

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
November 16, 2020

Tom Valente opened the Recreation Board Meeting, being held by Zoom conference call, at 7:30 p.m. 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: Jen Saxton, Moe Ismael, Rich Sica, Doug Arone, Chris Beane, Tom Valente, Mike Ferrara, John Giovacco, Chris Perneti

Members Absent: Sue Buchanan, Jeff Eischen

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

The minutes of the October 19, 2020 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris Beane and seconded by Mike Ferrara. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director’s Report:

Girls Outdoor Volleyball Season Complete:

The Director reported that the modified Girls Volleyball season is complete, having culminated with playoff games and a championship game on November 5th. Moving the program outdoors due to limitations on indoor competitions during the pandemic was a huge success. Parents and players were thrilled to have had a season to play and the change to outdoors was a positive move. The Director reiterated that the participants had their temperatures taken by our coaches prior to every session and hand sanitizer was provided for all. Provided things return to normal next year, the Board agreed that the program should move back indoors in the fall so that weather isn’t a factor on some nights (we did have to cancel two sessions due to rain and cold).

Recreation Soccer Wrapping Up This Weekend:

The Director advised that the recreation soccer season is coming to an end next Sunday. Again, being outdoors provided our participants with a recreational outlet which enabled them to exercise, compete, and socialize with their teammates. The coaches have been reporting that the season has been an overwhelming success, competing amongst ourselves and limiting our out of town opponent to just neighboring towns such as Oakland, Franklin Lakes, Allendale, and Mahwah. The modified rules we played under with no player or coach passes, and no strict rules regarding makeup games, referee reports, and more were well received and allowed our coaches to focus on coaching and our players to focus on enjoying their time on the field, not to mention the reduced amount of administration required so that the Director’s focus could be spread out among other sports and the difficult Covid environment and the rules that came along with that. Every canceled game was rescheduled by our coaches and every scheduled game was played. There were no large margin victories and zero reports of unsportsmanlike behavior among the towns. In conversations with the leaderships of the towns mentioned above, the feeling is that this was a huge success and is something that all may want to repeat in future years. The Board expressed their satisfaction on the success of the season.

Boys & Girls Spring Lacross Registration Complete:

The Director reported that, while more registrations continue to come in late, the official period for Lacrosse Registration has come to an end for the 2021 season. Registration numbers are climbing and should be in line with previous years' numbers.

Roller Hockey Registration Complete:

The Director reported that Roller Hockey registrations, as expected due to the pandemic and its strict rules regarding indoor sports, have increased, especially at the younger levels. Our clinic for grades K-3 has the highest numbers in some time with over 40 boys and girls participating. We will also have two teams at the Midget level competing in the NJYRHA this winter. 40 boys and girls are also participating at this level. Our Junior level turnout was still low but the few boys that wanted to play have been given a place to participate in Oakland. As we have done in the past for Oakland in other sports, they are allowing our players to participate with them in the upcoming season so that all who wish to play this winter can do so.

Football Season Winding Down – Junior Level Season Comes to an End due to COVID-19:

The Director reported that with just 2 weeks left in the season, a football player on the Junior team (5/6th grade) tested positive for Covid-19. He had been with the team at practice on the Friday prior to testing positive, as well as at the game on Saturday. After not feeling well on Sunday, he did not attend the B game that day but did go for a Covid test, for which he tested positive. Due to the exposure to the football team on Friday and Saturday, and after conversations with Bergen County Board of Health, the Director was forced to shut the team down for 2 weeks per CDC guidelines, which effectively ended the team's season. When delivering the news to the team, the Director reported to the Board that he was extremely impressed with the response from Tim Murtha, our head coach. Tim was disappointed but so grateful that the team was able to participate in football for over 10 weeks and got 6 games in. After an email to the team was sent by the Director, the responses were overwhelmingly positive and thankful for a season that, while cut short, was well beyond anyone's expectations. The Senior and PeeWee teams are continuing their seasons which will come to an end next weekend. Our PeeWee Team has the chance to be the top seed and earn an opportunity to win the league's "Title Bowl" game on Sunday, November 22nd.

Current State of Affairs for NJ Youth Sports:

The Board reviewed today's announcement from Governor Murphy that, once again, reduced gathering limits, both indoors and outdoors. The positive news was that he is still allowing indoor sports to move forward for the winter with the same restrictions as previously implemented, such as 25 maximum people in the gyms and no spectators. He did mention that ice hockey was in his "crosshairs" due to the mounting evidence that they are finding community spread among ice hockey players. The Director advised that he is moving forward with winter sports planning and will update the Board next month with any new information.

Open Comment Period:

No comments

Report from Board Members:

None

New or Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks