

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

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Wyckoff Recreation Office 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: Rich Sica, Moe Ismael, Chris Beane, Tom Valente, Jen Saxton, Doug Arone, John Giovacco, Mike Ferrara, Chris Perneti

Members Absent: Sue Buchanan, Jeff Eischen

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

Tim Shanley, Township Committee Liaison

Guests Present: None

The minutes of the November 15, 2021 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Doug Arone and seconded by Tom Valente. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director's Report:

Cooperative Recreation Equipment Bid Review:

The Director advised that the Cooperative Recreation Equipment Bid has been advertised and the sealed bids were opened at 11am on December 7, 2021. Only six companies responded to the bid request and the results will be made public on January 1, 2022, at the Wyckoff Township Committee meeting. In today's difficult economy with inflation rising and supply chain issues, vendors communicated with the Director that they could not properly predict pricing for 2022 and that many products we are used to receiving easily, will not be available in the coming year. In a normal year, this bid promotes healthy competition among sports equipment and uniform vendors which results in the Township benefitting from lower costs for its equipment and uniform purchasing. This year, however, many items did not receive a single price quote so the towns involved will be forced to seek the best prices possible by getting quotes from vendors when the time comes for them to make their purchases. The Director also reviewed with the Board that this bid not only benefits Wyckoff in a normal year, but also Franklin Lakes and Oakland as the three municipalities work together on this project to increase potential quantities purchased which, thereby, reduces the cost of each item on the bid. By maximizing competition and quantity, the three municipalities realize excellent savings across the year in their equipment and uniform purchasing. In anticipation of the supply chain and inflation issues plaguing the industry right now, the Director has purchased many items in advance of the new bid taking hold under the current pricing of the 2021 bid. Items such as baseballs, softballs, footballs, roller hockey and tennis balls, have already been purchased and received so that the department is well prepared to run our normal seasons without being affected as much by the current economic issues.

Travel Softball Discussion:

The Director updated the Board on the u12-u14 travel softball situation that was discussed in November's meeting. Upon hearing the complaint of the resident in November and reviewing the situation during the month with members of the Board as well as our Program Director, it was determined that we would align our travel softball teams in the way we always have going strictly by age rather than by grade. By doing so, we are able to field a u14 team with all those that registered able to play on that team, but instead of a second u14 team, shifting the players to their appropriate age based teams, we will field two u12 teams instead. This is how the program was advertised prior to tryouts and the decision was made, with the help of board members throughout the month, to remain consistent on that path. It's possible the change we had implemented could occur in the future but, if it does, it will occur prior to any advertising or tryouts so that everyone is aware of what they are signing up for and can make decisions based on advance notice.

Recreation Basketball Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director presented the list of volunteer Head Coaches for the 2021-22 Recreation Basketball season for 1st through 8th Grade boys and girls. After discussion, Tom Valente motioned to approve the entire list of volunteer coaches and Chris Beane seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the entire list of coaches.

Recreation Roller Hockey Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director presented the list of volunteer Head Coaches for the 2021-22 Roller Hockey season for K-8th Grade. After discussion, Jen Saxton motioned to approve the entire list of volunteer coaches and Mike Ferrara seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the list of coaches.

8u Travel Baseball Tryouts Announced:

The Director announced that he has secured both the facility and the independent baseball evaluation group for the 8u travel baseball tryouts. They will be held on two separate dates Tuesday, February 8th, 2022 from 4-5:30 for the first half of the alphabet and Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 from 4-5:30 for the second half of the alphabet. The Director reminded the Board that based on extremely high tryout numbers, we will have one 1st grade travel team and two 2nd grade travel teams, all competing at the 8u level in appropriate divisions of the North Jersey Suburban Baseball League.

Travel Baseball Jerseys – New Design in 2022:

The Director reported that, after many years with the current travel baseball jersey design, the Travel Baseball Boosters have created a new game jersey for our players to wear in 2022. The style is similar but the "camo" sleeves have been eliminated and the jersey itself is a lighter weight, more conducive to summer temperatures. Fittings for the new jerseys will take place at the end of the month for all players.

Recreation Board Member Term Expiration:

Tim Shanley advised the Board that our Board will remain fully intact in 2022. Members' terms who had expired have agreed to remain on the Board which will give great consistency going into the new year. Mr. Shanley and the Director expressed their thanks to the Board members for their volunteerism and work in another challenging landscape in 2021.

Winter Sports Status/Protocol Update:

The Director reported that the Recreation Department continues to follow CDC guidance as well as advice from the NJSIAA in regards to sports protocols as Covid-19 continues to be an issue. For indoor sports, all spectators are being required to wear masks and in gyms where there is limited space, only one parent and no siblings are being allowed to attend. This will be revisited in January should coaches report back that there are too many people in the smaller gyms.

Torpedoes Question – Partnership on Purchase of Field Camera:

The Director advised that the Torpedoes Soccer Club has asked if the Recreation Department would have interest in sharing in the cost of a new camera system at Pulis Field that would film games for coaches and be able to be viewed by coaches, participants, etc. The estimated cost to the Recreation Department would be around \$2500. The Board discussed at length but determined that this would require an increase in the department's operating budget and felt that it would not benefit our programming to such an extent to require this expense. The Board asked if it was allowed to have such a device on the field and the Director and Mr. Shanley advised that they would need to seek Township Committee approval prior to moving forward.

Election of 2022 Recreation Board Chairperson:

The Director advised that the Board needed to elect a chairperson for 2022. Doug Arone is the current chairperson and all agreed that he has done a great job as the Chairperson. Chris Beane nominated Doug Arone to continue as the Recreation Board Chairperson for 2022 and Chris Perneti seconded the motion. All in attendance were in favor. Mr. Arone accepted the nomination and will continue to serve as Chairperson in the new year.

Open Comment Period:

Report from Board Members:

None

New or Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks