

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
March 12, 2018

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, Tom Valente, Chris Beane, Moe Ismael, Heather Alnor, Sue Buchanan, Hayley Rooney

Members Absent: Rich Sica, Mike Ferrara, Ann Smith, Jeff Eischen

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

The minutes of the February 12, 2018 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Valente and seconded by Hayley Rooney. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director's Report:

Travel Basketball Update

The Director advised the Board that the Travel Basketball season is winding down with many of our teams currently participating in the playoffs. Our 3rd grade girls team, coached by non-parent volunteer, John Gormley, has already won the 3rd Grade Girls League Championship and families are reporting that their season was filled with success and that the girls enjoyed going to every practice and game. Coach Gormley, who coached his sons in our program years ago, has come back to volunteer his time in our program and the Board expressed its thanks for his volunteer work with the girls this year.

Recreation Basketball Season Complete

The Director reported that the Recreation Basketball season is complete with final sessions having taken place this past weekend. Our 1st graders through seniors in high school enjoyed another winter of learning the game of basketball and spending time with their friends and classmates on the court. Feedback on the season has been 100% positive and all families that the Director speaks to express that the basketball season is one of the most fun seasons of the year.

Roller Hockey Final Update

In addition to the basketball season winding down, Roller Hockey has also finished up its 2017-18 season. Our Junior team, comprised of mostly 7th and 8th graders and coached by long time volunteer Keith Duffus, won the NJYRHA Junior Division Championship last week defeating Hawthorne in a best of three final series. Our Roller Hockey is going through a revival with record numbers in our Roller Hockey clinic so the future of the program is bright. Volunteers Mike McAleer, Tony Comanto, Mike McLachlan, Allan Mock, and Keith Duffus have done a tremendous job of promoting the sport and making it fun for the participants.

Wrestling Final Update

Another extremely successful winter program, Wrestling, has also completed its season and participants in our program had tremendous success in the State Championships last weekend. Brody Ismael, son of Recreation Board member, Moe, is the NJ State Champion at the Bantam 85 pound level. Additionally, Marcos Asan was the 3rd place finisher at the 55 pound level and 5th grader, Jason Sansone, placed 6th in the state at the Novice 110 pound level. Our wrestling program is led by Sean Donellan and Ron Asan with help from many others and these gentlemen have grown the program from 30 wrestlers to over 60 wrestlers in the past few years. Feedback from this program may be the best of all the programs we run. All who participate in wrestling really enjoy it and communicate that to the Recreation Office on a regular basis.

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. Eastern Christian High School – This program has submitted its application and insurance to utilize the Memorial Tennis Courts for their high school practices and matches in the spring. Eastern Christian is one of the groups that the Township has a reciprocal agreement with in that the Township utilizes the school's gym in the winter for our programming while the school utilizes our tennis courts for theirs. There is no money exchanged in this partnership, per the Reciprocal Agreement between both entities which is approved by both the Board of Parks and Recreation and the Township Committee.
2. 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. There is no charge for this organized Township group.
3. NJ Crush FC – this is a local soccer organization requesting the use of Wyckoff Community Park, 475 Wyckoff Avenue for the purpose of conducting summer practices for their youth soccer teams. The estimated revenue from this facility rental would be \$1500. They are requesting 2 days a week during the summer from June 19 – July 26. The Board agreed that 2 days a week would be the most they could approve so that other clubs in the area could have an opportunity to use the fields as well. The application was approved for 2 days/week starting on June 19th.
4. Cub Scouts Pack 309 – this Wyckoff based Cub Scout group would like to utilize the Community Park Soccer Field on May 11th to hold a member recruitment event and a rocket launch. The fee for this group would be waived per Township Resolution #17-21.

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 Heather Alnor and seconded by Chris Beane.

Tennis Singles League Program Request

Citing the success of the Wyckoff Adult Doubles Tennis League, resident and program participant, Peter Ho, has made a request to start a similar league with singles matches rather than doubles. Mr. Ho provided the request in writing and asked for the Recreation Board to review and hopefully approve the new program. The Board discussed the new program at length and agreed that another program for adults would be a positive step. The only part of the proposal that was rejected by the Board was the section that proposed the Tennis Badge fee being included in the program fee. Mr. Ho is asking that the individual tennis badge fee be waived for those that like to play tennis on days outside of the scheduled matches. The Board felt that the participants should have to pay the fee for the new singles program but that no part of that fee should cover the tennis badges which all residents need in order to play on the Memorial courts. With this exception in place, Tom Valente motioned to approve this new program and Moe Ismael seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Director will communicate this result, along with the one exception regarding the badge fees to Mr. Ho, and will begin setting up the new program.

Travel Sports Training Request from Volunteer Coaches

With the end of travel basketball season approaching, the Director advised the Board that he had been approached by several coaches this season to hire basketball specific trainers for their teams during the season. Since this has never been done before and since policy doesn't allow for an outside trainer (nor does policy restrict it), the Director was inclined to deny these requests during the past season. The Director, however, does see a benefit in having basketball specific trainers work with our players under the appropriate conditions and asked the Board to consider whether or not this should be allowed in future seasons. After lengthy discussion, the Board agreed that a trainer would be helpful to our teams, including our players and coaches, but stipulated that training sessions would only be allowed during a team's specific practice times in facilities that we are approved to use and that these trainers would only serve to help our teams at practices, not at games. The typical volunteer head coach for travel teams should possess the knowledge and experience to coach the teams during games and not require outside assistance. The Board also agreed with the Director that the Township could not budget for such training and that all costs must be shared by the individual team families utilizing outside trainers. However, the Board expressed concern that specific families may not financially be able to afford to pay the extra amount for the trainers. In those cases, the families would not be forced to pay and could anonymously advise the Director that they can't pay the extra fee. The Director also noted for the record that any outside trainers would be required to submit to a criminal background check before assisting the team. This new enhancement will be communicated to all volunteer head coaches going forward by the Director.

Recreation Softball Rules Discussion

A request from the Oakland Program Director of Softball was made to change the pitching rules in our 5/6th grade recreation softball league in which we participate with Franklin Lakes and Oakland. He asked that we restrict windmill pitching with the goal being less walks and strikeouts and more hitting and fielding. His Oakland pitchers are very good and he feels that just having the girls throw the ball over the plate underhand will make the games more enjoyable for all. The Board agreed in principle with him but felt strongly that girls softball is pitched a certain way and that restricting the girls from being able to pitch the right way will not only limit their potential going forward but will also minimize the amount of girls that play travel ever wanting to play in the recreation league as well. The Board felt we should keep the rules as they are. The Director will communicate this message to the Oakland Program Director.

Open Comment Period:

No comment.

Report from Board Members:

New or Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks