

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
February 13, 2023

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Regular Meeting at 6:30 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: Doug Arone, John Giovacco, Chris Beane, Jeff Eischen, Moe Ismael, Patti DePhillips, Rich Sica, Tom Valente

Members Absent: Jen Saxton, Mike Ferrara, Chris Perneti

Staff Present: Recreation Director, Andy Wingfield

Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board, Tim Shanley

The minutes of the January 9, 2023 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Moe Ismael and seconded by Chris Beane. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director Report:

8u Travel Baseball Tryouts Complete:

The Director advised the Board that the 2023 8u travel baseball tryouts are complete and that two 8u teams comprised of mostly 2nd graders and some first graders have been formed. After much deliberation after the tryouts with the evaluators and looking at the ratings received by the first graders compared to last year’s first graders, the decision was made to form a practice squad rather than an official 1st grade team. Many 1st graders decided prior to the tryouts not to participate so it left us with fewer players to choose from. The practice squad will be headed by one of our long time volunteer coaches and they will meet in the spring and summer to practice and possibly scrimmage against local teams occasionally.

Travel Baseball Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director provided a list of two additional Head Coaches for our Travel Baseball program at the 8u level who had not been selected yet at the time of the previous coach approvals. After brief discussion, Rich Sica motioned to accept the two additional Head Coaches as recommended and John Giovacco 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. The Board reviewed the names and after a motion from Jeff Eischen and a second from Moe Ismael, the Board unanimously approved the list of coaches.

Recreation Baseball & Softball Registration Complete

The Director advised that registration for Recreation Baseball and Softball are complete. Both Recreation Baseball and Softball are again higher than 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 over 100 boys signed up for Kindergarten T-ball again and almost 130 3/4th grade boys. Our three 7/8th 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.

Facility Use/Rental Applications Review:

The Director requested the Board review the following field use application, 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.
2. Soccer Shots – a local youth soccer training company requested the use of a small field once a week for 2 hours. The estimated revenue from this company would be almost \$1000.
3. Challenge U – a local girls softball facility would like to use one of the four fields at Community Park on Wednesdays in the afternoon. Revenue is expected to be around \$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 Rich Sica and seconded by Tom Valente.

Wrestling Discussion:

The Director reported that, after discussion with the Wyckoff Board of Education to possibly use the Eisenhower Multi Purpose room for our wrestling program next winter a couple nights a week and maybe one or two Saturdays, we have been denied use of the facility and, unless that changes, we will be forced to use the Ramapo High School lower gym again next year which is becoming too small for our growing program that has the potential to grow more. Members of the Board expressed disappointment and will reach out to contacts at the school and/or the Board of Education to see if a compromise can be reached. The Director will also continue to ask for permission as it would be such a huge improvement for our wrestlers.

Travel Basketball Discussion:

The Director reported to the Board that only one significant issue arose this season and it was regarding attendance at games and practices. The matter has been resolved and all teams are continuing their seasons with playoffs coming in March.

Upcoming Registrations:

The Director advised that 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.

Tennis Courts:

Tim Shanley advised that the new ordinance limiting Pickleball play on our tennis courts to the hours between 8am and 8pm has been through one public meeting and needs to go through one more until it becomes official. This time limitation will enable the public to continue utilizing our courts but will prevent play before 8am and after 8pm.

Coach Complaint:

An email was received from an out of town parent about one of our travel basketball coaches. The email was sent to the Director as well as the President of the league. The email was reviewed by the Board and the Director advised the Board that he had spoken with the coach, 3 separate families on the team, and the President of the league. All agreed that this matter warranted no action against the coach. After lengthy and thoughtful discussion, the matter was closed.

The Board adjourned at 7:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation