

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
March 13, 2023

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Wyckoff Recreation Department 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, Mike Ferrara, Tom Valente, Moe Ismael, Patti DePhillips

Members Absent: Chris Beane, Jen Saxton, Chris Perneti, Jeff Eischen, Rich Sica

Staff Present: Recreation Director, Andy Wingfield

Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board, Tim Shanley

The minutes of the February 13, 2023 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Moe Ismael and seconded by Tom Valente. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation and Travel Basketball – Season Complete:

The Director reported that the Recreation and Travel Basketball seasons for most of our boys and girls in grades 2-8 has come to a completion. There are still girls championship games to be played at the travel level. The recreation championship games for the 5th-8th grade levels were held on March 11th which brought the season to a close. The Director reported that our 7th grade girls as well as both of our 8th grade girls teams are set to play at Wayne PAL this coming weekend in their championship games. The Director will report back next month with the results of those games.

Registration Underway for Football, Cheer, Spring Tennis, Adult Team Tennis, and Chess Class:

The Director reported that registrations are underway for the above programs and that we would run registrations for Soccer, Girls Volleyball, and Summer Camp starting in April.

Recreation Baseball/Softball Beginning – Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director advised the Board that the Recreation Baseball and Softball program will officially kick off its season on Monday, April 17th for all boys and girls in grades K-8. The Director presented a list of head coaches for both sports for approval. After brief discussion, Tom Valente motioned to approve the entire list of coaches and Moe Ismael seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Cheerleading Discussion:

Two items were discussed regarding the Cheer program.

1. 2nd Grade Program: The Director advised the Board that there is increasing interest in cheerleading and that parents would like it to begin sooner than 3rd grade. Our program director recommended that we introduce cheerleading in 2nd grade as a test run. The program would only meet on Saturdays at the 2nd grade flag football games and would only require a t-shirt as a uniform. The Board felt this would be a good idea and recommended that, provided the budget could support it, we begin cheer in 2nd grade for the fall and get parent feedback afterwards to ascertain if it was a positive start for girls interested in cheerleading. The Director will move forward with registration in April for this new pilot program.
2. Due to several issues last year, the cheer program wanted to be more up front during the upcoming cheerleading registration about the requirements surrounding attendance and commitment to the cheer program. Last year, it was assumed that even if girls missed practices due to other commitments, they would be able to participate in the halftime show. The truth is that the halftime show is for those that are 100% committed to cheer, have been at practice to learn the routines, and work to improve their cheering and stunting skills on their own. For those that take it less seriously, playing other sports or missing for a variety of other valid reasons, the cheering that is done from the sidelines is more appropriate for them. With this in mind, the Department has advertised that those that miss practice, or are late or leave early for their other commitments, are completely welcome in the program but only as sideline cheerleaders. At the same time, it will be communicated that those who are 100% committed to cheer only will be the ones that will participate in the halftime routines. This is how it has been in the past but it has been taken more as a punishment by the parents when it really isn't a punishment at all. Now, everyone will be aware of the expectations and can attend or not attend accordingly and will understand what that means for their cheer experience in the fall. The Board understood and agreed with the new setting of expectations in the registration advertising.

Lacrosse:

The Director reported that Boys and Girls Lacrosse practices have begun and that games will start up at the end of the month for the boys and in 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. Wyckoff YMCA – the YMCA requested the use of one tennis court on Saturday mornings in the spring as well as other activities at our fields and facilities in the spring and summer.
2. Building Blocks Lacrosse – this club lacrosse program requested the use of Pulis Field in the summer on weeknights as they have for the past several years.

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 applications 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 John Giovacco and seconded by Doug Arone.

Ramapo Boys Basketball Team to be Recognized:

After being the first Ramapo team to ever win the New Jersey Group 3 State Championship this winter, the group will be recognized by the Township Committee on April 4th at Town Hall. A Proclamation will be read to honor the team during this time.

Football Update:

The Director recently attended the first football league meeting of 2023 and reported some ideas that came out of the meeting to the Board. Some of the ideas included eliminating kickoffs at the Senior level, allowing reclassified students to participate in the league, 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.

Wrestling Update:

Moe Ismael updated the Board with the latest accomplishments of several of our youth wrestlers. The program boasted 15 place winners at districts, 6 in regionals, and 3 in the states! In the state tournament, Brody I. placed 2nd in his weight class, Connor D. placed 5th in his, and Marcos A placed 6th. Amazing feats from our most experienced and accomplished wrestlers. The Board congratulates all 15 who placed in districts or better.

The Board adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation