

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
April 15, 2019

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Meeting at 7:40 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, Tom Valente, Moe Ismael, Rich Sica, Mike Ferrara,
Members Absent: Heather Alnor, Sue Buchanan, Hayley Rooney, Chris Beane, Ann Smith, Jeff Eischen

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

The minutes of the March 11, 2019 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Valente and seconded by Rich Sica. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director’s Report:

Recreation Baseball & Softball Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director presented a list of Recreation Baseball and Softball Head Coach Recommendations to the Board. All on the list have completed the proper education and background checks. Moe Ismael made a motion to approve all of the candidates and Tom Valente seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Director will communicate to the Coaches that they have been approved for the 2019 season.

Travel Baseball Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director presented two Head Coach Recommendations to the Board for our 8u Travel Baseball teams who were formed at the end of March. Both have completed the proper education and background checks. Doug Arone made a motion to approve the candidates and Moe Ismael seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Director will communicate to the two Coaches that they have been approved for the 2019 season.

Recreation Baseball & Softball Opening Day, Wyckoff Lacrosse Day:

The Director advised the Board that Recreation Baseball and Softball games will be starting up over the next couple of weeks. The Director also invited the Board to attend the Mayor’s First Pitch on Tuesday evening April 23rd at 5:45pm at Community Park. In addition to Mayor Madigan throwing the first pitches for the season, a 10th grade student from town, Lily Fierro, will be singing the National Anthem for all in attendance. Four games will then be played at 6pm on the four fields at Community Park.

On Saturday, April 27th, our Lacrosse program will be holding Wyckoff Lacrosse Day at Pulis Field from 11am-5pm. In addition to all of our different age levels playing games, there will be fun activities and food throughout the day. All Rec Board members were also invited to stop in at Pulis on April 23rd.

Football, Flag Football, Cheerleading Registration Have Begun:

The Director reported that registration for the above programs has begun and will continue through May.

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. NJ Crush – This group has submitted its application and insurance to utilize the Community Park Facility for their summer practice sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in June and July. This program does not interfere with our programming and this group has utilized the facility for the past several years with no issues. The revenue anticipated from this group for this use will be \$1000.
2. Teels Baseball– This baseball company, based in Wyckoff, has submitted its application and insurance to utilize township baseball fields in the spring and summer for its practices and games. The estimate revenue from this program would be approximately \$3000 across the spring, summer, and fall.
3. Special Olympics NJ – This organization is applying for use of the Memorial Tennis Courts for their Special Olympics participants to practice tennis. The expected revenue from this group is \$500.
4. Christian Health Care Center – This Wyckoff based health care facility is applying for use of Memorial Field on Saturday, September 21st to hold their employee kickball event. The company is also requesting a fee waiver since they are located in Wyckoff. The fee for this event would be \$100.

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 applications in order and discussing the history of successful use by these programs, the Recreation Board unanimously approved the above applications after a motion to approve them was made by Mike Ferrara and seconded by Rich Sica.

Regarding the fee waiver request for the Christian Health Care Center, the Board denied the request after lengthy discussion.

Code of Conduct Complete:

The Director reported that changes to the most recent update of our Code of Conduct were requested by our Joint Insurance Fund manager. These changes were made and our Code of Conduct is now complete. The new document has been placed on the Township website and on the online registration website so that all that register for our programs can see it. We also have hard copies in the Recreation Office for those coaches that do not register through the online registration website such as those without children participating in the program. Each Board member received a copy of the new document and agreed that the improvements were appropriate.

Coach Training – Safesport:

The Director reported that he recently took an online coach training course given by Safesport. The course was approximately 2 hours long with its primary focus being on sexual misconduct among high school and college participants and coaches and its secondary focus being on hazing, bullying, and harassment among sports teams, individuals, and coaches. The course was very well done but the Director is still contemplating whether it is appropriate for our coaches who deal with a much younger aged participant than the course deals with. Additionally, with 75-80% of the course dealing with sexual misconduct rather than teaching coaches how to appropriately handle bullying and hazing while also teaching them how to avoid being harassing, discriminatory, or demeaning themselves, the Director will likely look for another course that focuses in on the latter. The Board agreed with the Director's assessment and looks forward to further research for a more appropriate course for our volunteer coaches.

Football Update:

The Director updated the Board with a new football league development. Three new teams have entered the league giving us a total of 18 teams now. Garfield, Lodi, and Washington Township have successfully been voted into the league and they have all accepted their place in the league. The league we participate in continues to grow and is quickly becoming one of the most well respected leagues in the state of New Jersey.

Complaint Discussion:

The Director reported a complaint to the Recreation Board from a resident regarding a volunteer coach in our program. The complainant requests that the Recreation Board consider removing the coach after looking further into his background. This coach completed two background checks through our background check vendor last year when he applied to be an assistant coach and both revealed nothing criminal in his background. The coach was upfront with the Director when he applied to coach and explained that he had been convicted 20 years ago of white collar crimes. This type of crime does not automatically exclude someone from volunteer coaching in New Jersey and with a clear background check and an exhaustive search for enough volunteers for this level, this volunteer was selected as one of the coaches for the spring baseball season. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Director and the Township Attorney met with the coach to discuss his past and determine if we were comfortable with him coaching in town. After extensive questioning, the Township Attorney and Director agreed that this volunteer, having committed a white collar crime 20 years ago, and having satisfied the terms of the disposition, does not pose a threat to the children in the program. Upon our conclusion, the coach asked if there was anything he could do to make this situation easier. The Director suggested that being an assistant coach and asking his assistant to become the head coach might make this situation better. He agreed to the switch and, after the Director asked the assistant coach to become the head coach, the change in roles was complete. The Board discussed the agreed upon solution and agreed this resolution was appropriate given all the circumstances. Doug Arone made a motion to ratify the solution which was seconded by Tom Valente. The vote to bring this complaint to resolution was unanimous.

Open Comment Period:

No comment.

Report from Board Members:

New or Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks