

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**April 12, 2021**

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Regular Meeting at 7:34 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, Jeff Eischen, Jen Saxton, Moe Ismael, Mike Ferrara, Tom Valente, Rich Sica

Members Absent: Chris Perneti, Sue Buchanan, Chris Beane

Staff Present: Recreation Director, Andy Wingfield

Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board, Tim Shanley

The minutes of the March 15, 2021 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Moe Ismael and seconded by Jeff Eischen. The motion was carried.

**Recreation Director Report:**

**Recreation Baseball/Softball Beginning 4/17/21:**

The Director advised the Board that the Recreation Baseball and Softball program, which was canceled entirely last year due to the pandemic, will officially begin playing games on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> for all boys and girls in grades K-8. This will be the first year of Recreation Baseball and Softball play on our new turf field at Memorial and the Director has received many words of excitement from parents, coaches, and players. All Covid-19 protocols remain in place for the spring including temperature taking prior to games, mask requirements in the dugouts, and no sharing of equipment. Should the state change anything in the near future, the Recreation programs will abide by the changes.

**Lacrosse:**

The Director reported that Wyckoff Lacrosse Day will take place at Pulis Field on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and invited the Recreation Board to attend if even for a few minutes. It’s an exciting day of lacrosse across all age levels of boys and girls.

**Summer Camp Registration Has Begun:**

The Director reported that registration for our K-4 and Grades 5-8 Summer Day Camp program opened last week and registrations are coming in fast. In discussions with the YMCA prior to the start of registration, it was agreed that the limit per week would go up to 125 this summer, up from 80 last summer. All state required Covid protocols will be followed by the YMCA as they were last year and we are looking at the potential of trips to the YMCA being allowed this summer for a day of swimming for the older camp. The Director also advised that the camps this year will be held at Lincoln School for the younger camp and Sicomac School for the older camp

which is a change from previous years when we used Washington School. There is work going on at Washington School that would preclude us from using it so we requested the use of Sicomac which the Board of Education agreed to. Camp starts on July 6<sup>th</sup> for all grades and the YMCA has agreed to pro-rate the first week since there are only 4 days of camp that week.

**Fall Registrations Starting:**

The Director advised the Board that, in addition to Summer Camp registration opening, sign ups for Recreation Soccer, Football, Cheerleading, and Girls Volleyball will be opening up this week and will run until the middle of May. Updates on registration numbers will be provided in future meetings.

In regard to soccer for grades 3-8, the Director reviewed last year's season with the Board in which our program participated outside of the Northwest Bergen Soccer Association and played in games against other towns who did the same such as Oakland, Franklin Lakes, Mahwah and Allendale. The Director reported at the conclusion of that season that it was a tremendous success and asked the Board's approval to do the same this year. In addition to these towns participating again this fall, North Haledon and Upper Saddle River have also asked to be included with us. The Board was in full agreement that we should follow up on the success of last season and continue to play our recreation season among like minded towns. The Director advised that he will pursue this course of action for the fall season.

**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. Local Baseball Clubs – Wladyka Baseball, Power 5 Baseball, Bergen Crush Baseball, and Complete Game Baseball, all local club baseball teams who have utilized our fields for the past several years, are once again requesting the use of Wyckoff Community Park Baseball facility and the Memorial Field facility for the purpose of holding their spring games and practices. The estimated revenue from each group would be around \$500 each.

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 Doug Arone and seconded by John Giovacco.

**Coaching Buddy Program:**

Per the proposal at last month's meeting by John Giovacco to start a volunteer program for high school aged children in which they assist our youth team head coaches at practices and games, the Director advised that the program is off the ground and we currently have high schoolers

assisting our recreation baseball, softball, and lacrosse teams. These volunteers have taken the NAYS coaching course and are now helping our younger athletes in their respective supports. These students will receive a letter from the Recreation Department at the conclusion of the season thanking them for their time and effort and giving them community service hours which they need for high school.

**Covid Protocol Update:**

With the CDC recently updating their protocols that exclude those that are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and those that have already recovered from the virus from having to quarantine upon their return from trips outside of the state, the Director requested that the Board approve the same for our coaches and players who return from spring break trips. The Board agreed that we should continue to follow CDC guidance so the Director will advise the participants accordingly.

**Booster Formation:**

Moe Ismael reported back to the Board that he had made progress on the transfer of “ownership” of the Wyckoff Parks & Rec Foundation as the new organization that our lacrosse, wrestling, roller hockey, and other sports that don’t have a formal booster 501(c)3 could operate under in order to raise funds and purchase equipment and other items that fall outside of the recreation operating budget. More to follow from Moe on this topic.

Additionally, Moe reported that two of our recreation wrestlers who wrestled outside of the Wyckoff Recreation program this winter due to the program being canceled, recently placed in the state tournament. Connor Depersis placed 8<sup>th</sup> in his weight class and Marcos Asan placed 6<sup>th</sup> in his class. The Board agreed that we are excited to get back to a more “normal” season of sports in which wrestling will start up again in the winter of 2021.

**Memorial Basketball Courts:**

A discussion regarding the noise level and garbage at the Memorial Basketball facility ensued. Two Board members who live close to the facility reported that the foul and loud language heard at the courts has been worse than previous years and the loud inappropriate music, made louder with actual large speakers at the courts, has caused concern to many that frequent the courts and the surrounding facilities like the tennis courts and roller hockey rink. Jeff Eischen suggested that signage be put up at the courts with the rules of the courts in an effort to at least make those that play on our courts aware that they should respect our neighbors and the facility by keeping the volume down and cleaning up after themselves. The Director acknowledged that he had received complaints on this matter as well and has had to call the police in to quiet the loud and inappropriate music down at times. He will have signs developed and created for the courts and will report back to the Board when they are finished.

The Board adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield  
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation