

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
July 13, 2020

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on a Zoom Video Conference call 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, Sue Buchanan, Chris Beane, Jen Saxton, Moe Ismael, Chris Perneti, Mike Ferrara

Members Absent: Jeff Eischen, Rich Sica, John Giovacco, Tom Valente

Staff Present: Recreation Director, Andy Wingfield
Township Committee Liaison, Tom Madigan

The minutes of the June 23, 2020 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Doug Arone and seconded by Chris Beane. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director Report:

Status of Programs During Pandemic:

The Director updated the Board on the status of our summer programs during the pandemic.

- Summer Camp & Clinics: Summer Day Camp for Grades K-4 and 5-8 started last week under the operation and supervision of the Wyckoff YMCA. Camp registration was maxed out at 80 participants, per the YMCA’s request, and we are at maximum capacity every week going forward with a healthy wait list. Parents were calling the Recreation Office this week for the younger camp positively raving about the camp atmosphere and their attention to safety while still keeping it fun for the children. Many were calling to add their children to the wait list for future weeks because of how impressed they were. Additionally, we were able to run a safe and fun volleyball clinic for girls during the week of June 29 with several protocols in place to ensure the girls’ safety. Again, very positive reviews were received from parents and we will be looking to run the clinic again in August. With only one week of camp in the books, the Director will update the Board next month on whether or not the positive energy was maintained. All indications are that it will.
- Travel Baseball and Softball: As stated in our last meeting, practices for Travel Baseball and Softball started on June 22nd. Games were allowed to begin on July 6th and our teams have been playing since then under strict protocols involving temperature checks, no sharing of equipment, masks required in the dugouts, and more. During an inspection of our teams, the Director found that most were following protocol to the letter and a couple needed to be reminded about some of the rules, mostly related to the mandatory wearing of masks by the coaches. Overall, however, the coaches, players, and parents are extremely excited to be out on the fields again and are doing what is needed to keep the

pandemic in check so that they can stay on the fields. Our travel softball league had a couple scares with players from different towns being exposed to what they thought may have been people who had tested positive for the virus. In all 3 cases, the teams shut down until more information was known. Again, in all 3 cases, the people were not positive for the virus and play continued for those towns. The Director has received some negative feedback for enforcing the quarantine rules for those that had traveled to high risk states and wanted to come back immediately and play but, in the end, the parents understood that we were only looking out for everyone's safety. As of this evening, the experience of getting back on the fields has been extremely positive for everyone and we are hoping that the momentum toward normalcy continues.

Status of Facility Openings & Closings:

The Director updated the Board on the current status of our playgrounds, fields, and tennis courts. The Governor allowed for towns to open playgrounds on July 3rd. The Director had already purchased Covid-19 related safety signs for the eventual reopening of the playgrounds so Wyckoff was ready to open that day. The signs contain rules on them pertaining to social distancing, sanitizing, and more and were installed on July 2nd. The playgrounds opened on July 3rd and several residents took advantage of the opening. It was good to see that the playground did not get overcrowded and that social distancing was being practiced by all.

As stated previously, all of our fields, including Board of Education fields, were opened on June 22nd for practices and July 6th for competition. Safety signs have been installed at our fields as well to remind spectators of social distancing rules.

At this time, the new Memorial Turf Field is nearing completion and it is possible that we can begin using it the week of July 20. The field looks incredible and many have already commented on our amazing new playing field.

Also at this time, our Tennis Courts remain close as they undergo resurfacing. The hope is that the courts will open in very early August.

Update on Russell Farms Project – Next Phase:

The Director advised that the next phase of work at Russell Farms has begun. The playground being installed has been ordered, quotes are being sought for the playground perimeter fencing, and the walking path will soon be upgraded with Flexi-Pave material which will be a tremendous improvement to the already quality walking path surrounding the park.

Facility Use/Rental Applications Review:

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. Two applications were discussed by the Board and approved for use/rental. The applications at this meeting included the following:

1. Renegades Baseball – a local club baseball organization is requesting the use of Wyckoff Community Park Baseball Fields, 475 Wyckoff Avenue for the purpose of

- holding their summer practices and games. The estimated revenue from this group would be \$1500.
2. Vipers Softball – a local club softball organization is also requesting the use of Wyckoff Community Park for the purpose of holding two to three summer practices. The estimated revenue from this facility rental would be \$300
 3. Wyckoff Tennis, LLC – A tennis training facility in town is requesting the use of our tennis courts for occasional tennis lessons for residents. They would only require one court per use so this will not impede our residents from utilizing the courts themselves. The estimated revenue from this facility rental would be approximately \$500.

The Director advised the Board that that his review of the applications, Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreements, and Certificates of Insurance for these requests determined the applications to be in order.

Finding the application in order and discussing the history of successful use by both programs, the Recreation Board unanimously approved all of the above applications after a motion to approve them was made by Chris Beane and seconded by Jen Saxton.

Recreation Football & Soccer Discussion:

The Director informed the Board that the NJSIAA (New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association) announced recently that the high school football and soccer season could proceed with the 2020 season with several safety protocols in place but with a reduced season. The games would begin no sooner than October 2nd and a maximum amount of games would be set. Additionally, no state or county champions would be crowned this season. The Director also informed the Board that he had since met via Zoom with the football league that we participate in and that the league will follow a similar schedule, starting later, and playing a maximum of 6 regular season games with 2 potential playoff games. Our soccer league also informed us that we would start games later than the typical start of September 12. The Board was pleased that we are moving forward with our plans for the kids to play and asked how registration was going. The Director advised that soccer registration was light as people are hesitant to sign up not knowing for sure if there will be a season. However, because football registration happens later than soccer, and having more knowledge of the uncertainty of everything right now, the Recreation Department is not charging the registration fee for football right now but, rather, will charge the fee if and when football becomes a definite. Football registration numbers are currently higher than last year's numbers and the office will be holding a 'socially distant' jersey fitting soon.

Report from Board:

Moe Ismael reported that he had received complaints from spectators at Pulis Field regarding the location of the portable toilets there. They are situated in an area that is adjacent to the bleachers and a recommendation had been made to move them. The Director advised that they would be moved by the end of the week to a place that was less intrusive on spectators trying to enjoy watching their children play.

The Board adjourned at 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation