

**WYCKOFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**February 12, 2024**

Doug Arone opened the Recreation Board Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. 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, John Giovacco, Chris Beane, Moe Ismael, Patti DePhillips, Rich Sica, Tom Valente, Jen Saxton, Chris Perneti

Members Absent: Mike Ferrara

Staff Present: Recreation Director, Andy Wingfield

Township Committee Liaison to Recreation Board, Tom Madigan

The minutes of the January 15, 2024 meeting were discussed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Moe Ismael and seconded by Tom Valente. The motion was carried.

**Recreation Director Report:**

**8u Travel Baseball Tryouts Complete:**

The Director advised the Board that the 2024 8u travel baseball tryouts are complete and that two 8u teams comprised of mostly 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and some first graders have been formed. The independent evaluators reported that the tryouts went well and that the boys worked hard. Their results were turned into the Director who has already communicated them to the families.

**Travel Baseball Head Coach Recommendations:**

The Director provided a list of two additional Head Coaches for our Travel Baseball program at the 8u level who had not been selected yet at the time of the previous coach approvals. After brief discussion, Chris Beane motioned to accept the two additional Head Coaches as recommended and John Giovacco seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Boys and Girls Lacrosse Head Coach Recommendations:**

The Director provided a list of Head Coach recommendations for boys and girls lacrosse, grades 3-8. The Board reviewed the names and after a motion from Doug Arone and a second from Rich Sica, the Board unanimously approved the list of coaches.

**Recreation Baseball & Softball Registration Complete**

The Director advised that registration for Recreation Baseball and Softball are complete. Both Recreation Baseball and Softball are again higher than last year’s numbers and all levels will have sufficient teams to play against, including those levels where we participate with adjoining towns like Franklin Lakes and Oakland. The Director pointed out that we will have four 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade baseball and two 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade softball teams that will once again compete in larger inter-

town leagues that will give the recreation players more of a ‘travel’ feel as they compete against teams from Mahwah, Upper Saddle River, Waldwick, Oakland, Franklin Lakes and more.

The Director also asked the Board if they felt that we should make the effort to bring back the Opening Day Parade. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to not bring back the Parade and instead focus our attention on our Community Day run by the Baseball Boosters and letting our teams know they are welcome and encouraged to participate in the Memorial Day Parade run by the Township.

#### **Facility Use/Rental Applications Review:**

The Director 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. Two applications were discussed by the Board and approved for use/rental. The applications at this meeting included the following:

1. Building Blocks Lacrosse – a local club lacrosse organization who has utilized our fields for the past several years, is once again requesting the use of Wyckoff Pulis Field Facility for the purpose of holding their summer practices and tryouts during the week. The estimated revenue from this facility rental would be \$6500.

The Director advised the Board that that his review of the application, Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement, and Certificate of Insurance for this request determined the application to be in order.

Finding the application in order and discussing the history of successful use by the program, the Recreation Board unanimously approved the above application after a motion to approve was made by Moe Ismael and seconded by Doug Arone.

#### **Jeff Eischen Tribute:**

The Board discussed ideas to show tribute to long time Wyckoff Lacrosse Coach, Jeff Eischen. The most prominent and realistic idea was to construct a new lacrosse wall at Pulis Field where children could practice their skills at our lacrosse facility. The Director mentioned that Jim Hogan’s name has also come up in discussions as he also coached in our program, primarily for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Wyckoff for many years before his untimely passing. A wall with a turf field surface at Pulis would be a great addition to the facility and something that both Jeff and Jim would be extremely proud of. The Director will meet with the Facilities Committee in the next month to review location options at Pulis and will report back to the Board next month.

#### **Grant Request Ideas:**

The group discussed projects that could be at least partially funded by a current grant. The idea that had the most interest was the addition of outdoor fitness equipment at Russell Farms. Russell is the perfect location for such equipment as we could place individual pieces around the walking path for residents to utilize as they walk around the facility. The Director will research cost and submit the necessary information to the group accepting the application and will report back to the Board next month.

**Other Goals and Objectives for 2024:**

One objective for 2024 that the Board unanimously agreed to was the need to completely demolish and rebuild our tennis courts. The courts have been resurfaced already and repaired several times but the time has come for new courts. Cracks in the surface continue to develop and the spots that have been repaired are “dead spots” now resulting in less bounce and an inconsistent surface. Mr. Madigan advised that this is more likely a 2025 project but that work to obtain pricing should begin soon.

The idea to replace our current field lighting bulbs with LED bulbs was also discussed but the Director reported that he had obtained estimates to replace just the lights at Memorial and the cost is in excess of \$500,000. Mr. Madigan advised this would be a more long term goal than an immediate one based on the cost of such a project.

**Upcoming Registrations:**

The Director advised that registrations for Soccer, Football, Cheerleading, Tennis Clinics, Adult Team Tennis, Men’s Softball, Chess Class, and Summer Camp are all opening in March and April. The Director will continue to keep the Board apprised of registration numbers as we move further into the year.

The Board adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Wingfield  
Director, Wyckoff Parks & Recreation