

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
August 13, 2018

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, Sue Buchanan, Hayley Rooney, Ann Smith

Members Absent: Mike Ferrara

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

Guest Present: None

The minutes of the July 16, 2018 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Hayley Rooney and seconded by Tom Valente. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director's Report:

Summer Camp & Clinic Update:

The Director reported that the 2018 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 did advise the Board of one situation at our kickball clinic where one of the younger counselors did not handle a situation properly so it was agreed that he would not work the clinic for the remainder of the week. Parents were notified of the situation and the resolution and they were pleased with the rapid response from the Recreation Department.

Travel Baseball and Softball Seasons Complete:

The Director reported that our travel baseball and softball teams had tremendous success this summer. League Championships were won at the 8u, 10u, and 11u levels in baseball while our u12 and u14 softball teams both won their respective championships as well. Parents of all teams reported positive experiences during the spring and summer. One situation which required the Board's attention was a player who chose his club team over his travel team occasionally during the spring and summer and then, finally, for the playoffs when the teams were, unfortunately, scheduled to play each other. The league forbids anyone from playing for two teams in the same division all season long so the family was forced to decide which team to play on in the playoffs and they chose their club team. Per Recreation policy, a player that leaves our team in a given year is subject to not being allowed to return in the season following it. The Director doesn't feel the player/family will want to come back but the Board would need to review this situation to determine eligibility for the 2019 season if they do register with us.

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.

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. Rich Sica motioned to approve all coaches on the list as well as the Cheer Program Director and Tom Valente seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Fall Sport Practices are Underway:

The Director reported that the football, cheerleading, and soccer teams will begin practicing this coming week or next. All teams have been formed and all potential coaches reviewed for the mandatory requirements which include Rutgers or N.A.Y.S. Training and a criminal background check.

Movie Night – August 30:

The Director advised that our final Movie Night of the summer is coming up on August 30th. The movie, for which a license has been obtained to show in public by the Recreation Department, will be “Jumanji – Welcome to the Jungle.” The Director hopes that the timing of the showing at the end of the summer and just before school starts will enable a lot of 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 6th, 2018. All paperwork is in order (insurance, application, hold harmless). The Board, after a motion by Tom Valente to approve, and a second by Ann Smith, 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:

Again in the past month, football registration numbers climbed. The program now has over 120 players registered to play this season. The Director reviewed the safety enhancements made this year which include numbers on the backs of the practice jerseys so parents can accurately identify their children during practice and the new Guardian Caps which the players wear at practices to assist in lessening the impact of contact with other players and the ground. The season is less than one month from opening day and preparations are being made by the Department and the Football Boosters to ensure a successful September 8th.

Open Comment Period:

Hayley Rooney, a volunteer member of the Ambulance Corps, reported that a 5 year old little girl broke her arm at the Memorial Playground in July after falling from the circular monkey bar apparatus to the ground. The Director advised that he was called up to the incident right after it occurred where he met with the ambulance corps and the police and spoke with witnesses to the incident who said it was just an accident and that the little girl slipped off the apparatus and landed awkwardly on her arm. The Director also observed the officer speaking with the person who appeared to be in charge of the group and that person seemed very confused to the point he didn't know the child's name or have any documentation with him that could help identify the

child. The Director also inspected the apparatus for any issues or malfunctions and found none. He also reported that fresh playground mulch had just been installed the week before and that the ground was very soft and at appropriate levels across the entire playground.

Report from Board Members:

New or Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks