

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
April 20, 2015

Tom Valente opened the Recreation Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Ladderback Room of Wyckoff Town Hall 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: Tom Valente, Doug Arone, Heather Alnor, Rob Lahue, Moe Ismael, Sue Buchanan, Rich Sica, Chris Beane,

Members Absent: Ed Pettit, Jeff Eischen

Staff Present: Recreation Director Andy Wingfield

Staff Absent: Township Committee Liaison Brian Scanlan

Guests Present: None

The minutes of the March 9, 2015 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes of that meeting was made by Chris Beane and seconded by Sue Buchanan. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director's Report:

Passive & Adult Recreation Programming Update:

The Director reported that registrations for our new Chess Instructions went extremely well for the youth sessions but not as well for the adult sessions. The Department accepted 30 registrations for children in grades 1-7 but only 1 adult registration. The Department, with the approval of the Recreation Board, moved 10 children from the wait list into the 6:30 time slot which was originally designated for the adult program and the adult choose to withdraw when advised that he was the only adult registered. The first session took place on April 13th and the feedback from both the participants and the instructor has been very positive.

The Board then discussed the Movie Night that the Department is hosting on June 20th at Community Park. Board Member Lahue reported that he has investigated the feasibility of purchasing an outdoor movie theater system, one that could be used by us for several years, rather than paying an outside vendor to perform this service for us. The idea of splitting the cost with the Coolidge PTO was also discussed in order to reduce cost even further and it was agreed that this would be beneficial to all parties. Mr. Lahue is in the process of getting a third quote and Board Member Buchanan offered to assist with this quote.

The Director reported that registration for our upcoming Fitness Classes (Wake Up to Shape Up) is ongoing and that, so far, 14 residents have signed up. The 6am one hour classes start on May 5th so one more round of advertising will be completed in the hopes of getting to 20 participants.

Spring Recreation Programs / Recreation Baseball & Softball Opening Day:

The Director reported that spring recreation has begun with Boys & Girls Lacrosse having played their first games and Recreation Baseball and Softball having begun this past Saturday, April 18th. This spring, 1,147 boys and girls are participating in the Department's Recreation Baseball (450), Softball (315), and Lacrosse (382) programs. The Baseball/Softball program held an Opening Day Ceremony in which a 7th grade girl from town performed the National Anthem just prior to the beginning of the first games, and Mayor Kevin Rooney threw out the ceremonial first pitches for baseball and softball on Saturday at Community Park. The event was emceed by Mike Ferrara, President of the Travel Baseball Boosters Association, and was well attended by the parents, sibilings, grandparents and participants of the 4 games at the Park that morning.

Travel Baseball Update:

The Director presented two recommendations for Head Coaches of our 8u Travel Baseball Program. Two evenly balanced teams of 13 children were formed out of the 33 that tried out in early March. The Director recommended Mike Pane as the head coach of the "Green" team and Dan McHugh as the head coach of the "White" team. After a motion to approve by Tom Valente was seconded by Rob Lahue, the Board unanimously approved the two gentlemen as head coaches.

The Director also reported positive feedback on the new tryout procedure that was developed this year after several concerns were expressed in late 2014 regarding our previous tryout system in which coaches from town evaluated the players. In addition to the independent company coming in and evaluating the players and reporting their results to the Recreation Department, the Director also formulated a new letter to the parents of those children that were not selected to the team that clearly described the process, the results, and individual feedback regarding the display of proficiency demonstrated at the tryouts by their child. Each letter was tailored to each child that was not selected. Mr. Scanlan of the Township Committee recently received an email from a resident who stated the new process "made it much smoother and reduced drama and parent chatter to zero." An example of one of the letters was distributed to the Board for their viewing.

Finally, the Director reported that a 14u "A" team player has decided not to play this coming summer which leaves that team with 10 players and the "B" team with 11. Coincidentally, two high school players who are young enough to play 14u but did not try out for the 14u team had contacted the Director this past month in the hopes that they could join the "B" team this summer. Based on the need at this level, the Director asked the next player in the 14u evaluations from October's tryouts to move to the "A" team to give them 11 players and the family agreed. The Director confirmed with the 14u B Head Coach that he would be receptive to adding the two high school players to his roster and he was. The A team now has 11 players and the B team has 12. No children were cut from this team as all those who tried out made one of the teams. This decision was made based on need and the desire to continue this summer with two 14u teams in our program.

Resolution #15-111 / New Facility Rental Procedure

The Director reported that based on the Recreation Board's recommendations, the registration fee section of Resolution #15-111 was updated to reflect an increase in registration fees in 2015. Additionally in this Resolution, the Finance Sub-Committee of the Township Committee increased program refund fees from \$20 to \$25 and also authorized the donation of out of date recreation uniforms to the Economy Shop or Goodwill. Lastly, over the past several weeks, a new procedure has been established regarding Wyckoff facility rentals when the fields and facilities are not in use by our programs and, likewise, the fees for outside groups such as club baseball teams, outside sports agencies, or club soccer programs have been increased to \$100/3 hour period during the day and \$150/3 hour period if the facility lights are necessary during evening hours. The new procedure also places the responsibility of approving the field rental on the Recreation Board after a review of the paperwork by the Recreation Director and Township Administrator has revealed that the Application, Hold Harmless Indemnification Agreement, and Certificate of Insurance are in order. Any conflict of interest that arises would necessitate the staff or Board Member to recuse him or herself from the review process and approval/denial of that application. At this meeting, 7 applications were discussed by the Board and approved for rental provided the Director never rent a field to an outside group over allowing our own Wyckoff Recreation program to utilize the facility. The Director advised that our Wyckoff Recreation program always has and always will be given full priority on our facilities and that he would never allow an outside group use of our facilities when our teams or programs need them. The applications at this meeting included the following:

1. North Jersey Cardinals Baseball – this is a high school level club baseball organization with several Wyckoff participants. They requested the use of the Memorial Baseball Facility during the months of May through July.
2. G. Teels Sports – this is a for-profit baseball center in Wyckoff located on Braen Avenue that runs club baseball teams at all levels with much Wyckoff resident participation. They are requesting the use of the Memorial Baseball Field Facility and the Community Park Facility from now through the fall.
3. Rawhide 14u Baseball Team – this is a 14u baseball team with Wyckoff resident participation. The Director's oldest children play on this team so he recused himself from the review of the paperwork with the Township Administrator and from the review and discussion with the Recreation Board. The team has requested the use of Memorial Field when available from now through July.
4. NJ Rocz 14u Baseball – this is a baseball club organization with Wyckoff representation making a request for their 14u team to use Memorial Field Baseball Facility from now through July.
5. Triple Crown Sports – this is a for-profit organization that runs baseball tournaments yearly and they are requesting the use of Memorial Field Baseball Facility and the Community Park Facility over the July 4th weekend for their local 4th of July tournament in which several Wyckoff teams participate.
6. NJR Baseball – this is a for-profit baseball center in Waldwick that runs club baseball teams at all levels with much Wyckoff representation and the owner is a Wyckoff resident. They requested the use of Memorial Baseball Field Facility and the Community Park Facility for baseball games and practices from now through July.

7. NJ Crush Football Club – this is a club soccer organization with Wyckoff representation making a request to use the Community Park Facility for their summer workouts from June 16th – July 21st of this year.

The Director advised that his review with the Township Administrator of the application, Hold Harmless Indemnification Agreement, and Certificate of Insurance and the Township Administrator's review with the Joint Insurance Fund Manager of the Certificates of Insurance for #s 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 determined the applications to be in order. The Director was informed by the Township Administrator that his review of the application for #3 was also in order.

The Recreation Board unanimously approved all seven of the applications after a motion to approve them was made by Rich Sica and seconded by Tom Valente. The Board reiterated to the Director that at no time should a field or facility be rented to any of these groups if our Wyckoff Recreation Program is in need of a field or facility and the Director again agreed with the stipulation.

Football Update

The Director reported that our new league, the North Bergen Junior Football League (NBJFL) is meeting this evening and one of the major items being voted on is a proposed requirement to have a Certified Athletic Trainer on the sideline of every game this season. This safety improvement would put our participants in a safer environment with certified professionals who are trained in assessing and treating injuries and their presence at every game including A and B games would provide a sense of comfort for the parents knowing that the injury of their child is being assessed and treated by a professional. The cost of the trainers would be equivalent to adding one more referee to each game and when broken down further, would cost each parent approximately \$1.50 per game. The Recreation Board was in full support of this idea and hopes the league will vote this new safety enhancement in. The Board also felt that an increase in the cost of football was warranted since the cost to the program for this service would be approximately \$2500. The Board recommended a \$15 increase in the registration fee for football which would put the fee at \$210 for the upcoming season. The Director will forward the recommendation to the Township Committee for review once this new service is finalized with the NBJFL. The Director also confirmed with the NBJFL that we will require an official at every game, including all A and B games, solely dedicated to running the scoreboard.

The Director also reported that there has been very little activity in the Football Boosters in the last month and that registration for football is coming up in May. He will communicate over the next few days to ascertain where they are with organization for the upcoming season. He will communicate the importance of having the snack stand operated by parent volunteers for every game and ensure that if the Boosters decide that it is not cost effective, or if they cannot obtain parent volunteers, to have the stand open on nights where there are just single games, that they or the Department will communicate this to the families prior to the start of the season so their expectations are set.

Boys Lacrosse Incident:

The Director reported that at the end of a game on Saturday, April 18th, a game which our team lost by one goal, one of our volunteer coaches yelled at the boys in a way that was deemed to be

too negative and embarrassing to them. The team's head coach alerted the Program Director who notified the Recreation Director of the incident. Shortly thereafter, a parent reported the incident to the Director at which point the Director began investigating the situation. The parent refused to complete the Recreation Advisory Board's Complaint Form but wanted the Township to investigate and take action if we felt it was appropriate. It was confirmed by the Director that the coach's actions were at variance with the Code of Conduct and recommended the Board's Code of Conduct Sub-Committee to conduct an investigation and decide on a suitable penalty for the coach. The appropriate contact information was communicated to the Sub Committee and they advised they would be in touch with the necessary parties by the next day.

Open Comment Period:

None - no public present

Report from Board Members:

No report.

New or Old Business:

None presented

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield

Director of Parks & Recreation