

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
June 14, 2021

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Regular Meeting at 7:30pm 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, Jen Saxton, Moe Ismael, Tom Valente, Rich Sica, Chris Perneti, Chris Beane, Sue Buchanan, Mike Ferrara, John Giovacco, Jeff Eischen

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board, Tim Shanley

Staff Absent: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

The minutes of the May 10, 2021 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris Beane and seconded by Rich Sica. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director Report:

Rec Board Meetings – Discussion on Returning to Live Meetings

Committee Member Tim Shanley reported to the Board that the Township Committee has resumed in-person meetings and has approved same for all Townships boards. The Board agreed that it would resume in-person meetings beginning in July.

Open Space Grant – Project Status

Mr. Arone reported to the Board that the new Memorial Playground Fence had been installed and the old split rail fence has been removed. The black chain link fence surrounding the Memorial Playground looks outstanding and the fence that had served us well for the past several years is gone. Additionally, as is done every year, the certified playground mulch has been blown in to bring the ground surface back up to a deep and soft playing area in which the children can be safe.

Also, the installation of the Township’s new Lightning Detection Systems is just days away. Once complete, a loud siren alarm will go off when lightning is in the area so that our players, coaches, and families can seek shelter from the lightning. The Recreation Director will update everyone once this project is complete.

Recreation Baseball/Softball/Lacrosse Review – Seasons Complete

Mr. Arone reported to the Board that all Recreation Baseball, Softball, and Lacrosse games were complete. It was an amazing season with the township’s children and volunteer coaches getting back on the field after a year long absence due to the pandemic. There was a new energy across the programs that the Director feels will last for several years as everyone begins to realize how

good and important it is to be outside, exercising, and engaging in fun competition. Our coaches were incredible this season and have been thanked in writing by the Recreation Department.

Tournament Time – Travel Baseball & Softball Hosting Tournaments Father’s Day and Following Weekends

Mr. Arone reported to the Board that the Travel Baseball program is hosting its annual Father’s Day Tournament for 9u Baseball teams in the area next weekend and that the Wyckoff Travel Softball program will hold their tournament across all ages the following weekend. Most games will be held at Community Park with some being played at our new Memorial turf field.

Summer Camp Preview – Starts July 5 – Over 100 Campers Each Week

Mr. Arone reported to the Board that Summer Camp for grades K-4 and grades 5-8 will begin on July 5th. The younger camp will remain at Lincoln School this summer while the older camp will move over to Sicomac School. Both camps will be run by our partner, the Wyckoff YMCA and they are sure to do an amazing job like they did last summer. The Director and his staff are in constant communication over the 5-6 weeks of camp and they are looking forward to a great summer experience.

Facility Use/Rental Applications Review/Approval

Mr. Arone requested the Board review the following field use application, 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. One application was discussed by the Board and approved for use/rental. The applications at this meeting included the following:

1. Brandon Wood Team Training – this is a youth flag football program to be run on Memorial Field on four consecutive Monday evenings from June 7th through 28th. There are no conflicts on the field that day and the paperwork, including insurance, is in order.

Mr. Arone advised the Board that the Director reviewed the application, Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement, and Certificate of Insurance for these requests determined the applications to be in order.

Finding the application in order, the Recreation Board unanimously approved the above application after a motion to approve them was made by Doug Arone and seconded by Jen Saxton.

Football & Cheerleading Registration Complete – 149 Football Players, 104 Cheerleaders!

Mr. Arone reported to the Board that the football registrations are complete and that almost 150 football players and now over 100 cheerleaders are participating this fall! These numbers are incredible considering many took the season off last year due to the pandemic. The football program boasts 51 PeeWees, 60 Juniors, and 38 Seniors ready to take the field in the fall. Game jersey fittings are taking place now so that the jersey order can get in with plenty of time to have them produced and delivered. Last weekend, the NBJFL ran a free football clinic for all those signed up for each town’s football program. Wyckoff had the highest amount of registrations there and many children enjoyed a very well planned, although very hot, day.

Covid Protocols Update – Masks No Longer Necessary for All Per CDC and NJ Governor Announcement

Mr. Arone reported to the Board that the Director has removed the mask requirement for all players, coaches, and spectators since the CDC and Governor of New Jersey have allowed that to happen. It has been made clear that all those wishing to remain wearing masks may obviously do so and that it is still important for our coaches to keep attendance in case a child does test positive for COVID-19. The Board approved this measure, expressing relief that things are seemingly getting back to normal with vaccinations being available and positive tests way down from the late winter/early spring.

The Board adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Arone
Chairperson, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation