

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
January 15, 2024

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: None

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

Tom Madigan, Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board

Guests Present: None

The minutes of the December 11, 2023 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris Beane and seconded by Tom Valente. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director’s Report:

Jeff Eischen:

The Board acknowledged the sudden passing of long time volunteer coach and board member, Jeff Eischen and spoke at length about his many contributions to our program, having started the boys lacrosse program with Sal Sassano over 20 years ago. The Board suggested that the township do something to memorialize Jeff at one of our lacrosse fields. Several ideas were discussed and the Director asked the Board to think about it over the next month and to come to February’s meetings with some ideas that we can present to the Township Committee. The Board will miss Jeff’s wit, humor, and valuable contributions as not only a Rec Board member, but also as a friend.

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 for the second consecutive year as Code of Conduct Sub-Committee members.

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

The Board unanimously approved the re-establishment of the Reciprocal Facility Use & Rental Policies for 2024. 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 2024:

The Board reviewed the many passive programs established by the Department in 2015 and committed to continuing this type of programming going forward. The Director advised that advertising and programming has already begun for 2024 for our Arts and Crafts and Chess programs.

2024 Recreation Lacrosse Program Director Recommendations :

The Director recommended three volunteers to head the Boys and Girls Lacrosse Programs in 2024. 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 Rich Sica seconded the motion. These gentlemen were unanimously approved by the Board.

Recreation Baseball & Softball and 1st & 2nd Grade Lacrosse Registrations Ongoing:

The Director announced that the Department is currently accepting online registrations for Spring Baseball and Softball, as well as our 1st & 2nd Grade Lacrosse Clinic and that registration will end on February 4th. The Recreation Department will continue to schedule 1st and 2nd 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 when the kids are younger.

Summer Camp Bids Being Sought:

The Director explained that the bids for the grades K-5 and 6-8 Summer Day Camps have expired and are in need of rebidding. These bids will be 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. The bids are currently being advertised and will be opened on February 8th. The results of the bid will be shared with the Board in February.

8u Travel Baseball Tryouts:

The 8u Travel Baseball tryouts took place last week and concluded today. The Director informed the Board that there were approximately 36 boys trying out and that he will have an update at next month's meeting. The same independent evaluator that we've used for years completed the tryouts and will be communicating the results to the Recreation Department in the next couple of days, after which the Director will set out to find volunteer Head Coaches.

State Accepting Applications for Grants:

The Director advised the Board that the state is currently accepting applications for grants for recreational facility improvements. Mr. Madigan expressed an interest from residents in outdoor fitness equipment and this is an idea we can expand upon in February.

Report from Board Members:

Mr. Madigan advised the Board that construction on the bathrooms for the turf field at Memorial will likely be started within the next couple of months with the goal being completion by August. He also asked the Board to consider other ideas for goals and objectives for the year and to come to February's meeting with some ideas. The Director asserted that our Tennis Courts are in need of a complete overhaul which should be at the top of the list for either this year (fall) or next.

New or Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield

Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks