

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
April 8, 2024

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, Moe Ismael, Mike Ferrara, Tom Valente, Rich Sica, Chris Perneti, Chris Beane

Members Absent: Larry Berger, Jen Saxton

Staff Present: Recreation Director, Andy Wingfield

Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board, Tom Madigan

The minutes of the March 11, 2024 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Valente and seconded by Chris Beane. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director Report:

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. Football registration numbers are typical for our program with PeeWees leading the way with almost 80 registrants! Updates on summer camp registration numbers will be provided in May.

Girls Travel Basketball Finalists:

The Director reported that the Wyckoff Travel 4th Grade Team and 6th Grade Teams both made it to their respective championship games at the Wayne PAL last weekend. Both teams lost in the final game but Coaches Gormley and Aranda were extended congratulations by the Board for their very impressive seasons and all of our coaches were thanked for volunteering their time and effort during the winter basketball season.

Memorial Field Concession Stand/Bathroom Update:

The Director advised that the plans for the bathroom building at Memorial Field are just about finalized and work is planned to start next month. The thought is that the bathroom will definitely be done in time for football season. The Director did get a chance to review the plans and gave his input that urinals were necessary in at least one of the two rooms. The original plans did not call for any. This advice was heeded and one of the rooms will have one.

Lacrosse:

The Director reported that Wyckoff Lacrosse Day will take place at Pulis Field on Saturday, May 11th 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 Set:

The Director advised that the first games of the Recreation Baseball and Softball season will take place on Monday, April 22nd at 6pm. The season is starting later this year due to the late spring break at the schools. The Board discussed the Opening Day ceremony that we've been conducting over the past several years. Attendance has been sparse despite our efforts as it seems the kids and the parents just want to play the games. The date also always conflicts with Team Up to Tidy Up so the Township Committee has a very difficult time getting there as evidenced by last year when only Mayor Madigan was in attendance while the other committee members remained at Team Up to Tidy Up. An alternative was presented to Mayor Melchionne this month wherein he would throw out the first pitch at Community Day which the Baseball Boosters run and this year is taking place on June 8th. The Mayor liked the idea since it's a more widespread and better attended event. The Board agreed this would be a good alternative. The Director will inform Mayor Melchionne of the details for June 8th.

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. Wladyka Baseball & Complete Game Baseball – these two club baseball organizations would use our 60/90' baseball field at Memorial during the spring and summer during times it is available for practices and games.
2. Play at the Plate – This adult baseball organization runs a league for men and the local team would like to use the 60/90' baseball field at Memorial for its games on Sunday mornings.
3. Wyckoff YMCA – The YMCA applied for the use of Pulis Field for Wyckoff Day on June 1, 2024.

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 these 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 John Giovacco

Update on Lacrosse Wall at Pulis:

The Director informed the Board that he has completed his investigation into the cost of the Wall being erected in Jeff Eischen's and Jim Hogan's honors. The initial estimate, without considering donations or money or materials is approximately \$160,000. The application to the County for open space funds (they would provide half of the cost once the project is complete) has been submitted so we are now waiting on their decision. It will likely be a couple months before we hear but the project is heading in the right direction.

Report From Board Members:

Patti DePhillips advised the Board that a 5k charity event is being run in TJ Sullivan's memory on May 19th at Eisenhower Middle School. TJ was a resident of Wyckoff whose children continue to participate in our programs. He was known and loved by many before passing away recently, and all proceeds from the event will go to three of the family's favorite charities. Patti asked that all consider signing up for the run to either participate or even to help run the event.

New Business:

None

Old Business:

None

The Board adjourned at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation