

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
August 12, 2019

Doug Arone 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: Doug Arone, Chris Beane, Moe Ismael, Heather Alnor, Tom Valente, Rich Sica, Jeff Eischen, Hayley Rooney, Ann Smith

Members Absent: Mike Ferrara, Sue Buchanan

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director, Tim Shanley, Township Committee Liaison

Guest Present: None

The minutes of the June 17, 2019 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:

Summer Camp & Clinic Update:

The Director reported that the 2019 Recreation Summer Day Camp is 90% complete with only a week of Chess Camp, Arts & Crafts Camp, and Volleyball Camp remaining. The Camp and Clinic summer season was a tremendous success with many residents enjoying the weeklong programs and many additional young adult residents being employed by the Department as counselors for the individual programs. The Director pointed out that the Cheerleading Clinic did not take place this summer due to low enrollment numbers but advised the Board that this is likely due to the increasing presence of our Cheerleading Program leadership running boot camps and other training opportunities for our Football Cheerleaders.

Summer Camp Discussion:

The Director advised the Recreation Board that our Summer Camp Director for Grades K-4 had retired from the position at the end of the camp season last year as she was moving to New York State, and was replaced by her daughter and another long time employee who is a teacher and has several years of camp experience. At the end of this year’s session, the teacher also resigned as she is moving to South Jersey with her family. This leaves the Department without a camp director and after a quick survey of possible candidates, it has become clear that a camp director would be very difficult to find. The Director proposed the idea of having another vendor, secured by open public bid, run our K-4 Summer Camp next year. Provided the township run this camp like our sports camps (lacrosse, soccer, multisport, tennis), the percentage received from the vendor would likely be equal or greater than the amount earned running the camp ourselves. The Board discussed the idea and concluded that if the Department could secure a vendor to run our camp as seamlessly as possible, it makes sense to investigate this idea further. The Director will speak with the Township Administrator about this idea for further guidance.

Travel Baseball and Softball Seasons Complete:

The Director reported that our travel baseball and softball teams had tremendous success this summer. Several of our teams were in the finals of their respective divisions and most of our teams made the playoffs in their age brackets. Parents of all teams reported positive experiences during the spring and summer and some teams will even continue playing into the fall.

Mens Softball Discussion – Age Change

The Director updated the Board on our very successful Men's Softball program but indicated that the average age of the group of over 190 players is increasing. The captains of the program asked the Board to approve an age limit decrease so that some younger residents could participate as the aging participants begin to "retire." The current minimum age in the program is 30 years old and the program is requesting a decrease in that age to 25. The Board expressed concern that teams of 25 year olds would damage the competitiveness of the league but the Director advised that they would all be equally drafted onto current teams and that new teams would not be entering the league as we are capped out at 10 currently. After a motion by Jeff Eischen to lower the minimum age to 25 and a second by Heather Alnor, the Board unanimously approved the motion. The Director will advise the program leadership of the new rule.

Travel Baseball, Softball, Basketball Registration Upcoming:

The Director advised the Board that registration for our travel sports programs is upcoming in the month of September. He also reminded the Board that, as we have done for the past several years, an independent evaluating company will run our tryouts to eliminate any preconceived perceptions that there is any bias in our tryout process.

Lightning Detection System Discussion:

The Director advised the Board that Committeeman Shanley, at a recent Township Committee meeting, had proposed the idea of purchasing a Lightning Detection System for the Township. After investigating the brands, costs, and availability, the Director reported that the prices of these systems have come down considerably and that it makes sense to lease the equipment if this project were to move forward as the cost is relatively the same and the equipment is fully covered by the vendor in case of damage. The Director received price quotes for Memorial Field, Community Park, and Pulis Field for now and advised that there is potential to share the cost of the system at the Pulis Field with the Torpedoes and the Wyckoff YMCA which the Board felt was a logical idea. In order for this project to occur, the Director would need to put in capital request during this year's budget meetings. The Board unanimously agreed that protecting the residents on the field should be of highest priority to the Recreation Department and that this project would help us become even safer than we are.

Tennis Courts:

The Director reported to the Board a complaint that was received from a resident by the Recreation Department and Township Committee regarding the condition of the Memorial Field Tennis Courts. In response, the Director met with our Joint Insurance Fund Consultant to determine if there was a safety hazard presented by the thin cracks that are appearing on our courts. The Safety Consultant reported that the cracks were not a safety hazard and that the condition of our courts was satisfactory. The Director also met with a vendor who advised that while the cracks themselves did not present a hazard, they should be repaired before they got too big and unrepairable. The Director decided to have the cracks repaired and will also put in a request for the courts to be painted next year as the asphalt underneath is starting to show the original paint fading. Due to the complaint, the Department also investigated the 13 Northwest Bergen County towns to identify those that have tennis courts, lights at their courts, the condition

of their courts, and whether or not these towns provided as much as Wyckoff does for their tennis playing residents. It was determined that Wyckoff's courts are among the newest and that the fees we charge our residents are in line with other towns in the area. We are also only one of four towns in the area that provide tennis programming for its adults. Upon completion of this investigation, the Director replied back to the resident with his findings and answers and received a positive response from the resident.

Fall Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director presented a list of all Head Coaches for both Football and Soccer for the Fall including the Cheerleading Program Director. The Board reviewed the list which met with their satisfaction. Heather Alnot motioned to approve all coaches on the list as well as the Cheer Program Director and Hayley Rooney seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Movie Night – August 30:

The Director advised that our final Movie Night of the summer is coming up on August 27th. The movie, for which a license has been obtained to show in public by the Recreation Department, will be "Small Foot." The Director hopes that the timing of the showing at the end of the summer and just before school starts will enable many residents to attend.

Facility Review Requests:

The Director presented an application from the Wyckoff YMCA to use Pulis Field for the annual Buddy Walk on October 5th, 2019. All paperwork is in order (insurance, application, hold harmless). The Board, after a motion by Chris Beane to approve, and a second by Tom Valente, unanimously approved the use of the field on that day after the Director explained that events scheduled on that day would be moved so that the field is clear. This includes the Torpedoes Soccer schedule as well as Recreation Soccer games.

Football Update:

The Director reported that Football and Cheer numbers are trending up this season. Our PeeWee and Senior football teams will have 3 teams at their respective levels and the Juniors will have two teams. Cheerleading numbers are approaching 100 participants which is also consistent with last year's numbers. The Director advised that a purchase of 50 new Riddell Speed Flex football helmets was made in order to further protect the participants. The Director will continue to fill inventory with the "Flex" model.

Additionally, the Director reported that all of the Wyckoff football coaches were required this year to take the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) Coaching Course whether or not they had previously taken the Rutgers class. Every coach took the course and produced evidence that it was completed. A meeting has also been scheduled to meet with the coaches to discuss the Coaches Code of Conduct so that our football participants have another positive experience in our program. Our dedicated coaches have responded positively to this year's additional training.

Report from Board Members:

Moe Ismael advised that with the growing participation in our Wrestling program, the time has come to move into a bigger facility for practices. The lower gym at Ramapo has been useful for years but with growing numbers, we simply need a bigger area to practice in. The Wrestling leadership and I have been in communication with the Eisenhower School Principal and it has been agreed upon that we will be able to use the Cafeteria at Eisenhower for our practices. With that comes the need for a new wrestling mat as we are unable to take the mats from Ramapo. Moe estimated the cost of the new mat plus a storage system at \$15,000 and asked if the

Recreation budget could support at least a contribution toward this cost. The Recreation Board agreed that this was a necessity and requested the Director find a way to help fund this important purchase. The Director will review the Recreation budget to determine how much the budget can support this project.

New or Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks