

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**February 22, 2021**

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Regular Meeting at 7:04 p.m. via Zoom 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, John Giovacco, Sue Buchanan, Chris Beane, Jeff Eischen, Jen Saxton, Moe Ismael, Mike Ferrara, Chris Perneti

Members Absent: Tom Valente, Rich Sica

Staff Present: Recreation Director, Andy Wingfield

Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board, Tim Shanley

The minutes of the January 11, 2021 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sue Buchanan and seconded by Chris Beane. The motion was carried.

**Recreation Director Report:**

**Overall Program Update**

The Director reported to the Board that Governor Murphy recently reopened indoor competitions to spectators so that parents could go watch their children play. Upon consulting with the Board of Education, the Director communicated with all of the basketball program’s parents and coaches to advise them of the good news. Protocols in place include a restriction to only two parents in the gym with masks on at all times and sitting 6’ from other families present. The Director coordinated with the custodial staff to ensure that both sets of bleachers and Lincoln and Eisenhower schools would be fully extended to maximize the room for the spectators to spread out. Parents are still restricted from watching the younger children at Coolidge, Sicomac, and Washington Schools because those gyms are too small and do not have bleachers.

The Director was also pleased to report that during this trying winter, all but one of the recreation basketball games has been played and all scheduled roller hockey games have also been played. The playoffs for basketball will be complete prior to our next meeting and roller hockey will be competing in the playoffs through March.

In regard to quarantined children, the Director reported that there have been a few classes that have had to go virtual and that specific children have been requested to quarantine by the schools and missed their practices or games. The Director continues to communicate with coaches that when the children are quarantined from school, they also can not return to sports until, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control, 10 days of no symptoms have passed since the ‘exposure,’ or 7 days after the ‘exposure’ with a negative test on the 5<sup>th</sup> day or later. The Board is in agreement with our approach as it is in line with the state’s protocol.

### **8u Travel Baseball Tryouts Complete – Teams Announced:**

The Director advised the Board that the 2021 8u travel baseball tryout were completed at the NJ Sports House in Oakland on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> with the same independent baseball training facility running the tryouts for us that we have utilized over the past several years. Almost 30 children tried out for the two teams. The Director also told the Board that he continues to meet with the parents of the tryout participants at each tryout to explain the tryout process, lay out expectations for the season, and go over the program's rules, philosophies, and policies. This year, that meeting was completed over a Zoom conference call and parents were very receptive to the information. The Director was able to secure two head coach candidates the day after the tryout results were received and was able to put the teams together within 2 days of the second tryout. The teams have all been notified of their status and advised to register for the program and go to Farriers Sporting Goods to order their uniform. The teams will be able to be registered with the league prior to the deadline and will be practicing once the weather breaks.

The Director proposed two head coaches for the two teams to the Board. After a brief discussion on the candidates' qualifications, Doug Arone motioned to accept the two head coaches and Chris Beane seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **Travel Softball Head Coach Recommendations:**

The Director provided a list of 5 Head Coaches for our Travel Softball program at the u10 A, u10 B, u12 A, u12 B, and u14 levels. After brief discussion, Chris Perneti motioned to accept the Head Coaches as recommended and Jen Saxton seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **Boys and Girls Lacrosse Head Coach Recommendations:**

The Director provided a list of Head Coach recommendations for boys and girls lacrosse, grades 3-8 with the exception of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade boys. The Board reviewed the names and after a motion from Jeff Eischen and a second from John Giovacco, the Board unanimously approved the list of coaches. The Director and the program directors are searching for a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade head coach and that search should be complete by next month's meeting.

### **Recreation Baseball & Softball Registration Complete**

The Director advised that registration for Recreation Baseball and Softball are complete. Both Recreation Baseball and Softball are comparable to last year's numbers and all levels will have sufficient teams to play against, including those levels where we participate with adjoining towns like Franklin Lakes and Oakland. The Director pointed out that we have 120 boys signed up for 3/4<sup>th</sup> grade baseball which is 10 teams worth of players, same as in 2020 which didn't happen due to Covid. This is a big increase from 2019! Our three 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade baseball teams will once again compete in a larger inter-town league that will give the recreation players more of a 'travel' feel as they compete against teams from Mahwah, Upper Saddle River, Waldwick, Oakland, Franklin Lakes and more. It does not appear, once again, that we will have enough interest at the 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade girls softball level to run a program.

### **Facility Use/Rental Applications Review:**

Chairman Arone 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. Play at the Plate – a local adult baseball league who has utilized our fields for the past several years, is once again requesting the use of Wyckoff Memorial Field Baseball Facility, 340 Franklin Avenue for the purpose of holding their spring and summer games on Sunday mornings. The estimated revenue from this facility rental would be \$1500.

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 application 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 Chris Beane and seconded by Doug Arone.

**Several Summer Camp Competitive Bids:**

The Director reported that several summer camp bids, both initial bids and renewals, have been completed. In addition to Lacrosse, Soccer, Day Camp for Grades 5-8, and Tennis Camps being competed for, the previously approved task of starting a Baseball camp has also been finalized. Our list of camps available to our residents is unrivaled and the professionals running the camp, including Bergen's Best, Emerge Lacrosse, the Wyckoff YMCA, TGA of Bergen County, and Teel's Baseball, will provide the children in town with an incredible variety of camps at a very high quality. All of these competitive bids were properly advertised by the Township and awarded to the most responsive and competitive bidders, based on the lowest overall cost to the township and its residents.

**Upcoming Registrations:**

The Director advised that, with Covid restrictions beginning to loosen up and the warm weather around the corner, the Recreation Department is expecting a very busy year. Registrations for Soccer, Football, Cheerleading, Tennis Clinics, Adult Team Tennis, Chess Class, and Summer Camp are all opening in March and April. The Director will continue to keep the Board apprised of registration numbers as we move further into the year.

The Board adjourned at 7:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield  
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation