

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
August 14, 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: Hayley Rooney, Chris Beane, Moe Ismael, Heather Alnor, Ed Pettit, Doug Arone, Jeff Eischen, Rich Sica

Members Absent: Tom Valente, Sue Buchanan, Ann Smith

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

Brian Scanlan, Township Committee Liaison

Guests Present: Ray & Susan Steele

The minutes of the May 13, 2017 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Heather Alnor and seconded by Rich Sica. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director's Report:

Pickleball Request & Discussion:

Ray and Susan Steele, residents of Wyckoff, were present at the meeting to make a request of the Board to approve the painting of two Pickleball courts at our tennis courts. Pickleball, as they described it, is a growing sport much like paddleball, played on courts about half the size of tennis courts. It is becoming very popular among seniors but there are no official sized courts in town to play. The Steeles advised that tennis courts can easily be painted to make the courts dual purpose by either temporarily taping lines to the existing courts or more permanently painting lines directly onto the surface of the court. The Steeles volunteered to tape the courts or provide paint for the project if approved. Upon conclusion of the Steeles' presentation, the Director and Board discussed the proposal at length, including budget concerns, tennis player potential concerns with overlapping lines, logistics of who would complete the task and how many times per year the painting would have to be redone. In the end, after Ed Pettit motioned to approve the request and Hayley Rooney seconded the motion, the Board unanimously agreed that the Director would enlist the help of the Wyckoff DPW to permanently paint Pickleball lines on two of the eight tennis courts. This project will be completely prior to the end of this year and will be touched up, if necessary, in the spring. The Director will communicate the outcome to the Steeles.

Spring Recreation Programs Complete:

The Director reported that the Recreation spring season came to an end in June and all feedback from baseball, softball, and lacrosse was positive this year. The first year of our 7/8th grade boys participating in more of a travel league across several area towns was a very positive experience for our teams and our coaches highly recommended continuing our participation in the league. The Director hopes this will increase participation among our older players next spring.

Summer Camps and Clinics Complete:

The Director reported that, as of the beginning of this month, all of our Summer Camps and Clinics had come to an end for the 2017 season. Our K-4 camp recorded excellent numbers this year with attendance higher than it has been in several years. Our sports clinics were highly successful not only due to the good participation numbers, but also due to the several high school students who were able to work the clinics as counselors for either volunteer hours or pay. For many, this was their first time working and they gained valuable knowledge and experience from some of our senior counselors. Providing an educational, non-competitive setting for younger children through our clinics while also providing a work environment for children that have come through the program is a tremendously positive experience for all involved.

Travel Baseball & Softball Seasons Complete:

The Director advised the Board that the Travel Baseball and Softball seasons had come to an end in late July. Several of our teams enjoyed highly successful seasons including our 10u Baseball team who won the summer championship over Franklin Lakes, 4-3 in extra innings and our u12 Softball team who performed very well all summer and won the league championship in July as well. The Director reported that one complaint was received during the entire season. After hearing of the issue from a parent in our baseball program, the complainant was given a Recreation Department Complaint Form which was not completed or returned. The Director did speak with all parties involved and documented the issue to be kept on file at the Recreation Department. If the parent follows through with the written complaint, it will be presented at a future Board meeting for discussion and follow up.

Fall Soccer Change for 5/6th Graders:

The Director reported that the Northwest Bergen Soccer Association has introduced small sided soccer to its participants to remain in line with current thinking at the club level that says that a smaller amount of players on a smaller field will enable the players to ‘touch’ the ball more often and improve their skills at a greater rate. In organizing our program, the Director advised the Board that we will be changing to a small sided format for the 2017 season and get feedback at the end of the season from our coaches. The Board agreed that this was in line with how club teams are running their games and that we should follow suit.

Movie Night:

The Recreation Department ran a final Movie Night on July 20th with its showing of “The Secret Life of Pets.” The movie was enjoyed by approximately 150 residents at Memorial Field. The lower number of viewers was likely due to many being on vacation toward the end of July and the Director will likely plan its final Movie Night for 2018 in August. The Director thanked his assistant, Robin McKeown, for helping with the setup, supervision, and takedown of the movie equipment.

Winter Recreation & Travel Basketball/Baseball Registration to Commence Next Week

The Director advised the Board that, with our fall program planning in full gear, registrations for our winter and travel sports tryouts will begin next week. Residents will have until September 30th to register for these programs on our online registration system.

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. NJ Renegades – this Wyckoff based club baseball program is requesting the use of Community Park and Memorial Field for its practices and games in the fall.
2. Wyckoff YMCA – The YMCA is requesting use of the Township's tennis courts at Memorial for their tennis instruction program.

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 Doug Arone and seconded by Chris Beane.

Opening Day Parade Survey Discussion:

The Director presented the Board with the results of the survey that was distributed to approximately 3000 emails belonging to past and present Recreation Baseball/Softball participants. A lengthy and robust discussion ensued regarding the feedback received. Highlights of the feedback include a small percentage of people responding to the survey and an apparent desire from some to bring back the Opening Day Parade and others to continue on with our brief Opening Day ceremony at Community Park and the Pitch, Hit, and Run event. Comments included that the Parade is more inclusive of everyone while the Pitch, Hit, and Run event is more geared toward the more talented group of players in our program. It was suggested by others that the Baseball and Softball program take part in the Township's Memorial Day Parade in a more organized fashion instead of having a separate Parade for just the Baseball/Softball program. In the end, it was determined that the feedback sampling was small, and that those that responded were split in terms of bringing back the Parade or keeping things as they are now. Heather Alnor submitted an idea to ask the parents of the children signing up for the program in January for their opinions. Our registration program is capable of having questions presented to the registrant and perhaps this is a better way of knowing if the parents want a Parade or the Pitch, Hit, and Run event. The Director will look at this as an option when the 2018 spring registration begins.

Football Update:

The Director reported that the NBJFL did eliminate kickoffs from the PeeWee (3/4th grade) Football games for the 2017 season. While this will change the way these games are run, it is a tremendous safety change for our players. Practice for our football program began this evening and the coaches, players, and parents are looking forward to another exciting season. The Director let the Board know that he will be meeting personally with all of the parents in the football program to present the rules, philosophies, regulations, and policies of the program. This meeting was very informative to the parents last year and answered a lot of questions before they could be asked. The feedback from last year's meeting was positive so this is something that the Director will continue with each football season.

Open Comment Period:

None

Report from Board Members:

None

New or Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks