

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
November 12, 2018**

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation Office at 195 Woodland Avenue 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, Moe Ismael, Tom Valente, Rich Sica, Jeff Eischen, Mike Ferrara, Heather Alnor

Members Absent: Ann Smith, Sue Buchanan, Hayley Rooney

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

Tim Shanley, Township Committee Liaison to the Recreation Board

Guests Present: Resident & Program Coach, John Giovacco

The minutes of the October 15, 2018 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jeff Eischen and seconded by Chris Beane. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director’s Report:

Discussion: 8th Grade “Repeats”:

The Director introduced the topic of whether or not the Recreation Program should be allowing children who graduate 8th grade, but don’t immediately move on to high school, to participate in our program which typically ends with 8th grade. Many ideas were discussed including going to age cutoffs, not allowing those “repeat 8th graders” to participate altogether, allowing them if we participate in a league if the league allows it by birthdate, and more. For example, the football league we participate in has instituted a rule that anyone that has graduated 8th grade is not permitted to play in the league. Therefore, we would not allow it either. Lacrosse, on the other hand, is strictly by age and allows it so long as they meet the age requirement. The general consensus was that we would follow league guidelines where they apply and come up with our own rule for our in-town recreation sports. The matter was tabled and will be discussed and decided on at future meetings.

Football Season Complete:

The Director reported that the Football/Cheer season has come to an end. Our PeeWee, Junior and Senior teams all lost in the opening round of their playoffs but played competitively throughout the season with all of them making the “top bracket” playoffs in the league.

There was some controversy within the league at the PeeWee level at the end of the season. It involved several programs sharing and exchanging game film with each other which is illegal in our league. Each program that was involved was eliminated from the playoffs and the coaches involved may face further penalties. Wyckoff was not among the programs who participated in the film swaps and, therefore, face no penalties from the league.

Recreation Basketball Head Coach Recommendations:

The Director presented a list of Recreation Head Coaches for boys and girls basketball from 3rd-8th grade to the Board. After a brief review of the names, Chris Beane motioned to approve all of the recommended coaches and Heather Alnor seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Travel Basketball Tryouts Complete:

The Board Chairman reported that tryouts for the 2019 winter Travel Basketball teams are complete. The Department will, once again, have a 3rd grade boys team and two teams (A and B) from the 4th grade level through the 8th grade level. On the girls side, we have a 3rd grade team, two teams at the 4th grade level, a 5th grade team, a 7th grade team and two 8th grade teams. The tryout evaluation process by the independent third party vendor from outside the area was, once again, a success. The teams have begun practicing and will start playing games in December. The Director reported that the group of 6th grade girls that would have typically played in Wyckoff decided to move over to an AAU program because this group simply doesn't have anyone that can coach the team. When reviewing whether to hire a coach for this group or simply move over to the AAU program, it was deemed financially and practically better for them to go AAU. The Director attempted to reach out to families to have other girls tryout for this level but only received two replies. Wyckoff will not field a 6th grade girls travel basketball team this winter.

Travel Basketball Head Coach Recommendations:

The Board Chairman presented a list of boys and girls Travel Basketball Head Coaches for boys from 3rd-8th grade to the Board. After a brief review of the names, Mike Ferrara motioned to approve all of the recommended coaches and Jeff Eischen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Fall Seasons Winding Down:

The Chairman reported that, in addition to Football and Cheerleading, Recreation Soccer and girls Volleyball are also winding down. Both programs are running smoothly and, as usual, positive feedback continues to come in for the girls Volleyball program, one of our newer additions to our expansive list of programs.

Open Comment Period:

Moe Ismael brought up the wrestling program and the desire within the program to grow the program in numbers and how this will ultimately size them out of the facility they practice in at Ramapo (lower gym). Moe advised that there is ongoing discussion among the leadership and coaches and that a new facility may be needed as early as next season. The Director will work with the wrestling program to attempt to find a new facility that would be more practical and convenient for the participants, coaches, and parents.

Report from Board Members:

New or Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Recreation & Parks