

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 9, 2023**

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: Doug Arone, Chris Beane, John Giovacco, Moe Ismael, Rich Sica, Tom Valente, Mike Ferrara, Jen Saxton, Chris Perneti, Patti DePhillips

Members Absent: Jeff Eischen

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

Tim Shanley, Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board

Guests Present: None

The minutes of the December 12, 2022 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Valente and seconded by John Giovacco. The motion was carried.

**Recreation Director’s Report:**

**New Board Member:**

Patti DePhillips was welcomed and introduced as our newest Board Member. Patti is a very active member of the community and the Board was excited to have her aboard.

**Volunteer and Parent Code of Conduct Review:**

The Director shared the current Code of Conduct that is signed off on by all parents and volunteer coaches. The 10 page document contains the Anti-Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying Policy, the Coaches and Parents Code of Conduct, and the Electronic Device Use Policy, all of which were discussed and explained by the Director.

**Re-Establishment of & Election to Code of Conduct Sub-Committee:**

The Director reviewed the need for a Code of Conduct Sub-Committee with the Board and explained its purpose. He advised that the Sub-Committee has been in place for several years so that Board members could review and decide on any situations involving coaches or parents who are alleged to have violated the Department’s Code of Conduct. Doug Arone made a motion to re-establish the Sub-Committee and Rich Sica seconded the motion. The vote to carry the motion was unanimous. After re-establishing the sub-committee, the Board appointed Chris Beane, Rich Sica, and Patti DePhillips as Code of Conduct Sub-Committee members. Jeff Eischen was appointed as an alternate.

**Re-Establishment of Reciprocal Facility Use & Facility Rental Policies:**

The Board unanimously approved the re-establishment of the Reciprocal Facility Use & Rental Policies for 2020. The reciprocal use policy establishes that there are relationships in place between the Township and other organizations such as Ramapo High School, Eastern Christian Middle School, the Torpedoes Soccer Club, the Wyckoff YMCA, and more wherein the facilities

of each are used by the other in exchange for similar uses of the other's facilities during the year for the benefit of our residents. No fees are collected for such use. The Facility Rental Policy dictates the cost for the rental of the Township's facilities and the procedures by which the Recreation Department may rent our fields and facilities and the need for the Recreation Board to approve all such rentals.

**Recommitment to Passive Recreation Programming in 2023:**

The Board reviewed the many passive programs established by the Department in 2015 and committed to continuing this type of programming going forward. The Board was advised by the Director that their assistance is required for some of the programs such as Movie Nights where setup and teardown help is needed during these events. The Director advised that advertising and programming has already begun for 2023 for our Arts and Crafts and Chess programs and we are looking to set the dates and movies for Movie Nights this year which have been very popular over our first six years.

**2023 Recreation Lacrosse Program Director Recommendations :**

The Director recommended three volunteers to head the Boys and Girls Lacrosse Programs in 2022. The recommended Program Directors are Craig Seyffer and Jeff Duca as the Boys Lacrosse Program Co-Directors and Mark Bachardy as the Girls Lacrosse Program Director. John Giovacco motioned to approve these three volunteers and Moe Ismael seconded the motion. These gentlemen were unanimously approved by the Board.

**Recreation Baseball & Softball and 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Lacrosse Registrations Ongoing:**

The Director announced that the Department is currently accepting online registrations for Spring Baseball and Softball, as well as our 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Lacrosse Clinic and that registration will end on February 6th. This is the 7th year that our 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Lacrosse Clinic will be outdoors (previously during the winter indoors) which is a tremendous benefit to the children who participate. The Recreation Department will continue to schedule 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade lacrosse so that it does not conflict in any way with baseball and softball so that parents can have their children participate in both if they so choose.

**Summer Camp Bids Awarded:**

The Director explained that the summer camps and seasonal clinic bids for youth sports clinics and camps, chess, and arts and crafts were awarded this past month to U.S. Sports Institute, Martin Kenny Chess, and The Happy Dance, LLC, respectively. These bids are good for two years with the option of extending them an additional two years provided the services are of a high quality and that the need still exists at that time.

**Ramapo Boys and Girls Soccer to be Recognized by Township Committee:**

The Ramapo Girls Varsity Soccer Team will be recognized by the Township Committee for their 2022 Group 3 State Championship. The Ramapo Boys Varsity Soccer Team will also be recognized for their second consecutive Bergen County Tournament Championship. The teams will attend the Township Committee meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

**8u Travel Baseball Tryouts:**

The 8u Travel Baseball tryouts will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The Director informed the Board that there are currently 54 boys signed up to try out and the hope is that we have one 1<sup>st</sup> grade team and two 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teams. As the week progresses and the tryouts draw nearer, the Director anticipates a few withdrawals so the decisions on how many teams will

depend on how many are actually at the tryout and what their ability level is. The Director will have an update at next month's meeting.

**Football Update:**

The Director reported that the football helmets used this year are being sent out for reconditioning tomorrow. This process is completed every year to ensure that the helmets are within their recommended life span and have not been damaged. Each helmet is cleaned and repainted and any necessary parts such as ear pads, inside liners, etc. are replaced. The Director advised the Board that the cost to perform the reconditioning each season increases every year and that this year's cost will exceed \$11,000 due to the increasing costs and the amount of children that we had playing in 2022.

**Open Comment Period:**

Tim Shanley reported that Scott Fisher, former DPW Manager, was sworn in recently as the 5<sup>th</sup> committeeman on the Wyckoff Township Committee. He is completing the term that was vacated when Melissa Rubenstein resigned from the Township Committee and will likely run for a full three year term in November.

Mr. Shanley also advised that he is planning on turning the newly acquired Maple Lake property, of which 20 acres will belong to the Township, into a passive recreation site with walking trails and possibly bike trails as well. There is much work to be done on the site in terms of clean up, debris removal, tree removal, etc. but when complete, it will be added to our lengthy list of parks where residents can enjoy nature while exercising.

**Report from Board Members:**

None

**New or Old Business:**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield

Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks