

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**August 17, 2015**

Tom Valente opened the Recreation Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Courtroom of Wyckoff Town Hall 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: Tom Valente, Heather Alnor, Rob Lahue, Moe Ismael, Rich Sica, Doug Arone, Chris Beane, Jeff Eischen

Members Absent: Sue Buchanan, Ed Pettit

Staff Present: Recreation Director Andy Wingfield, Township Committee Liaison Brian Scanlan

Guests Present: None

The minutes of the June 15, 2015 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes of that meeting was made by Bobby Lahue and seconded by Doug Arone. The motion was carried.

**Recreation Director's Report:**

**Bergen County Open Space Grant Discussion:**

The Director reported that the Township Committee approved the Board's recommendation for the 2016 round of Open Space grant funding from Bergen County. In addition to resurfacing the asphalt on the severely cracked facility, the support structures for each of the 6 baskets which are all heaving and leaning to some degree, and the baskets themselves, would also be replaced. The Director will report back to the Board when the application is reviewed and approved by Bergen County.

**Recreation Summer Clinic Program Success:**

The Director reported that the Department's Summer Sports Clinic programs achieved tremendous success this summer as did our Summer Day Camp program. Our Cheerleading clinic, which typically has anywhere from 12-18 girls, had over 60 girls this summer. Our Volleyball clinic, where numbers have been around 10-15 for the past 3-4 years, had over 40 girls. Baseball numbers climbed this year by double from around 12 participants to 25. Further, the Department's Summer Camp numbers reached their highest levels since 2011. In addition to reaching new heights in several of these programs, the Director reported that the feedback on the clinics this year was very complimentary with parents pointing out that our summer employees were great with the kids and that their children had a great time.

**Movie Night Success:**

The Director reported that the Department's first Movie Night was a big hit with families in town. Attendance was reported around 150 and a great time was had by all. The Wyckoff

Softball Boosters sold popcorn, candy, and water which added to the great atmosphere and the event was attended by the Suburban News who published an article about the event. The Director advised that the next Movie Night would be held on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> and the hope was that attendance would be even greater at the 2<sup>nd</sup> event. The Director also requested assistance from the Board at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Movie Night in order to reduce the time it takes to set up and take down the equipment.

The Director reminded the Board that the Outdoor Movie System was purchased by the Recreation Department but that the cost would be split between the Department and the Coolidge School PTO, thereby creating the need for an Agreement between the two groups as to the system's use, storage, and other items. An Agreement was devised by Bobby Lahue and reviewed/revised in the past month and the Director presented the final version to the Board for their review. After a brief discussion, Rich Sica motioned to approve the signing of the Agreement by the Recreation Department Director and Tom Valente seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Director will sign off on the Agreement and forward to the Coolidge PTO for their signatures.

#### **Resolution #15-111 / Facility Rental Review**

The Director requested, 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; 1 application was discussed by the Board and approved for use/rental. The application at this meeting was for:

1. NJ Hurricanes Baseball Club – this is a local club baseball organization requesting the use of Wyckoff Community Park, 475 Wyckoff Avenue and Memorial Field, 340 Franklin Avenue, for the purpose of conducting baseball practices and games. The estimated revenue from this facility rental would be \$500.

The Director noted that his review with the Township Administrator of the application, Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement, and Certificate of Insurance for this request determined the applications to be in order.

The Recreation Board unanimously approved both of the applications after a motion to approve them was made by Heather Alnor and seconded by Chris Beane.

#### **Soccer Grade K-12 Head Coach Recommendations:**

The Director provided his recommendations for Head Coaches for the entire soccer program from Grades K-12. After reviewing the list of names, Tom Valente motioned and Rich Sica seconded to approve the entire list of coaches for the 2015 fall season. All were in favor.

#### **Travel Sports Tryout Fee Recommendation:**

The Director asked for the Board's advice on adding a Tryout Fee for those who wish to tryout for a travel sport in town (Softball, Baseball, Basketball). Due to the fact that the Department is now paying private vendors to run our tryouts, there is a need to recoup those costs from the participants. The Director advised that the fee would be somewhere in the \$20 range but that a firm price would be determined later should the Board decide this fee is in order. After a lengthy

discussion, a motion by Doug Arone to add the fee to our programming and a second by Moe Ismael, the Board unanimously agreed that since the Department is paying to conduct its tryouts, the participants should share in that cost and that the appropriate fee should be added to our registrations. The Director will move forward in negotiating a fair price with the vendors and then determine how much this new fee should be. The Director will also forward the Board's recommendation to add this fee to the Township Committee for their review and approval.

### **Football Booster Update**

The Director updated the Board on the status of the new Board. In June, the Board was advised that a meeting had been called by the Director, in the absence of an executive football booster board President or Vice President, in which all football families were invited to attend in the hopes that a new President could be elected in order to begin work on the 2015 football season. At that meeting, with approximately 16 football families represented, a motion from the group to nominate Andrew Basa as new Booster President was made and seconded. Everyone was unanimous that Mr. Basa would do a great job in continuing the work that those before had started and, by a show of hands, was unanimously elected by the football parents. Immediately following, a motion and second were made for Roger Schnorrbusch to be elected the Football Booster Vice President and, again, all in attendance were in favor. Upon their election, the Director advised them of the substantial donation from the previous Booster Board to the Recreation Department and that the Recreation Board had tabled the acceptance of this donation until such time that the new Board could evaluate their financial situation and determine if they would like to see the donation go through or retract the donation if necessary. After reviewing their financial status and 2015 needs at their first executive board meeting and voting on the matter at their first public meeting, the new Booster Board advised the Director last month that they would be withdrawing the donation and using it for the Football program for 2015 and beyond. The Boosters did, however, offer to assist the Department with any major purchases they may have in order to offset the costs of those purchases. The Recreation Board understood their decision and considers the matter closed.

### **Football Update**

With practices kicking off this evening, the Director provided a list of Tackle Football Coaches to the Recreation Board for its approval. After reviewing the list, Chris Beane made a motion to accept the list of coaches and Tom Valente seconded the motion. All were in favor. Additionally, Eric Knight, a volunteer coach in our program in his 10<sup>th</sup> year, has volunteered to take over the Football Program Director role that was vacated when Pat O'Hagan resigned after 15 years this past summer. Jeff Eischen motioned for Eric Knight to assume these duties and Heather Alnor seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Director also informed the Board that he would be attending a league wide meeting next week to iron out and finalize the entire football game schedule. The game schedule, which did not get finalized last year until the season had begun, will be available this year weeks before the start of the season. The Director's plan is to have it out to the football and cheerleading parents the week of 8/24 which will be almost 1 month before games begin. The decision to approve certified athletic trainers was made final at the last football league meeting so each game will now be covered by a professional who can diagnose and treat injuries to our players right on the

scene and make recommendations to parents as to further action. This is a major safety improvement for our program and for our entire league in general.

Finally, the Director advised the Board that the makeup of our football teams will change in 2015. Due to the structure of the league and the teams playing in it, and the fact that we have the numbers at all levels to provide two completely separate teams to the league who will each vie for a championship at season's end, it will become important for our coaches to split our teams up more evenly than in the past when the teams were split based on skill level, size, position played, and age into distinct A/B/C teams where the best players played A, the second best played B, and so on. With both of our "Green" and "White" teams competing with the A teams from across the county, it has become necessary to split the teams more evenly so that both teams are given a competitive chance to succeed within their own divisions. Our coaches will be dealing with that challenge over the next several weeks and will have rosters ready in time for Opening Day on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Open Comment Period:**

None - no public present

**Report from Board Members:**

No report.

**New or Old Business:**

The Director reported to the Board that the Bandshell at Memorial Field adjacent to the Wyckoff Library was vandalized in late July. Someone had thrown a very large rock through the roof of the structure exposing the structural beams and damaging the ceiling as well. The Director also communicated his concern that children are constantly on top of the Bandshell and when evaluating the damage last month from atop the roof, his fear that someone could either fall through or off the roof was elevated. On one occasion last week, the Director had to ask 9 teenagers to get off the roof, two of which were sitting over the front edge of the structure. The Board agreed that the Bandshell was not providing any use for the Recreation Department and hasn't over the past several years and that the facility is only used twice a year, once by the Fire Department and once by the Eastern Christian Country Fair. With the heightened awareness that someone could be seriously injured from a fall from the Bandshell, the Board advised that the Township Engineer, DPW Manager, and Township Committee should make the final decision as to the status of the structure but that if it was determined to be unsafe by our staff, the Township would have the Recreation Board's full support in removing the structure from Memorial Field. The Director will communicate this with the Township Committee and update the Board in September.

Brian Scanlan reported to the Board that a plan is in motion to enhance Russell Farms further by putting in a garden between the parking lot and the Dutch barn. The area will also have separate walkways and stone walls. Mr. Scanlan will update the Board as the plan progresses further.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield

Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation