

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 21, 2015**

Tom Valente opened the Recreation Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Wyckoff Recreation Office at 200 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: Tom Valente, Heather Alnor, Rob Lahue, Moe Ismael, Rich Sica, Doug Arone, Chris Beane, Jeff Eischen, Sue Buchanan, Ed Pettit

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Recreation Director Andy Wingfield

Guests Present: None

The minutes of the August 17, 2015 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes of that meeting was made by Doug Arone and seconded by Moe Ismael. The motion was carried.

**Recreation Director’s Report:**

**Motion to Expand Roller Hockey Clinic to Include Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade:**

The Director reported that the Roller Hockey Director requested an expansion of the age limitations in our Roller Hockey Clinic program. He asked that Kindergarteners and 1<sup>st</sup> graders be allowed to participate in the program as it is non-contact and purely instructional. This will be a way to increase interest among younger participants in one of our winter programs. Rich Sica made a motion to include Kindergarteners and 1<sup>st</sup> graders in the program and Heather Alnor seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous so the Director will expand the registration ages and publicize the new ages immediately.

**Little League Baseball Age Cutoff Change and its Effect on Wyckoff Travel Baseball:**

The Director reported that Little League Baseball has changed the age cutoff for 8 and 9 year olds for the 2016 season and that by 2018, all age groups will be following the new cutoff. Previously, the date of the age cutoff was April 30<sup>th</sup>. Little League has changed it to August 31<sup>st</sup> which makes the children eligible for each age group younger on the whole. Although Wyckoff is not a participant in the Little League organization, the rule change will have an effect on all leagues and tournaments that we participate in so the Director advised that Wyckoff Recreation will also be forced to change the age cutoff along with every other town in the area. Our 8u and 9u teams are affected the most but our 10u group is as well because when the age cutoff goes live for all levels in 2018, current 10u kids whose birthdates fall between April 30 and August 31 will be forced to miss their 12u season which is the season that the teams go to Cooperstown for an end of year week long tournament. The Recreation Board agreed that it would be wise to

encourage those affected players to move up as early as possible so that the transition in 2018 is a smooth one. With registration for travel baseball ongoing and tryouts commencing next month, the Director advised that the age ranges for our 8u and 9u levels will be updated to the new rule and that those entering 10u will be allowed to move up to 11u for the 2016 season if they feel comfortable doing so.

**Football Coach Approval:**

The Director presented a list of Assistant Football Coaches for the 2015 season for review. The Board reviewed the list of potential coaches and after a motion to approve the coaches was made by Chris Beane and seconded by Rich Sica, the Board voted unanimously to approve the entire list.

**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. AC Milan Over 30 Mens Soccer Team – this is a local mens soccer team with Wyckoff residents participaint requesting the use of Wyckoff Community Park, 475 Wyckoff Avenue and Memorial Field, 340 Franklin Avenue, for the purpose of conducting adult soccer games. The estimated revenue from this facility rental would be \$500. Their application is for the use of the Pulis Turf Facility and/or the Community Park Soccer Field and included dates in the fall and spring. The Director made is clear to the Board that the only field available to this group is the Community Park Soccer Field and that only the dates in the Fall are being addressed at this point as the spring schedule varies greatly from the fall schedule.

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 the application, but only for the use of Community Park during the fall, after a motion to approve them was made by Ed Pettit and seconded by Jeff Eischen.

**Travel Sports Tryout Fee Recommendation:**

The Director updated the Board on their recommendation from last month to institute a tryout fee for those trying out for our travel teams since we are now hiring independent evaluators who the Township will have to pay for their efforts. Immediately following the last Board meeting, the Director negotiated a fee with the companies that will be conducting our baseball and basketball tryouts. Each company agreed to charge \$15 per participant so this \$15, with the approval of the Township Committee, has been added as a fee to our travel tryout online registration.

### **Board of Education Building Use Fee Introduced & Implemented:**

During the past month, the Director, the Township Administrator and members of the Township Committee met with the Superintendent of Wyckoff Schools regarding building/gym usage during the winter for the Recreation Department's Basketball program, specifically on Saturdays. The Board of Ed has to pay overtime to its custodial vendor to come in on Saturdays and were it not for our program needing the gyms, the buildings would not be required to be opened. The Saturday usage generates approximately \$12,000 in overtime expenditures for the Board of Education and this amount has increased over the past couple of years due to the increased programming of the Recreation Department when we added 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade basketball to the list of activities for the residents. It was agreed between the Township and the Board of Ed that this cost for Saturday building usage would become the responsibility of the Township and that this cost would have to be added to the registration fee for all Recreation basketball programs that utilize the Board of Education buildings on Saturdays in the winter. It was determined that if each participant paid an additional \$13 for their basketball participation, the Township could cover the overtime costs at the Board of Education buildings. This \$13 has been added to all of our Recreation Basketball program registration fees that use the buildings on Saturdays in the winter.

### **Movie Night:**

The Director reported that the Department's second movie night on August 20<sup>th</sup> was an even greater success than our first effort with attendance more than doubling to around 400 parents and children. The Department is looking forward to next spring/summer where we will again present two movie nights for the residents at Memorial Field.

### **Memorial Field Bandshell**

The Director reported that, upon the Recreation Board's request to have Township Staff assess the Bandshell's structural integrity and safety, a meeting was held this month at the Bandshell where it was agreed that the roof and the structure supporting the roof of the Bandshell had become structurally unsound and unsafe for children to play in or on. It was agreed by all in attendance that the Bandshell would be removed during the fall or early winter to eliminate the safety concern and that the area would be filled with soil and seeded once the structure was removed. The Board supported this decision unanimously.

### **Addition to Township Website Q & A**

The Director reported that a new Q & A form was added to the Township website ([www.wyckoff-nj.com](http://www.wyckoff-nj.com)) that details the process for becoming a volunteer coach in town. The administrative requirements, such as taking the Rutgers Safety course and completing a criminal background check with the Recreation Department, were described in detail and placed on the website so that residents could easily access this information in a way other than having to place a phone call or send an email to the Recreation Department. Bobby Lahue recommended one addition to the Q & A which was to add to the criminal background section the criminal acts that would prevent someone from being able to volunteer. The Director will look to add these disqualifiers to the website so that coaches with acts from their pasts that they may have been arrested for know if they are eligible to coach in town.

### **Football Update**

After much off season planning and preparation by a host of volunteers and Township staff, the 2015 Wyckoff Football season began with its first games this weekend. In addition to an incredibly successful Opening Day Pep Rally at Memorial Field on Friday, 9/18, the Football Boosters created a tremendous atmosphere for our teams on Saturday night for our first A games and on Sunday afternoon for our first B games. Coaches from other programs have already emailed the Recreation Department about the “electric” atmosphere this past weekend at our field and advised that Wyckoff continues to provide a positive environment for our kids. The Board was excited to hear that the season kicked off on a very positive note. In addition to the snackstand being fully staffed by volunteers, an extra referee as obtained to run the clock for all A and B games and certified athletic trainers were present at all games. Our teams won a few and lost a few which indicates that the competition level has already increased which is a positive change from last season as well.

### **Open Comment Period:**

None - no public present

### **Report from Board Members:**

The Board expressed disappointment that they were not made aware of the installation of the new gate at the end of Woodland Avenue which prevents traffic from entering or exiting the facility at that end of the parking lot. The Director advised that this was a matter that was brought before the Township Committee and one they had to act on immediately due to the concerns of residents in that section of town. That exit/entrance was being used as a cut-through by residents and non-residents and there was a safety concern expressed due to the speed at which vehicles passed through the very narrow residential streets there. The Board advised that other concerns have developed due to the gate being installed, specifically drop off and pickup at football practices. The Director did relay to the Board that the gate may be opened during specific heavy volume events at the Memorial Field facility for easier traffic flow but for now, the gate would remain closed for our regular activities due to the concern for the narrow entrance/exit opening that was never meant to be used for traffic, and the volume and speed at which vehicles travel on the long, straight and narrow residential streets.

### **New or Old Business:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Andy Wingfield  
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation