

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
April 17, 2023

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Wyckoff Public Library 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, Patti DePhillips, Jen Saxton, Moe Ismael, Mike Ferrara, Tom Valente, Rich Sica, Chris Perneti, Chris Beane

Members Absent: John Giovacco, Jeff Eischen

Staff Present: Recreation Director, Andy Wingfield

Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board, Tim Shanley

The minutes of the March 13, 2023 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mike Ferrara and seconded by Patti DePhillips. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Soccer Update for Grades 5-8:

The Director advised the Board that the Recreation Soccer program is going to reenter the Northwest Bergen Soccer Association (NWBSA) in the fall of 2023. For the past 3 years, we have participated in our own group with Franklin Lakes, Oakland, North Haledon, Mahwah, Ramsey, and Upper Saddle River to name a few. There is growing concern about the registration numbers declining and not giving us enough teams to play against, especially at the 7/8th grade level for both boys and girls. If the move back to the league is not made, the reality is that our teams could end up playing the same teams over and over again and that would not make for as positive an experience. We will continue to play amongst us, Franklin Lakes, and Oakland for 3/4th grade where we all have plenty of teams and only play each of the other teams once during the season. The Board agreed with the move back to the league for Grades 5/6 and 7/8.

Girls Travel Basketball Championships:

The Director reported that the Wyckoff Travel 7th Grade Team and both 8th Grade Teams won their league championship games at the Wayne PAL last weekend. All 3 teams played incredibly tough games, each coming back from deficits in the games to earn the victories. Coaches Perneti, Murtha, and Ameres were extended congratulations by the Board for not only the championship wins, but for volunteering their time for the girls and creating a positive environment for them to succeed.

Memorial Field Concession Stand/Bathroom Update:

The Director advised that steady progress has been made on the Memorial Field Press Box which will be completed in the coming weeks, well ahead of the 2023 football season.

Lacrosse:

The Director reported that Wyckoff Lacrosse Day will take place at Pulis Field on Saturday, May 13th and invited the Recreation Board to attend if even for a few minutes. It's an exciting day of lacrosse for all age levels of boys and girls.

Recreation Baseball and Softball Opening Day Ceremony Set:

The Director advised that Mayor Madigan and the Township Committee have been invited for the Recreation Baseball and Softball Opening Day Ceremony at Community Park on April 22nd at 9:15am. The morning will consist of a live singing of the National Anthem by Constantine Maroulis and the throwing out of the season's ceremonial first pitches by Mayor Madigan. Mr. Shanley advised that he would invite the rest of the Township Committee at Tuesday's Committee meeting.

Fall Registrations Ongoing:

The Director advised the Board that, in addition to Summer Camp registration opening, sign ups for Recreation Soccer, Football, Cheerleading, and Girls Volleyball ran during the past month and numbers are incredible, especially for cheerleading and volleyball. There are over 150 cheerleaders signed up for the fall, including 60 3rd graders alone! Volleyball has over 70 participants which is another record. Updates on summer camp registration numbers will be provided in May.

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. Bergen Aces: this Special Olympics tennis group requested the use of 2 tennis courts in the spring to practice for their Special Olympics participation.
2. Elevate Training – This physical training company would like to utilize Pulis and Memorial and Pulis Fields this spring for a flag football program for older children and a football skills and drills program for younger children.

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 Chris Beane.

Report From Board Members:

None

New Business:

None

Old Business:

None

The Board adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation