

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**August 17, 2020**

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Regular Meeting at 8:30 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, Rich Sica, John Giovacco, Tom Valente

Members Absent: Jeff Eischen

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

The minutes of the July 13, 2020 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris Beane and seconded by Moe Ismael. The motion was carried.

**Recreation Director Report:**

**Summer Camps/Clinics:**

The Director updated the Board on the overall success of our Summer Camp and Clinics programs during the summer. Parents have been extremely complimentary of the Camp and Clinics staff and the handling of the safety protocols that have been put in place and feel that their children are completely safe at camp this summer, given the circumstances. The Director did report that due to a positive Covid-19 test of one of the Middle School Camp staff members, the final week of that camp was canceled (only 11 families affected) and all of the campers of the previous weeks camp were notified. The test turned out to be a false positive so the false alarm was then also communicated to all involved.

**Travel Baseball and Softball Seasons Complete:**

The Director advised the Board that the travel baseball and softball seasons have come to an end and that the seasons were a huge success as well. The coaches and parents were very pleased to have the children playing ball again and there were no incidents involving the pandemic. Our coaches did a great job of wearing masks after some early season guidance and our teams performed very well. The Wyckoff 10u Green team won the league championship while our 8u White team lost in the final game after having staged a tremendous comeback in the final inning of the game. Some teams will be continuing in the fall season while competitive sports are still allowed to be played.

**Travel Baseball/Softball/Basketball Registrations:**

The Director advised that above registrations are starting at the beginning of September. The Recreation Department will plan for seasons to happen until the State says otherwise.

### **Tennis Court Project Complete:**

The Director reported that the Memorial Tennis Court resurfacing project is complete and the courts, along with the eight superimposed pickleball courts look fantastic. Once again, the reviews from the residents have been extremely positive. Additionally, the pine trees that separated the courts from the basketball court area have been removed. These trees were a continuous source of frustration for not only our tennis players, but also our DPW staff who had to constantly blow the pine needles off the courts. The shade the trees provided also caused the courts to remain wet after rains long after they should have, causing mildew to grow which made the courts extra slippery in that area. New, smaller, evergreen trees will be planted in the near future to add the buffer between the courts back.

### **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. Horizon Lawn Care – a local business would like to use the turf field in the middle of the day when no one is there for their company soccer game. They have done this for the past few years with no incidents.
2. Eastern Christian Tennis Team – ECHS is one of the schools that the Board has approved to participate in a reciprocal agreement in that they utilize our tennis courts in the fall at no cost while we utilize their basketball courts in the winter. EC is applying for the use of the tennis courts for the fall 2020 season.

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 both programs, the Recreation Board unanimously approved all of the above applications after a motion to approve them was made by Doug Arone and seconded by Chris Perneti.

### **Fall Program Discussion:**

The Director went over the current state of recreation sports with the Board. Specifically, football, cheerleading, soccer and volleyball were discussed.

- At this time, football is still scheduled to start practicing on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Protocols are being developed and shared with coaches and parents so that all are in compliance when practices start.
- Cheerleading will start practicing on September 8<sup>th</sup> and coaches have been provided with thermometers and hand sanitizer.
- Soccer – the Director requested that the Board vote on the idea to withdraw from the NWBSA this year at the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade levels so that our “bubble” could be contained among bordering towns such as Franklin Lakes, Oakland, Allendale, and Mahwah. The

NWBSA has implemented rules that are very strict and could result in games being terminated even if a referee simply sees a spectator not wearing a mask. The Board agreed that this would be a good year to separate ourselves from the league and only play amongst bordering towns. The Board voted unanimously to withdraw from the league this year after a motion was made by Doug Arone and seconded by Chris Beane. The Director will communicate this plan with the league President.

- Girls Volleyball – The Director announced his plan to move the girls volleyball program outdoors this year since indoor sports competitions are still not permitted by the state. The Board agreed with the idea since it enables us to hold the program and not cancel it altogether. The girls will play at Memorial Field during their originally scheduled times in September and October.

Finally, the Director asked the Board to consider if they would feel comfortable with the Recreation Department continuing our programming even IF local high schools decide to cancel. After discussion, the Board was in full support of us continuing programming regardless of the decisions that high schools make, even if it meant changing the sports that we play. For example, if we are forced to cancel football because league teams decide not to participate if the high schools cancel, the Board would fully support the Department starting a Recreation Baseball or Basketball program in lieu of football. The Director stated that he hoped it would not come to that, but it was good to know that we could make plans if anything happens down the road.

**Report from Board:**

No report.

The Board adjourned at 8:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield  
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation