

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
November 11, 2019**

Andy Wingfield opened the Recreation Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation Office at 195 Woodland 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: Moe Ismael, Rich Sica, Jeff Eischen, Heather Alnor, Ann Smith, Sue Buchanan

Members Absent: Hayley Rooney, Doug Arone, Chris Beane, Tom Valente, Mike Ferrara

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

Tim Shanley, Township Committee Liaison to the Recreation Board

The minutes of the September 16, 2019 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Heather Alnor and seconded by Moe Ismael. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director’s Report:

Travel Baseball & Softball Tryouts Complete:

The Director reported that the Travel Baseball Tryouts for 9u-13u were completed last month and that all participants have been notified of their results. Once again, the Township will have two teams at the 9u, 10u, 11u, and 12u levels, along with teams at the 13u and 14u levels representing Wyckoff Baseball. 8u tryouts, for which we have over 40 registrants for the tryouts, will be held in February. Baseball tryouts were once again run by an outside organization that specializes in baseball training and the Recreation Department and its coaches had no say at the tryouts and no influence on the results. Feedback on the current process from those that tried out, even those that were not selected, continues to be very positive.

The Travel Softball tryouts also took place last month with an independent evaluating company running the tryouts and the softball program will once again be strong with a 3/4th grade team, a u10 team, two u12 teams (A & B), and a u14 team.

Travel Baseball Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director presented a list of Travel Baseball Head Coaches for 9u-14u for the 2020 season. After a brief review of the names, Heather Alnor motioned to approve all of the recommended coaches and Ann Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Travel Basketball Tryouts Complete:

The Director reported that tryouts for the 2019-20 winter Travel Basketball teams are complete. The Department will, once again, have a 3rd grade boys team and two teams (A and B) from the 4th grade level through the 8th grade level. On the girls side, we have teams representing Wyckoff from 3rd grade through 8th grade including a second team at the 5th grade level. At the 6th grade level, we had 16 girls try out. At the 7th grade level, due to the group of girls that left the program last year to play AAU, Wyckoff is not represented. It was determined to split this year’s 6th

graders into two teams and have the A team compete at the 7th grade level in the league we participate in and the B team play at the 6th grade level. The Recreation Board discussed this briefly and agreed this was the best route to take to give all 16 girls the opportunity to play travel basketball and to compete at all grade levels of the league. The tryout evaluation process by the independent third party vendor from outside the area was, once again, a success. The Director wanted to point out that there was a lot of movement this year in terms of children being selected to teams that had not been selected previously and several players not being selected to a team after having previously played on the teams. The teams will begin practicing soon and will start playing games in December.

Travel Basketball Head Coach Recommendations:

The Board Chairman presented a list of boys and girls Travel Basketball Head Coaches for boys from 3rd-8th grade to the Board. Due to a lack of volunteers at some of the travel basketball levels this year, the Director was challenged to find outside coaches, non-parents, that could run the teams. After this process, our program now has non-parent coaches at several levels including 3rd grade girls, 5th grade girls, both 7th grade boys teams, and 8th grade boys. The parents of these teams were faced with the option of waiting on a parent volunteer to surface or paying a coach to run their team. Several parents have reported to the Recreation Office that the thought of having a professional coach who is not a parent on the team is extremely appealing and a positive step for the program. It should also be noted that the Recreation Board recognized two of our parent coaches who are coaching two separate teams this winter. The Board applauded the two coaches for their efforts. After a brief review of the coaches names, Jeff Eischen motioned to approve all of the recommended coaches and Rich Sica seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Recreation Basketball Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director presented a list of Recreation Head Coaches for boys and girls basketball from 5th - 8th grade to the Board. After a brief review of the names, Heather Alnor motioned to approve all of the recommended coaches and Sue Buchanan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Boys & Girls Spring Lacross Registration Complete:

The Director reported that, while more registrations continue to come in late, the official period for Lacrosse Registration has come to an end for the 2020 season. Registration numbers are climbing and should be in line with previous years' numbers.

Roller Hockey Registration Complete:

The Director reported that Roller Hockey registrations at the older levels (juniors and seniors) are down and the leadership of the Roller Hockey program advises that it's the same in most towns now. Younger levels are doing fine in terms of registration numbers and Wyckoff will boast a strong clinic program this winter with over 30 children participating and will also have a Midget team comprised of Wyckoff and Allendale players. However, numbers at the junior level are very low (6 registered) so our players are going to merge with Oakland and play out of Oakland for the 2020 season. Jeff Eischen expressed an idea that if Roller Hockey numbers continue their decline, box lacrosse is gaining in popularity, it is a winter program, and the Wyckoff rink is perfect for such a program. The Board agreed this would be a good addition but suggested we wait to see how Roller Hockey does over the next year in terms of numbers.

Field Turf Maintenance:

The Director requested approval for a once a year expense that will improve the safety of our turf field by “decompacting” the surface and filling in low spots to improve the density levels in some areas of the field. Upon completion of the work that will take a day to complete, the company will perform a “G-Max” test on the surface to ensure that the playing fields are within appropriate levels in terms of softness. The company would also provide the Township with a certificate to verify that the testing was done. The cost of this project is just over \$3000 but the maintenance at the field will ensure that participants there will be playing on a safe surface for the entire length of the turf life and having this work done along with the GMax testing will protect the town from potential law suits. The Board agreed that this is a maintenance item that should be done and approved getting this work done in the new year prior to the start of lacrosse season. The Board did recommend speaking with the Torpedoes and the Wyckoff YMCA and possibly splitting the cost of this project since all parties are users of this facility.

Memorial Field Turf Cage:

The Director reported that the fencing at the ends of the turf cage is beyond repair and needs replacement with a thicker, more sturdy fencing. The ends of the fencing are curling up causing a potential cutting hazard at the ends of the structure. Prices were obtained from local fence vendors and the lowest cost estimate was just over \$8000. The Director advised that he had spoken with the township CFO and that funds are available for this repair but that he and Mr. Shanley had also had conversations with the Torpedoes, who make frequent use of this facility, about possibly sharing in the cost of this repair. The Torpedoes agreed to pay \$4000 toward the repair which cuts the township’s cost in half. Jeff Eischen made a motion to approve this expense and after a second from Ann Smith, the Recreation Board unanimously agreed to move forward with the repair.

New Program Idea:

The Director relayed to the Recreation Board that a resident had called last month regarding a potential new program that is in line with our current programming. Currently, we offer Team Tennis to adults but only offer tennis lessons to children. The resident’s idea was to offer a Team Tennis program to children to add to our wide variety of offerings. The Board was interested in this new program idea and asked the Director to investigate further. It was agreed that this should be a summer program so that kids can still participate in spring or fall sports during those times of the year without having too many choices to pick from. The Director will investigate the idea further and report back in a future meeting.

Fee Waiver Request:

A new resident in town called to sign her son up for Recreation Basketball but indicated that the family’s move from another country had left them with minimal funds. She asked if there was any way we could waive the fee for the program so that her son could play. If we could not, the son would not be able to participate. The Recreation Board discussed the situation and unanimously agreed to waive the \$78 fee after Jeff Eischen made a motion and Heather Alnor seconded it. The Director will register the child on Tuesday morning and let the family know that the fee was waived.

Football Season Winding Down:

The Director reported that the Football/Cheer season would be ending this coming weekend with the NJBFL Super Bowls. Our PeeWee and Junior teams have won their first and second round playoff games and will be representing Wyckoff in the Super Bowl at those two levels this coming weekend. The Director will report the results of these games next month.

Fall Seasons Winding Down:

The Director reported that, in addition to Football and Cheerleading, Recreation Soccer and girls Volleyball are also winding down. Both programs are running smoothly and, as usual, positive feedback continues to come in for the girls Volleyball program, one of our newer additions to our expansive list of programs. Coach Parks, the Director of the volleyball program, has received high marks again from parents, some of whom wish to expand the program beyond the fall.

Open Comment Period:

No comments

Report from Board Members:

None

New or Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks