

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**March 15, 2021**

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Regular Meeting at 7:34 p.m. via Zoom conference call 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, John Giovacco, Sue Buchanan, Chris Beane, Jeff Eischen, Jen Saxton, Moe Ismael, Mike Ferrara, Chris Perneti, Rich Sica

Members Absent: Tom Valente, Sue Buchanan

Staff Present: Recreation Director, Andy Wingfield

Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board, Tim Shanley

The minutes of the February 22, 2021 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris Beane and seconded by John Giovacco. The motion was carried.

**Recreation Director Report:**

**Recreation Basketball – Season Complete:**

The Director reported that the Recreation Basketball season for boys and girls in grades 2-8 has come to a completion. Out of approximately 400 scheduled sessions, all but one game was played meaning that, during this incredibly challenging time, almost every single session that was scheduled was held. The Director advised that the volunteer coaches did a tremendous job navigating the season and dealing with several challenges. The championship games for the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade levels were held on March 13<sup>th</sup> which brought the season to a close. That day marked almost exactly one year from our last games in the 2020 season when we were shut down due to the pandemic just before the championship games were to be held. The Director reported that the feedback from parents was tremendous and that he hoped the spring season would be just as successful.

**Lacrosse:**

The Director reported that Boys and Girls Lacrosse practices have begun with several Covid protocols still in place. The children are being checked in at practices, temperatures are being taken with masks on, and the coaches are keeping their masks on the entire time. Games start up at the end of the month for the boys and in mid April for the girls.

**Facility Use/Rental Applications Review:**

The Director requested the Board review the following field use applications, based on the Township’s 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. Two

applications were discussed by the Board and approved for use/rental. The applications at this meeting included the following:

1. NJ Renegades Baseball – a local club baseball team who has utilized our fields for the past several years, is once again requesting the use of Wyckoff Community Park Baseball Facility, 475 Wyckoff Avenue for the purpose of holding their spring games and practices. The estimated revenue from this group would be \$1000 for the spring.
2. Eastern Christian – the high school is requesting use of our tennis courts for their spring matches in return for use of their gym in the winter, per the agreement between the Township and the school. They have utilized our courts for several years now with no conflict being presented to our residents in the mid afternoon hours.

The Director advised the Board that that his review of the applications, Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreements, and Certificates of Insurance for these requests determined the applications to be in order.

Finding the application in order and discussing the history of successful use by both programs, the Recreation Board unanimously approved all of the above applications after a motion to approve them was made by Doug Arone and seconded by John Giovacco.

#### **Recreation Baseball and Softball Head Coach Recommendations:**

The Director presented a list of head coaches for recreation baseball grades K-8 to the Board for review. All of the coaches have either already completed their coaching requirements or are in the process of doing so. All will be complete prior to the start of the season. After a brief discussion, the Board unanimously approved all of the Head Coaches after a motion to approve from Rich Sica and a second from Chris Perneti.

#### **Coaching Buddy Program:**

John Giovacco presented an idea, from one of our 7<sup>th</sup> grade participants and two of her friends, to the Board for approval to utilize high school volunteers as coaching “buddies” for our recreation coaches. These boys and girls would assist the head coaches who request a helper with basic supervision, organization, and possibly drill work at practices and games. The Director advised that he would like each of these volunteers take the NAYS Coaching course that our coaches take so they had some basic training in coaching and that anyone 18 years of age or older would have a background check completed. The Board thought this would be a great idea to try. Not only would our coaches receive some assistance from energetic high school athletes, but those children could receive valuable community service hours for their time. With the Board’s approval, the Director and John Giovacco agreed to get the program started this month.

#### **Tennis:**

A resident during the past month had come in looking to purchase tennis badges for himself, his wife, and some of his wife’s friends. When the Director explained that the badges were for residents only, the resident went back to his wife and they came to the Director with a suggestion. The suggestion was to enable our residents to “sponsor” an out of town tennis or pickleball player and to charge an increased fee for such a badge. The Board discussed the idea at length but, in the end, decided against having non-residents have an increased ability to use the courts which could possibly lead to less court time for our own residents. Two Board members

who live very close to the courts advised that the courts are very busy, especially during the evenings and on weekends, and that it didn't appear we needed to invite more players to our facility. The Director advised that he would report the decision back to the resident.

During the discussion, one of the Board members did indicate a need for signage at the basketball courts that would communicate to players there to watch their language and to keep the music volume down to a level that couldn't be heard by neighbors. The Director advised he would start the process of developing signs for the area.

**Football Update:**

The Director recently attended the first football league meeting of 2021 and reported some ideas that came out of the meeting to the Board. Some of the ideas included an increase in the weight limits so that more children could play, a move to an age based program rather than grade based, no onside kicks, and more. The Board discussed these ideas and provided the Director with input. The Director advised that he would report back to the Board after the next meeting in which these issues would be voted on.

**Booster Formation:**

Moe Ismael advised the Board that he is in the process of working with several others on forming an official 501(c)3 for the Township's recreation program that would allow parent groups in some of the sports such as wrestling, roller hockey, and others to work under the umbrella of a tax exempt organization. Some of our sports like football and travel baseball are already operating as such and it makes sense for all of our sports to benefit. Moe will report back to the Board next month with his progress.

The Board adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield  
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation