

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
October 19, 2015**

Tom Valente opened the Recreation Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Courtroom of Town Hall at 340 Franklin 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: Tom Valente, Heather Alnor, Rob Lahue, Moe Ismael, Rich Sica, Doug Arone, Chris Beane, Sue Buchanan

Members Absent: Jeff Eischen, Ed Pettit

Staff Present: Recreation Director Andy Wingfield

Guests Present: None

The minutes of the September 21, 2015 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes of that meeting was made by Heather Alnor and seconded by Doug Arone. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director’s Report:

Travel Baseball & Softball Tryouts Complete:

The Director reported that the first year of our new tryout process involving independent evaluators at our baseball and softball tryouts is complete. At each of the baseball tryouts over a two week period, the Director held a parent meeting to explain the new process and introduce the evaluators from Wladyka Baseball in Rutherford. The new procedure included the independent company coming in to run the tryouts and provide the Recreation Department with the final results, our own town coaches and the Recreation Department staff not participating or being in attendance at the tryouts. It was explained to the parents at the meeting that the new procedure was put in effect to eliminate the perception of bias in our travel sport programs.

The Director reported that there will be two baseball teams at every level from 9u-13u again next year but there was insufficient interest at the 14u level so there would be no team for 14u. For travel softball, we will also have two u10 & u12 teams again next spring/summer.

Travel Basketball Tryouts Starting Week of 10/29:

The Director advised that our travel basketball tryouts will begin for girls on 10/29 and boys on 11/9. The same new procedure will take place in which an independent evaluating company will be running the tryouts and communicating the results to the Recreation Department. Those results will then be shared with the families of the children who try out.

Lacrosse Registration for Boys and Girls Ongoing – Girls Program Modification:

After meeting with the Girls Lacrosse Program Director last month, a recommendation has been made to change the structure of the 5th-8th grade girls program from two grades per level to single grades per level. This will allow the girls to practice and compete against children their own age and will help significantly in their development. The Recreation Board approved the change to single grade after hearing the benefits of the change. Additionally, the 3rd and 4th grade girls program will become an in-town clinic style program so that the girls in their first years of playing lacrosse can develop their skills in a setting more conducive to beginners rather than attempting to compete against girls from other towns. The Recreation Board was unanimously in favor of this change as well. This change will be implemented in the 2016 season.

Eastern Christian Children's Retreat Country Fair Incident

The Director shared a letter from the ECCR Country Fair Committee that indicated that one of our volunteer football coaches was not cooperative at the end of the Fair when the cleanup committee of the Fair was breaking down the field and asked the coach to take his team off the field while they were cleaning up. Instead of taking his team off the field, he simply moved to another area of the field. When it became clear that none of the coaches knew about the incident or would admit to it, the Director advised the Board that our entire coaching staff had been sent an email indicating that they will be forbidden use of the field in the future when the Fair is conducting its activities. Additionally, the Director will try to have the football league schedule games at another location during the weekend of the Country Fair.

Football Update

With the football season underway, the Director has received some complaints from the 3rd grade level from parents whose children are playing in the scheduled B games but not in positions they would have hoped. In discussions with the head of the football program, it became obvious that the new league, while many positive changes have been realized, does not give us everything that the old league did. Specifically, there is no Pee Wee (3/4th grade) "C" schedule for those children who may need another year of growth and experience to be able to compete in B games, sometimes against other towns? A players who are much bigger and stronger than some of our 3rd graders. As a solution, the Director asked the program director and coaches to identify those boys who would benefit from a C level (developmental) schedule and set about finding teams to play. A four game schedule was developed for these players against Franklin Lakes, Midland Park, Glen Rock, and Oakland over 4 consecutive Tuesday nights. Referees were assigned, the football boosters were informed so they could open the Concession Stand, and trainers were assigned (except to the first game which was an accidental omission). The Director feels this will give our 3rd graders an additional opportunity to play against teams of equivalent size and experience which will help them to develop outside of games where the size and experience matchups were uneven. The Board felt this was an outstanding solution to the 3rd grade concerns and it was agreed that this solution would carry over into next year.

Open Comment Period:

None - no public present

Report from Board Members:

Bobby Lahue suggested that an email go out to the recreation soccer players about a future game at the High School so they could enjoy a high school level soccer game among their teammates and friends in the soccer program. The Director advised that he would email the entire program about a boys Bergen County tournament game that was coming up next weekend.

Bobby also made a suggestion that all rosters for our recreation programs that are sent to the coaches indicate whether or not those wishing to assistant coach had completed all the requirements of a coach (Rutgers class, background check, and concussion certificate). The Director advised that anyone marked on the roster as an assistant in the future, will be removed if one of the 3 requirements is not met and head coaches will be advised that anyone without an "A" next to their name ("A"ssistant), is missing of the 3 requirements.

Moe Ismael reported to the Board that our new Girls Volleyball program is an amazing success. Coach Parks is doing an outstanding job teaching the game to the girls and the girls are really taking to the game. The Director advised that he, too, has received several positive remarks about the new program. The Board expressed confidence that this program will become very popular over the next several years.

New or Old Business:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield

Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation