

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

June 11, 2024

Chris Perneti opened the Recreation Board Regular Meeting at 7:30pm 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: John Giovacco, Rich Sica, Larry Berger, Patti DePhillips, Chris Perneti, Chris Beane

Members Absent: Tom Valente, Doug Arone, Moe Ismael, Mike Ferrara, Jen Saxton

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

Tom Madigan, Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board

Public Present: Mr. and Mrs. Chris Datino

The minutes of the May 13, 2024 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris Perneti and seconded by John Giovacco. The motion was carried.

Prior to the Director's Report, the Datino family was asked to discuss their concern with the Board. Chris and Donna spoke to the board and expressed their concern that over two consecutive weekends at Community Park, there were events that contained loud music coming from the field and at least one of those times was from a DJ. They had reported their concern over this past weekend to Tom Madigan. They had also emailed about the situation over the weekend which the Director was alerted to. Upon hearing about the loud music, the Director did call over to the field and asked them to turn the music down. The Datinos asked the Board if there were any rules against such loud music being played there to which the Director replied that any events must follow township ordinances regarding noise in relation to time of day but that music is allowed during events. They asked if we could limit such events with loud music to which the general answer is no since no ordinances are being violated but the Director advised that during this year, there are only 3-4 events that would involve music and we're already through 2 of them and that the 3rd was coming up with the big softball tournament that our boosters run. The Datinos were relieved to hear that this wouldn't be an every weekend occurrence and asked that the Director at least consider the neighborhood when addressing requests to utilize the fields for events other than sporting events.

The Board thanked the Datinos for coming and discussed the matter after they left the meeting. In short, the Director will convey to all parties who request the use of the field that there is a neighborhood very close to the field and to please consider that when deciding on what type of music to play. But in the end, it's a venue where music is allowed to be played and we can only ask that they keep it to tolerable levels.

Recreation Director Report:

Girls Volleyball Update:

The Director advised the Board that, after reviewing the huge numbers we are getting in this program, he was able to accommodate 24 more girls to enter the program bringing us to a total of 96 participants. He is adding a day and adding 2 more teams so that most of the girls that want to play are able to. The Board was pleased with the fact that we could expand the program since it seems this is a program that “wants to grow.”

Travel Baseball and Softball Season:

The Director reported that the spring travel baseball and softball seasons will be coming to a close within the next week as the teams head toward the playoffs this week. The summer seasons will be starting shortly thereafter and end by the end of July.

Summer Camp:

The Director advised that the Grades 6-8 Summer Camp is being canceled due to lack of interest. Only a handful of kids registered and no more interest was found after emailing everyone in our database. We will revisit this program next year and possibly cancel it altogether if numbers don't increase. The Director cited the extensive array of camps in the area, even in town, for the low turnout.

Fall Registration Complete:

It was communicated that all fall registrations are complete and while more will sign up during the summer, we have a good grasp on our numbers for the fall. Football and cheerleading continue to have historic numbers, especially cheer. More than 180 cheerleaders have registered for the fall with 3rd and 4th grade leading the way with over 110. While this is positive news, the decision had to be made for parents of cheerleaders to begin buying the uniforms. The outdated uniforms we have are not replaceable and the “rec level” uniforms we purchased last year were not of sufficient quality and received many complaints. In order for this program to continue being one of the best and biggest around, new and better quality uniforms are required and the Recreation budget simply can't handle a purchase of that magnitude. The department negotiated with several vendors to get the best uniforms at the best prices. Feedback has been generally positive especially when the reasoning and the alternatives are brought to parent's attention.

Recreation Baseball/Softball/Lacrosse Review – Seasons Complete:

The Director advised that the spring Recreation season is complete. The biggest highlight of the season was that our 8th grade boys lacrosse team, for the first time ever, made it to the league championship final. They won their semifinal game which the Director was able to get played at Ramapo High School and then lost in a great final game.

Regarding last month's discussion on lacrosse restrictions, the Director advised that the Program Directors may want to add another level to lacrosse so making any policy updates at this time will only create double work in the future. Once those decisions are made, we will discuss whether restrictions of playing two sports at once within our program is still desirable.

Finally, regarding the discussion of purchasing new equipment for football next season using funds that were not previously used, this will not be able to occur as the Director received a report from Riddell that indicates that we will have several helmets “expiring” in the next year to

two years so those funds will be needed for new helmets. The Board understood and agreed that helmets should be the top priority for new purchases.

Grant Request:

The Director reported that our grant request for new adult fitness equipment surrounding the Russell Farms walking track has been approved by the county. We will receive \$66,000 in matching funds to greatly improve the passive recreational area at Russell Farms. Some work is yet to be done at the Township Committee and county levels, but the Director anticipates purchasing the new equipment within the next two months.

Report From Board Members:

Larry Berger advised that our two 9u travel baseball teams have advanced to the Maywood Tournament finals and expressed concern that our two teams split into A and B should have to play each other. The Director thanked Larry for bringing this up and advised the Board that he has already had a lengthy discussion with both of our coaches and we agreed that the game would not be played and that we would simply ask the league to make both teams “co-champions.”

John Giovacco addressed the concern of many out of town basketball players utilizing our courts. The Director and Mr. Madigan advised that the courts were built using grant money and that we are not permitted to restrict access to out of towners.

New Business:

None

Old Business:

None

The Board adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Parks & Recreation Director