

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
March 14, 2016**

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: Tom Valente, Heather Alnor, Moe Ismael, Doug Arone, Chris Beane, Sue Buchanan, Rob Lahue, Hayley Rooney, Rich Sica

Members Absent: Jeff Eischen, Ed Pettit

Staff Present: Recreation Director Andy Wingfield, Mayor Kevin Rooney, Township

Administrator Bob Shannon, Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board Brian Scanlan

Guests Present: None

The minutes of the February 8, 2016 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes of that meeting was made by Chris Beane and seconded by Tom Valente. The motion was carried.

Doug Arone introduced Resolution 2016-1; To enter a closed session discussion pursuant to NJSA 10:4-12b(7), anticipated litigation, to the Board and Tom Valente seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the Resolution at which time the Board entered a Closed Session Discussion.

**RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT
TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
COUNTY OF BERGEN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION #2016-1**

INTRODUCED:

SECONDED:

MEETING DATE: March 14, 2016

REFERENCE: Closed Session – NJSA 10:4-12b(7)

**VOTE: ARONE_Y_ VALENTE_Y_ BUCHANAN_Y_ PETTIT ___ BEANE_Y_ ALNOR_Y_
SICA ___ LAHUE_Y_ ISMAEL_Y_ EISCHEN ___ ROONEY_Y_**

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Parks Department of the Township of Wyckoff is subject to certain requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act", N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, et seq.; and,

WHEREAS, the “Open Public Meetings Act”, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, provides that an Executive Session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by Resolution; and,

WHEREAS, it was necessary for the Recreation & Parks Department of the Township of Wyckoff to discuss in a session not open to the public certain matters relating to the item or items authorized by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b and designated below:

NJSA 10:4-12b(7) – Anticipated Litigation

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Recreation & Parks Department of the Township of Wyckoff, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey assembled in public session on March 14, 2016, hereby authorize, that an Executive Session closed to the public shall be conducted on March 14, 2016, in the Town Hall, 340 Franklin Avenue, Wyckoff, New Jersey 07481, for the discussion of matters relating to the specific items designated above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the minutes of the said closed session discussion will be made public when the Recreation & Parks Department of the Township of Wyckoff determines the reason for the minutes to remain closed no longer exists and the Recreation Director shall attach to this resolution when completed the Closed Session Meeting Minutes related to the specific items designated above.

CERTIFICATION

I, ANDY WINGFIELD, RECREATION DIRECTOR OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF HEREBY CERTIFIES THIS RESOLUTION TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE RESOLUTION AS ADOPTED BY THE WYCKOFF RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT.

Andrew Wingfield

ANDREW WINGFIELD
RECREATION DIRECTOR

Recreation Director's Report:

Complaint Reviews:

Upon coming out of Closed Session Discussion, the Director advised the Board that he would work together with the Township Administrator and Mr. Scanlan to devise a procedure for the Code of Conduct Committee with more specificity for review at April's meeting. The Director then reviewed two complaints that he had received in the last month with the Board. The first complaint involved two families asserting that a Wyckoff travel basketball coach was creating a negative environment among the team by limiting playing time to certain players. Both families claimed that the coach played their children sparingly in games and that the reasons for doing so (players not focusing in practice and fooling around) were unfounded. They also alleged that the coach would criticize and pull their children out of games for making mistakes. The Director advised the Board that he had spoken with the coach and several families on the team since receiving the complaint. The Coach advised that his playing time structure during the first several weeks of the season was that each player played equal time during the first 3 quarters and

then his players with the highest ability levels would play the fourth in an effort to win the games. The other families the Director reached out to confirmed that structure. Recently, however, he has given those players with more ability increased minutes and limited some of the other players' minutes. Again, the other families the Director reached out to advised the same, that playing time later in the season was not as even. The coach did state that every player plays in every game and that attendance issues and commitment to other sports and other teams taking priority are the primary reason for the complainants' sons decreased playing time over the past few games. The coach provided documentation from late in the season that confirmed a focus on different sports and teams over the Wyckoff travel basketball team. The Board questioned whether the attendance issues came before or after their playing time began to decrease. The Board agreed unanimously that since our policy does not mandate a specific amount of playing time per child, that the coach did not break any rules to warrant any penalties. The Board also did not feel that pulling a child out of a game, even if he is critical in doing so, breached the Code of Conduct. A robust discussion did follow, however, on whether our travel basketball program, at least at the younger levels, should allow for some mandatory amount of playing time per child. The Board was tasked with seriously considering this issue for the next meeting where we would further discuss that topic. Opinions varied greatly during the discussion, but the general sentiment was that as long as the teams had a manageable amount of players on it (10 or less), each child should receive a minimum amount of time in every game provided there are no other factors involved (i.e. lack of commitment to team, behavioral issues). This topic was tabled and will be discussed further at the next meeting until a resolution is finalized.

The second complaint reviewed by the Director with the Board was an email complaint received from a resident regarding first, the sudden and short notice given to a change in the travel baseball tryout schedule and further, about the lack of response by the Director to this specific resident's questions he had raised earlier in the winter. The Director acknowledged that he changed travel baseball tryouts 3 days prior to this resident's son's tryout due to a reduced number of children trying out for the team. The Director eliminated the second day of the tryout where approximately half of the participants were to attend in order to save the \$400 on the facility rental. However, the notice was short and the resident was unable to bring his son to the new date. Thankfully, the resident was able to get his father to bring the boy to the tryouts but the complaint of the short notice was still valid and needed to be addressed. Additionally, the resident was upset that over the past several weeks, his email questions had not been replied to and he was disconnected 3 times by phone and received no calls back. The Director sent an apology email to the resident, acknowledged that the short notice regarding the tryout date was inconvenient, and agreed that a new procedure should be put in place for changing tryout dates in the future. At the time of the Board meeting, the Director and complainant had resolved the issues so the only follow up necessary was to develop a procedure where changing a date of a tryout would come with greater notice so that families could make adjustments more easily. The resident recommended giving the participants a defined date to RSVP by, and to have that date be well in advance of the tryout so that necessary changes could be made with plenty of notice. The Board felt this was a good procedure to put into place for the future and recommended that the Director try that new procedure, or something similar, for the next round of tryouts.

Facility Use Request Reviews/Approvals:

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 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 \$1000-\$2000. They are requesting 2-4 days a week during the summer from June 20 – July 14. 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 and the Director will communicate this to the club.
2. Triple Crown Sports – a national baseball tournament organization, who has utilized our fields for the past several years, is once again requesting the use of Wyckoff Memorial Field Baseball Facility, 340 Franklin Avenue for the purpose of holding their July 4th Tournament. The estimated revenue from this facility rental would be \$1500. The Board approved this use request unanimously since our teams do not utilize our fields over the 4th of July.
3. AC Milan Wyckoff – an over 30 mens soccer club is requesting the use of the Community Park Soccer Field at 475 Wyckoff Avenue for games on Sunday mornings during the spring. Estimate revenue is \$500. Since the fields are not used at that time of day in the spring, the Board approved this application.
4. Teels Ravens – a local baseball training facility and club baseball organization is requesting use of the Wyckoff Community Park Facility and the Wyckoff Memorial Field Facility for baseball practices and games. Estimated revenue is \$2000 over the spring and summer. The Board approved this application provided that our own teams are given priority during the season.
5. TGA of Bergen County – a local business specializing in golf lessons and parties is requesting use of the Community Park Soccer Field for a Wyckoff resident's birthday party in May. The family has also contacted the Recreation Department about the event. Revenue for this event would be \$100.
6. Ramapo Boys Soccer Team – The Ramapo team would like to hold its annual high school soccer tournament at the Pulis Turf Facility on June 24 and June 25 this summer. Evan Baumgarten, the boys head coach, is also requesting the fee be waived since all proceeds go directly to the team. The Board approved the application and the fee waiver so the Director will forward this request onto the Township Committee for their review and ultimate decision.

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 Bobby Lahue and seconded by Heather Alnor.

Spring Baseball & Softball Recreation Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director presented a list of volunteer coaches to the Board. Upon thorough review of the entire list, Tom Valente made a motion to accept the list of volunteers and Rich Sica seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Pulis Artificial Turf Field Update:

The Director advised that our Lacrosse teams and Torpedoes soccer teams have been using the new facility during daylight hours due to the great weather conditions lately. The feedback has been tremendously positive and updates to the facility continue to occur every day. Rockland Electric is installing poles for their ultimate connection to the field lights, the Concession Stand/Restrooms/Storage building is on site and being constructed, and the work to have a new playground installed is ongoing. The Board recommended an email go out to all parents and coaches advising all to make a concentrated effort to bring reusable water bottles to the field so that garbage is kept to a minimum.

Football Update:

The Director advised that the Northern Bergen Junior Football League had two meetings in the past month as there were several concerns that some of the teams were going to leave the league. The current status of Ramsey, River Dell, Northern Highlands, and Bergenfield is up in the air as they have all indicated that they are “exploring” other league opportunities in the area. Leaders from Wyckoff, Mahwah, Paramus, Ridgewood, and Paterson are working hard to keep the four towns in our league and bring more teams in from the area. At the most recent meeting, the Director reported many positive developments that should keep the four towns from leaving and even bring other recreation program teams into our league. The Director should have an update regarding the football league’s status at the next Board meeting in April.

Open Comment Period:

No audience present.

Report from Board Members:

None.

New or Old Business:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation