial as well and requested that the Department work with her on finding space at the Wyckoff Library. The Board had no issues with this request and advised the Director to work with Ms. Brothers.

Mr. and Mrs. Feick and Susan Steele presented ideas to the Board regarding the painting of the new pickle ball areas at the Wyckoff Tennis Courts. Many suggestions were made, including a concern about the direction that two of the courts are painted in a less than optimal direction. The Board and Director will discuss the final plans after the winter. In the end, somewhere between 4 and 6 additional courts will be painted at the facility.

Recreation Director’s Report:

Travel Baseball Tryouts Complete, Travel Softball Tryouts This Week:

The Director reported that the Travel Baseball Tryouts for 9u-13u were completed over the past 2 weeks and that all participants have been notified of their results. Once again, the Township will have two teams at the 9u, 10u, 11u, 12u, and 13u levels representing Wyckoff Baseball. 8u tryouts, for which we have over 30 registrants for the tryouts, will be held in January and we have 10 boys registered for 14u baseball. At the 12u level, the Director reported that the White team will have 2 boys from Oakland joining the squad. There were not enough boys at the tryouts but since several Wyckoff players on this team would be without a team and the opportunity to experience the Cooperstown weeklong tournament after having played in town for years, the Director reached out to Oakland where several boys had been cut from their one team and was able to place 2 of their players on our team. Our tryouts were once again run by an

outside organization that specializes in baseball training and the Recreation Department and its coaches had no say at the tryouts and no influence on the results.

The Travel Softball tryouts will be taking place this week (week of October 15) at Community Park as well and the hope is to, once again, have 2-3 teams at the u10 level, 2 teams at the u12 level, and a team at the u14 level.

Travel Basketball Tryouts:

The Director advised that the 2019 Travel Basketball Tryouts will take place starting the week of October 22nd. 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.

Boys and Girls Lacrosse Registration Ongoing:

The Director advised the Board that registration for boys and girls spring lacrosse is currently open and will close on November 4th.

Roller Hockey Rink:

The Director requested that the Board review the request from Oakland Roller Hockey to once again utilize the Wyckoff Roller Hockey Rink since their rink is not yet complete. This would be the second year in a row that Oakland utilizes our rink. The Director advised the Board that there were no issues whatsoever last year as our two programs were able to easily schedule times for practices and games that did not overlap or conflict with each other. The Board discussed the request and after Jeff Eischen motioned to allow the use and Hayley Rooney seconded the motion, the Board unanimously voted in favor of allowing the use of our rink to Oakland. The Director will advise Oakland of the decision and work to manage the schedule for the 2018-19 season.

Facility Maintenance Quotes Sent Out:

The Department is now receiving quotes from several companies in order to achieve the lowest cost possible to maintain the Recreation Office, the bathrooms at Community Park, the township's irrigation systems, and to provide portable toilets at our facilities. Once the process is complete, the Director will advise the Board if cost savings were achieved for the upcoming year.

Memorial Turf Project Update:

The Director reported that meetings continue to take place regarding the Turf Field plans at Memorial Field. This evening, members of the Township Committee, Recreation Department, the Wyckoff Parks and Recreation Board, and the Torpedoes Soccer Club met to discuss a potential relationship similar to the one between the Township and the Torpedoes at Pulis Field in which the Torpedoes pays a yearly amount into the sinking fund established to raise funds over the next 10 years for the eventual replacement of the turf. All groups are very interested in the partnership and will work toward that going forward.

Policy Violation:

The Director reported a violation of the Code of Conduct pertaining to the use of Social Media. A parent posted negative comments about our coaches and those comments were replied to from

several people within and outside of our program. Some replies were very aggressive in nature and give us great examples of why parents have been asked not to post negativity regarding our program and why this policy against such posts was instituted. The Director wrote a program wide email upon notification of these posts that asked parents to refrain from posting negative comments on social media and, rather, to talk to the coaches if they are upset about something. A warning was issued to all and the parent subsequently apologized to the coaches. In future years, the Director will make everyone very aware of this policy prior to the beginning of the season to avoid this from reoccurring.

Open Comment Period:

Report from Board Members:

New or Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks