

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
April 17, 2017

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Courtroom of Town Hall at 340 Franklin 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, Hayley Rooney, Chris Beane, Sue Buchanan, Moe Ismael, Rich Sica, Heather Alnor, Ann Smith

Members Absent: Jeff Eischen, Ed Pettit, Tom Valente

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

The minutes of the March 13, 2017 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sue Buchanan and seconded by Moe Ismael. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director's Report:

Welcome New Board Member:

The Director introduced new Board Member, Ann Smith, to the Board. Ann was approved previously by the Township Committee to become the Board's 11th member.

Wyckoff Roller Hockey Championship:

The Director reported to the Board that the Wyckoff Roller Hockey Junior Team, a group of 7th & 8th grade Wyckoff children, head coached by Keith Duffus, recently won the North Jersey Youth Roller Hockey Association Junior Division Championship by winning two out of three games against Hawthorne in the Championship Series. The team will receive trophies at an upcoming celebration at the Wyckoff Roller Hockey Rink and the Rec Board will be notified with the details so they can show their support. The Board asked the Director to send a congratulatory note to the team.

Wyckoff Recreation Baseball & Softball Opening Games Today:

The Director advised the Board that the spring baseball and softball season started up this evening with the first games of the year. Program numbers remain consistent across the board and our teams consisting of Kindergarteners through 8th grade will play from tonight until June 3rd. Our 3/4th grade girls softball teams will compete against each other and teams from Franklin Lakes. Our 5/6th grade girls softball teams will play against each other and teams from Franklin Lakes and Oakland. Our 7th/8th grade girls are participating in a league with teams from Ridgewood and Waldwick. On the baseball side, our 5/6th grade boys are competing amongst each other and with teams from Franklin Lakes while our 7/8th graders are playing in a league with teams from Upper Saddle River, Mahwah, Waldwick, Glen Rock, Allendale, and Ho-Ho-Kus.

The Director invited the Board to the official Opening Day ceremony this coming Saturday, April 22nd. Just prior to the start of the 9am games, a young lady from town, Sarina Neal, will be

singing the National Anthem and Mayor Rudy Boonstra will be throwing out the “first pitches” of the year for both baseball and softball. Additionally, on Saturday afternoon, we will be hosting our 4th annual Pitch, Hit, and Run Competition for all recreation and travel players. Our participants will compete in throwing, running, and hitting for an opportunity to move on to the Regionals in Bergenfield in May and, ultimately, to the state level competition at Yankee Stadium or CitiField in June. Over the past years, the Director explained that Wyckoff has been represented at both Yankee Stadium and CitiField three times. This event on Saturday is sponsored wholly by the Travel Baseball Boosters.

Background Check – Benefit to New Vendor:

The Director advised the Board of another benefit of having changed criminal background check vendors 4 months ago. The new vendor provides the option for our volunteers to contribute, either partially or fully, toward the \$37 cost of the background check. Several residents have contributed to the cost which has saved the Township a percentage of this cost. Just recently, a \$700 bill from the vendor was reduced to \$500 due to the generosity of our volunteer coaches.

Travel Softball Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director distributed a list of 4 Head Coach recommendations for our travel softball teams at the u10 A and B, u12 A and B, and u14 levels. After a brief discussion, Hayley Rooney made a motion to approve the 4 head coaches and Rich Sica seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the coaches. The Director will inform the coaches that they have been approved.

Recreation Baseball – Equipment Change Recommendation:

The Director requested that the Recreation Board review our current rules mandating wood bats at the 7/8th grade level of recreation baseball. This request was precipitated by the need to have our two 7/8th grade teams compete against more than just each other during the spring season. The Director located a league out of Mahwah that consisted of teams from Mahwah, Upper Saddle River, Waldwick, Glen Rock, Allendale, and Ho-Ho-Kus that would be a perfect fit for our teams. The only hesitation was that the league uses metal bats approved by Little League and does not require wood bats. The Director pointed out that next year, a new bat rule is being instituted by Little League that will require greater limitations on the bats that will essentially equalize the impact of metal bats and wood bats on a baseball as the metal bats will be further “deadened” by the bat manufacturers. Therefore, metal bats next year will act almost identically to wood bats which will make using the new metal bats just as safe as wood bats. The Board discussed this at length and agreed that the rule mandating wood bats at the 7/8th grade recreation level should be lifted so that the boys could participate in the league with several teams and not have to play each other every game. A motion was made by Hayley Rooney to eliminate the wood bat requirement in 7/8th grade baseball and was seconded by Heather Alnor. All were in favor. The Director will enter our two teams into the league where they will abide by the league’s bat rules.

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

1. Wyckoff Newcomers Club – this is a local welcoming organization in town requesting the use of the Memorial Field Facility for the purpose of conducting an

- Easter Egg Hunt in mid-April. The estimated revenue from this facility rental would be \$100.
2. Special Olympics New Jersey – the North Jersey chapter of the Special Olympics is requesting the use of two tennis courts at Memorial Field for the purpose of having their special needs children practice tennis for their upcoming competitive events. They require the use of two courts on Tuesdays and Sundays during times of the day that do not interfere with resident use. The estimated income for this group to rent the courts is \$500.
 3. Teel Ravens – This local baseball training facility in Wyckoff is requesting the use of the Community Park Facility and the Memorial Field Facility for baseball/softball practices and games during times that do not interfere with our recreation and travel teams during the spring, summer, and fall. The estimated income from this rental would be \$2500. The Board advised that as long as our recreation teams and travel teams have first priority and that the Teel teams are only able to rent fields that are not needed by our teams, they would approve the rental request. The Director confirmed that outside groups never get priority to use our fields. They get what is left when scheduling our own teams is complete.
 4. Hawthorne Christian Academy - As part of our Reciprocal Facility Use Policy, the Hawthorne Christian Academy is requesting use of the Memorial Facility Baseball Field for its high school baseball program. As we utilize their gym during the winter for our travel basketball program for no charge, there would be no fee associated with this use.
 5. Ramapo High School – Again, as part of our Reciprocal Facility Use Policy, Ramapo High School is requesting use of the Memorial Facility Baseball Field, the Community Park Facility, and the Pulis Turf facility for its various high school athletic programs. As we utilize their gym during the winter, their baseball field during the summer, and their turf field during the spring and fall for our programs at no charge, there would be no fee associated with this use.

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

The Recreation Board unanimously approved all of the above applications after a motion to approve them was made by Moe Ismael and seconded by Doug Arone.

Football Update:

The Director reported to the Board that the NBJFL, the league our recreation football teams participates in, has accepted both Secaucus and Montville into the league. Both programs are extremely organized and well run and will be a welcome addition to the league. The Board expressed a minor concern regarding the travel times to these towns and the Director agreed to request to play these towns, if they are on our schedule, at home.

Registration for football, flag football, and cheerleading is coming up on April 24th and registration will remain open until June 2nd.

Open Comment Period:

Moe Ismael indicated to the Board that some families and vendors have expressed interest in advertising their businesses by utilizing banners and having them attached to the fencing at Pulis Field. This idea would enable the Township or the Boosters, or both, to receive revenue from the

businesses who would advertise this way. Mr. Scanlan advised the Board that this idea has been turned down by the Township Committee in the past and others on the Board indicated this could present logistical problems at the field in that these banners would be placed on the fencing and would not allow spectators to see the game through the fencing. Mr. Scanlan suggested that there are alternative ways of earning revenue from businesses such as annual sponsorships but that the banner idea would likely not be approved. The Board also discussed the idea of netting possibly being installed at the new turf facility so that lacrosse balls would not exit the playing area so frequently. This idea was introduced at the planning meetings back when the project was in its infant stages but was considered cost prohibitive at that point. It was suggested that future fundraising efforts possibly be geared toward the installation of netting on the Abma's Farm side of the facility.

Report from Board Members:

None

New or Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks