

WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
July 12, 2021

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Regular Meeting at 7:30pm via Zoom conference call 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, Jen Saxton, Rich Sica, Chris Perneti, Chris Beane, Mike Ferrara, Jeff Eischen

Members Absent: Moe Ismael, Tom Valente, Sue Buchanan, John Giovacco

Staff Present: Andy Wingfield, Recreation Director

Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board, Tim Shanley

The minutes of the June 14, 2021 meeting were discussed. After a correction to the attendance at that meeting was made, a motion to approve the corrected minutes was made by Chris Beane and seconded by Rich Sica. The motion was carried.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Board Returns to In-Person Meetings

The Director welcomed the Board back to our first in person meeting since February 2020.

Recreation Programs Recognize One Year Anniversary of Return to Play Post Pandemic

The Director advised the Board that exactly one year has passed since the Recreation Department’s programming returned to action. Back in July of 2020, our travel baseball and softball teams took to the fields after being shut down since March. Our programs have flourished during the difficult time of COVID-19 and the Director acknowledged that our volunteer coaches and parents should be given a lot of credit for the success of our program. Many towns shut down everything through this past winter while we adapted to the new landscape and gave the residents of Wyckoff something to look forward to week in and week out. Getting out of the house, exercising, competing, and simply playing have brought the Wyckoff children back to a normal environment.

Lightning Detection System - Update

The Director reported that the SIM cards that are necessary to bring internet to the facilities where our Lightning Detection systems are installed have finally arrived and they would be installed at Community Park and Pulis Field this week. We are still awaiting the arrival of the final piece of equipment for Memorial Field to get that system up and running. The Director is also investigating whether or not there is a phone app or website where our coaches can see the status of the lightning delay based on lightning strikes in the area.

Travel Baseball and Softball Season:

The Director reported that the travel baseball season will be coming to a close within the next 2 weeks as the teams head toward the playoffs next week. Travel softball will run through at least the end of July and some teams will compete in the playoffs until the first week of August.

Several of our teams have won local championships including our 10u Baseball team who won the Maywood Firecracker Tournament, one of our 8u teams also winning their division of the Maywood Firecracker Tournament, one of our 9u baseball teams who won the Wyckoff Travel Baseball Father's Day Tournament, and our u10 softball team who recently won the championship in the Wyckoff Travel Softball tournament held at Community Park. The Wyckoff Travel Baseball Boosters, after a one year hiatus due to the pandemic, held their Travel Baseball Dinner this past Saturday where a good time was had by all and funds were raised for the program. A situation on one of our travel softball teams in which a player's family has decided that club softball is a more appropriate path for them was also discussed. No action was taken on this matter.

Summer Volleyball & Roller Hockey Clinics Complete Successful Weeks

The Director reported that 55 girls participated in the 2 week girls Volleyball clinic this month and another 20 boys and girls joined in the fun at the Roller Hockey clinic last week. The town approved Lacrosse Summer Camp run by Emerge Lacrosse is running this week and our Summer Tennis Camp takes place next week. Teels Baseball Camp started its week long sessions this week as well and we are looking forward to Bergen's Best Soccer Camp running in early August.

Summer Camp Running Smoothly

The Director advised that the first week of our Summer Day Camp, run by the Wyckoff YMCA, ran last week and that week 2 started today. Early reports are that the children are having fun at camp and many are trying to register after hearing the positive feedback. The YMCA is accepting late comers but only to the maximum allowed based on the staff they hired. One complaint was registered today regarding the requirement for the children to wear masks when indoors. The complaint was elevated to the YMCA and the leadership there is going to review the most current guidelines set forth by the state of NJ.

Facility Use/Rental Applications Review/Approval

Mr. Arone requested the Board review the following field use application, 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. One application was discussed by the Board and approved for use/rental. The applications at this meeting included the following:

1. Challenge U Softball, Wyckoff NJ – this is a youth softball training company who would like to hold their team tryouts at our fields on August 4th and 5th. Provided there are no conflicts on the field that weekend, the Director advised we could accommodate them. Their paperwork, including insurance, is in order.
2. Big Shot Ballers, Montville NJ – This is a youth basketball training company who would like to run training sessions once a week on our basketball courts for 2 hours.

The Director advised the Board that the Director reviewed the applications, Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreements, and Certificates of Insurance for these requests determined the applications to be in order.

Finding the applications in order, the Recreation Board unanimously approved the above application after a motion to approve them was made by Chris Beane and seconded by Jeff Eischen.

Football Update – Rule Changes

The Director reported that the league that we participate in for tackle football has approved 3 rule changes. They relate to increased weight limits so that more children can participate, safer mercy rules so that younger children are not forced to compete against bigger, stronger, more mature opponents for more than a few plays at a time, and kickoffs which have been reinstated at the senior level but with no onside kicks allowed as they provide for a very dangerous play to occur which the league finds unsafe and unnecessary at the youth level. The Board applauded our football leadership and the league for constantly looking out for the safety of our players.

Football Head Coach Recommendations:

Mr. Shanley recommended that we discuss and approve the Football Head Coaches and Program Director at this meeting since football officially starts prior to our next meeting and since John Albanese, our long time senior head coach, has stepped down. The Director agreed and made the following recommendations:

1. Eric Knight – Program Director and PeeWee Head Coach
2. Tim Murtha – Junior Head Coach
3. Marty Magerko – Senior Head Coach

Mike Ferrara made a motion to approve the above list and Rich Sica seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Board, for the record, also wished to express its thanks to John Albanese for his years of volunteer coaching in the program. While John will continue to assist this year where needed at the senior level, his last several years as Head Coach of the senior team have been successful and are appreciated.

The Board adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation