

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 10, 2022**

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. 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, John Giovacco, Moe Ismael, Rich Sica, Tom Valente, Mike Ferrara, Jen Saxton

Members Absent: Jeff Eischen, Sue Buchanan, Chris Perneti

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

Tim Shanley, Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board

Guests Present: None

The minutes of the December 13, 2021 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rich Sica and seconded by Tom Valente. The motion was carried.

**Recreation Director's Report:**

**Volunteer and Parent Code of Conduct Review:**

The Director shared the current Code of Conduct that is signed off on by all parents and volunteer coaches. The 10 page document contains the Anti-Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying Policy, the Coaches and Parents Code of Conduct, and the Electronic Device Use Policy, all of which were discussed and explained by the Director.

**Re-Establishment of & Election to Code of Conduct Sub-Committee:**

The Director reviewed the need for a Code of Conduct Sub-Committee with the Board and explained its purpose. He advised that the Sub-Committee has been in place for seven years so that Board members could review and decide on any situations involving coaches or parents who are alleged to have violated the Department's Code of Conduct. Doug Arone made a motion to re-establish the Sub-Committee and Rich Sica seconded the motion. The vote to carry the motion was unanimous. After re-establishing the sub-committee, the Board appointed Jeff Eischen, Mike Ferrara, Chris Beane, and Rich Sica as Code of Conduct Sub-Committee members.

**Re-Establishment of Reciprocal Facility Use & Facility Rental Policies:**

The Board unanimously approved the re-establishment of the Reciprocal Facility Use & Rental Policies for 2020. The reciprocal use policy establishes that there are relationships in place between the Township and other organizations such as Ramapo High School, Eastern Christian Middle School, the Torpedoes Soccer Club, the Wyckoff YMCA, and more wherein the facilities of each are used by the other in exchange for similar uses of the other's facilities during the year for the benefit of our residents. No fees are collected for such use. The Facility Rental Policy dictates the cost for the rental of the Township's facilities and the procedures by which the Recreation Department may rent our fields and facilities and the need for the Recreation Board to approve all such rentals.

### **Recommitment to Passive Recreation Programming in 2022:**

The Board reviewed the many passive programs established by the Department in 2015 and committed to continuing this type of programming going forward. The Board was advised by the Director that their assistance is required for some of the programs such as Movie Nights where setup and teardown help is needed during these events. The Director advised that advertising and programming has already begun for 2022 for our Arts and Crafts and Chess programs and we are looking to set the dates and movies for Movie Nights this year which have been very popular over our first five years.

### **2022 Recreation Lacrosse Program Director Recommendations :**

The Director recommended three volunteers to head the Boys and Girls Lacrosse Programs in 2022. Sal Sassano has moved out of the area and, as such, has resigned after many years of excellent service to the Wyckoff Lacrosse Program. The Director recommended Craig Seyffer and Jeff Duca as the Boys Lacrosse Program Co-Directors and Mark Bachardy as the Girls Lacrosse Program Director. Moe Ismael motioned to approve these three volunteers and John Giovacco seconded the motion. These gentlemen were unanimously approved by the Board.

### **Recreation Baseball & Softball and 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Lacrosse Registrations Ongoing:**

The Director announced that the Department is currently accepting online registrations for Spring Baseball and Softball, as well as our 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Lacrosse Clinic and that registration will end on February 7th. This is the 6th year that our 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Lacrosse Clinic will be outdoors (previously during the winter indoors) which is a tremendous benefit to the children who participate. The Recreation Department will continue to schedule 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade lacrosse so that it does not conflict in any way with baseball and softball so that parents can have their children participate in both if they so choose.

### **Travel Softball Head Coach Recommendations:**

The Director presented a list of Head Coaches for our travel softball program. The listed coaches will coach two 3/4<sup>th</sup> grade teams, a u10 team, u12A and u12B teams, and a u14 team. Jen Saxton motioned to approve the list of head coaches as presented and Rich Sica seconded the motion. All were in favor of the proposed head coaches.

### **Covid Protocol Review:**

The Director reviewed the current program protocols the Recreation Department is following for its winter sports programming. He advised that spectator limits have been imposed for the youngest age levels in basketballs due to the extremely limited space in the elementary schools and that masks have been made mandatory for all spectators and coaches indoors. Additionally, the Director advised the Board that the Recreation Department, per our email discussion during the month, has informed all participants that we will continue with the 10 day quarantine requirement for any participants that test positive during the season. While the CDC has shortened that requirement to 5 days, they also have made it mandatory to wear masks for the following 5 days and have implemented further testing procedures. By remaining at 10 days, the Recreation Department makes it easier for volunteer coaches to track when their players can return and will not have to enforce a mask rule while children are playing and exerting themselves on the court/mat. The Board is comfortable with our current guidelines and happy that our children are continuing to play with as little interruption as possible.

**Football Update:**

The Director reported that the football helmets used this year have been sent out for reconditioning. This process is completed every year to ensure that the helmets are within their recommended life span and have not been damaged. Each helmet is cleaned and repainted and any necessary parts such as ear pads, inside liners, etc. are replaced.

John Giovacco brought up a football equipment issue with the Board regarding rib vests and practice pants. His recommendation, based on the fact that these two pieces of equipment are used every day of the year and are returned in less than perfect condition, is to have the parents of the football players purchase these items separately on their own and keep them when the season is over. He also recommended that parents purchase their own mouthpieces for the players since the ones within the Recreation Department budget are of lesser quality and not as protective as the ones that parents can buy at any sporting goods store. After much discussion, the Board agreed that the Department should strongly suggest parents purchasing these items on their own but having some in stock in case of hardship or difficulty making the purchases. This information will be shared with the participants prior to registration.

**Open Comment Period:**

No comment.

**Report from Board Members:**

None

**New or Old Business:**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield

Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks