

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
August 17, 2026

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Regular Meeting at 7:30pm 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, Roger Schnorrbusch, Judy Kaufman, Brandon Yanowitz, Patti DePhillips

Members Absent: Moe Ismael, Jen Saxton, Chris Perneti, Chris Beane, Larry Berger, John Giovacco

Staff Present: Jim Schappert, Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board

The minutes of the June 15, 2026 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Roger Schnorrbusch and seconded by Brandon Yanowitz. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director Report:

Football Update & Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director recommended that the Board discuss and approve the Raider Football Head Coaches and Program Director at this meeting since football officially starts prior to our next meeting. The Director made the following recommendations:

1. Eric Knight – Program Director and PeeWee Head Coach
2. Jonathan Van Slooten – Junior Head Coach
3. Brian Toal – Senior Head Coach

After a motion to approve all of the above was made by John Giovacco and seconded by Roger Schnorrbusch, the Board unanimously approved the three Head Coaches and Eric Knight as Program Director.

Football practices began on August 10th and are in full swing. The mandatory weigh-in is upcoming on August 29th and all families have been advised that their sons will miss game 1 at a minimum if they can't make it. The Director also discussed a scheduling issue that came up this year. Rosh Hashanah, this year, runs from sundown on September 11 and ends at sundown on September 13. The league scheduled the first week of A games on Saturday night, September 12. The Director explained that he attempted to have the first game be played on the Thursday night before the holiday like the high schools do. Our opponent agreed but the referee assignor rejected the plan because all of the football officials are working high school games that night due to the holiday so youth football games would have to remain on the weekend. In an effort to possibly have the A games played on Sunday afternoon rather than Saturday night, it was found that we

would then have to cancel several B games because those would get pushed into the week when we can't play as many games. Rather than cancel games for more than half the program that weekend and lose out on an entire weekend, the decision was made to follow the league's schedule and play the A games on September 12. An email explaining our efforts and our regret that the games couldn't be moved was sent to the entire program. The Director did advise the Board that soccer for all grade levels and flag football would not start until September 19th due to the holiday.

In addition to football & cheer, our other fall sports will start practicing very soon. Soccer and our first season of field hockey are starting up next week.

Travel Baseball & Softball Complete:

The Director relayed to the Board that the travel baseball and softball seasons have completed and we had many levels reach the finals and even win championships. The 12u teams returned from Cooperstown after a successful and memorable trip. Once again, parents who aren't super fans have commented that the Cooperstown trip was the best experience of their lives as well as their boys.

Cheerleading Program Director Recommendation:

The Director then recommended Roseann Aiello to head the Cheerleading program. After a motion to approve Roseann was made by Patti DePhillips and seconded by Judy Kaufman, the Board unanimously approved the 2026 Cheerleading Program Director.

Fall Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director provided the list of potential Head Coaches of Cheer, Flag Football, all levels of Soccer, and Field Hockey to the Board. After a review and discussion, Brandon Yanowitz made a motion to approve the coaches and Doug Arone seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Preparation for Travel Registrations & Tryouts have Begun:

The Director advised that registration for all Travel sports will begin in early September and preparations for tryouts have already begun.

Turf Fields Discussion:

The Director advised that, in advance of fall sports starting up, the DPW groomed the turf fields at Memorial and Pulis and filled in any low spots present. A more thorough grooming and GMax testing will be done prior to spring sports startup. The Board also discussed that Pulis Field is approaching the limit of its lifespan and should probably be replaced soon. Safety testing has shown the field is still within acceptable limits but after 13 years, the thought is that it may have one or two fall seasons left in it. Discussions will commence soon regarding the replacement of the turf layer at Pulis.

Travel Baseball Boosters:

The Director advised that the Baseball Boosters are continuing their work toward eventual batting cages at Memorial Field. The Board discussed this briefly and await next steps.

First Review of Official Reclass Student in Rec Sports Policy:

The Director presented the Board with his first draft of a policy that would be implemented when finalized regarding the allowance of children that are reclassing after their 8th grade year to participate in Recreation sports. In short, the policy states that children that have completed their 8th grade year in school would not be eligible to participate in recreation programs that are in town only and have 7th and 8th graders in them or any travel sports since that would then take a place of a rising 7th grader who has not yet had the opportunity to play in 8th grade. The policy goes on to say that for other sports that have leagues with their own rules, the township would abide by those rules since our current policy says that any league rules would override recreation rules. Currently, for football, the league does not allow anyone to play in their league who has completed 2 seasons beyond their 6th grade year. But lacrosse has strict age limits and does not have a specific rule against children playing after they've completed 8th grade. In that case, a child reclassing would be permitted to play recreation lacrosse in town if this new policy is approved. Further discussion will occur next month when more Board members are in attendance.

The Board adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation