

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
June 16, 2014

Tom Valente opened the Recreation Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation Office 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.

Present: Andy Wingfield, Tom Valente, Robert Lahue, Sue Buchanan, Doug Arone, Jeff Eischen, Russ Whiteman, Peter McGuire, Chris Vanuga, Moe Ismael and Brian Scanlan

Absent: Ed Pettit and Heather Alnor

Guests Present: None

The minutes of the April meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes of the 5/12/14 meeting was made by Sue Buchanan and seconded by Jeff Eischen. All present were in favor.

Recreation Director's Report:

Spring Sports – Final Thoughts

Baseball, Softball, and Lacrosse season have come to a close. Town teams did very well across all sports. Lacrosse had some issues this season at the younger levels involving allocation of playing time during post-season tournaments. Another issue dealt with the more skilled players from other teams at the same level being invited to play on teams that they were not selected to. It was alleged that the coaches' desire to win was outweighing the development of all the players. Some feel that going to an A/B format will resolve this issue while others argue that this would be unfair to the B players because the Lacrosse league we participate in is not set up that way and we would be putting our B teams in a difficult position where having success would be extremely challenging. Expectations of coaches will be set at the beginning of next season after Andy and the Lacrosse Director meet to discuss the issues.

Recreation Baseball All-Star Games

Andy reported that the All-star game for the 3/4th Grade and 5/6th Grade baseball programs which took place on June 10th was well received by players and coaches and declared the return of the Baseball All Star Game a success. Andy hopes to have enough teams at the 7/8th grade level next year and across the Softball programs to expand and build on the success in the future.

Travel Baseball and Softball Underway

The Travel Baseball and Softball seasons are off to a good start. The 10u Green Baseball Team won their Memorial Day Tournament. The u10 Girls softball program is having a lot of success early on and Coaches Lont and Unger are doing a great job of raising interest in the softball program. Andy expects a minimum of a u10 team and a u12 team next spring and summer and also advised that Travel Softball tryouts will be held in the fall this year along with Baseball.

Travel Baseball Discussion - Trends

Andy reported that Club Baseball, which has existed for several years, is beginning to compete more with town programs. Club programs are starting at the 8u level and play in local and countrywide tournaments throughout the year which is alluring for many parents and players. Wyckoff currently has several players on our town travel teams and on club teams and the conflicts are becoming an issue for some. Most still commit fully to our Town Travel team but some are beginning to show more allegiance to their club teams. For now, Andy advises that our policy of “miss a game, sit a game” will continue to be enforced but this is becoming more and more challenging as club coaches begin to institute similar rules on their teams.

Football and Cheerleading Registration Numbers

Andy indicated that the Recreation Football numbers are in line with past years (currently 177 boys) and that the Cheerleading numbers continue to grow. Thanks to the dedication and effort by several Cheer Moms, Cheerleading has grown from 50 in 2012 to 133 in 2014.

Friends of the Y Dinner

The event at the YMCA recognized the success of the public-private partnership in funding the turf field project. Work on the field is expected to commence in the fall of this year.

Report from Board Members:

There were no reports from board members.

New or Old Business:

No new or old business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lahue
Wyckoff Board of Parks and Recreation