

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
September 13, 2021

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Meeting 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: Moe Ismael, , John Giovacco, Sue Buchanan, Chris Perneti, Doug Arone, Chris Beane, Tom Valente, Mike Ferrara, Jennifer Saxton, Rich Sica

Members Absent: Jeff Eischen, Sue Buchanan

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

Tom Madigan, Township Committee Liaison to the Recreation Board

Public Present: Yes

The minutes of the August Recreation Board meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris Beane and seconded by Rich Sica. The motion was carried.

Prior to the Recreation Director’s Report, a resident asked to read a statement to the Board and to inquire as to whether or not he had been banned as a coach for Wyckoff Recreation sports. Upon finishing his statement in which he expressed disappointment that he had not been reached out to about head coaching travel softball in the 2021 season, the Board assured him that no discussions ever took place about whether or not he was eligible to coach and that he had certainly not been banned. The Board reiterated what the Director had already explained to him which was that his privacy was being respected when coaching decisions were being made. He asked if he was able to be considered for head coaching in the 2022 season and the Board again stated that everyone who volunteers to head coach is considered before a final decision is made.

Recreation Director’s Report:

Recreation Cheerleading Coach Recommendations:

The Director submitted a list of coaching candidates for Football Cheerleading. After review, Tom Valente motioned to approve the list of coaches and Chris Beane seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Recreation Soccer Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director submitted a list of coaching candidates for Recreation Soccer. After review, Chris Perneti motioned to approve the list of coaches and Rich Sica seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Lightning Detection System:

The Director reported that the new Lightning Detection Systems at Memorial Field, Community Park and the Pulis Turf Complex were installed last month and are fully operational at this time. A loud horn sounds when lightning is within 8 miles of the facility along with a strobe light being turned on. Once 30 minutes have passed with no reoccurrence of lightning, a 3-horn blast

occurs indicating to the teams that they are free to reenter the playing area. Signs have been installed at all 3 facilities with details and a lengthy email went out to all of our participants with the news of the installation and how to react when they hear the siren. The Board was pleased that this project was complete and that the residents are now safer while at our facilities.

Covid-19 Protocol Update:

The Director advised the Board that the Recreation Department would be following current protocols that have been installed at the local schools, including direction from the high school and the NJSIAA. For our outdoor sports, masks will no longer be required, nor will the taking of temperatures by the coaches. There will be no contact tracing if a member of a team tests positive for Covid. The person who tests positive will simply be removed until the 10th day after symptoms begun or the date of their positive test, whichever was first, provided they are symptom free after the 10 days. These same protocols will apply to indoor sports provided the participants follow the masking rules that the Board of Education have instituted requiring masks in their buildings. Should it be found that the masking rules are not being followed indoors, and someone tests positive, it may be necessary to cancel sessions for 7 days for those that were potentially exposed. Spectators for the indoor sports will be required to wear masks as well. All of this information has been communicated to our football, soccer, cheerleading, and volleyball participants. The Board agreed that the relaxing of the protocols was proper at this time.

Girls Volleyball:

The Director advised that the girls volleyball season would be starting on September 21st and recommended James Parks again as the Program Director. Moe Ismael motioned to approve Mr. Parks as the Director and Mike Ferrara seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Ongoing Registrations:

The Director reported that registrations for travel baseball, softball and basketball were ongoing and would continue until the end of the month. Tryouts for travel baseball and softball will take place in October while those for travel basketball will take place in November. Additionally, our Tennis Clinic registration is complete and the numbers are, once again, outstanding for that program.

Upcoming Registrations:

The Director reported that winter sports registration for Recreation Basketball, Roller Hockey, and Wrestling would run from the end of this month until October 17th. He also advised that he is discussing gym space needs with the Board of Education with the hope that they would be able to accommodate our winter gym needs this coming winter.

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. Eastern Christian High School – Eastern Christian is again requesting the use of our tennis courts for their high school team in the fall. Eastern Christian and Wyckoff Recreation, based on the approved Reciprocal Facility Use Agreement in place, share facilities with no money changing hands for the rental.
2. Horizon Landscape Company – this Wyckoff company is requesting use of the Pulis Turf field during the day in October for their company soccer game.

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 Jen Saxton and seconded by John Giovacco.

Football Update

The Director reported that he held the annual football parent meeting on September 9th. This is a very productive meeting in which the Director spells out the overall philosophy and rules of the program while emphasizing that all of our head coaches and the majority of our assistant coaches are non-parent coaches. Football games started up this past weekend so the program is off and running.

Open Comment Period:

No comments

Report from Board Members:

None

New or Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks