

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
January 20, 2022**

President Diane Maglione called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., it having been duly noted that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of which was published in The Record and sent to the Star Ledger as well as posted on the Village bulletin board. Roll call was taken. Commission members present: Diane Maglione, Howie Jacobs, Hal Bomzer, Mercedes Haines, Melinda Lugo, Bella Wagner. Excused: Gil Bell, Jimmy Coloma, Kaitlyn Maglione, Melina Pope, Mike Ruiz. Also invited to the meeting was Royce Morris.

The minutes of the November 18, 2021, meeting were approved on a motion made by Howie Jacobs and seconded by Melinda Lugo. All were in favor of the motion.

Correspondence:

- Letter dated 12/30/21 from Elizabeth Van Geldren, Director of Welfare Re: Thanking Rec for help with Wish Tree
- Email dated 1/3/22 from Toni Mazzarella Re: Thank you for the gift.
- Email dated 1/6/22 from Royce Morris Re: Volunteer Coaching Opportunities
- Email dated 1/10/22 from Commissioner Olson Re: Illustrative Site Plan Veterans Park
- Email dated 1/10/22 from Stephanie Takach, Administrative Asst. to Business Administrator Re: COI for 2022
- Email dated 1/14/22 from Matt McArow Re: COI for Use of Schools 2022
- Email dated 1/17/22 from Peggy Schneider advising of umpire rates for 2022 - \$65 per game
- Memo dated 1/18/22 from Tara O'Grady Re: Spring Newsletter Deadline is 2/11/22

Royce Morris sent an email to the Board that he was a new resident and very much interested in coaching and volunteer opportunities. Howie Jacobs contacted him and invited him to attend tonight's meeting to learn more about the Board of Recreation and see if he might be interested in working with the basketball clinic. Royce attended tonight's meeting.

Bowling – No activity at this time.

Women's Softball – Peggy Schneider has advised that the cost of umpires this year will be \$65.00 per game. Peggy Schneider will run the program again. Packets will go out shortly to the teams.

4th of July – No activity at this time. Their next meeting is January 24.

Rag-A-Muffin – No activity at this time. The Board of Recreation is going to try to think of ways to increase attendance at the event. A DJ, magician and food carts were added as people wanted to see a grander event but there have been various obstacles in the way of the parade. Last year the town held the Street Fair on the same day, which didn't help anything. The schools and organizations have trunk or treats at approximately the same time. Soccer normally schedules the younger kids' games after the parade but that did not happen last year. There are too many conflicts for parents to bring their kids to the parade. Moving the parade to the night is not a good option for many reasons. The Board is going to write to these different groups to ask them to please try to avoid causing a conflict with the parade so children can have the opportunity to attend the long-standing event.

Wish Tree – There were over 95 ornaments on the Wish Tree this year and every tag was taken and returned. The online sign-up works well for this and the residents very generously took all the tags. All gifts were picked up or delivered to the recipients. Elizabeth Van Geldren felt it worked well asking the schools for names and that will be done again next year. Some notes for changes for next year are:

- 1) October 1 – ask schools to start putting together list of names. Also ask them to include an email for recipient if they have one.
- 2) Have a one-hour window on a Saturday morning or one weeknight for pick up.
- 3) Group siblings together in one number (ease of pick-up, also will help ensure equal number of gifts)
- 4) Include instructions in sign-up:
 - Please be sure to include ornament number on the gift/bag.
 - Please do not put your name on the bag/gift.
 - Please either wrap your gift or put in a festive bag.

- Deadline is December 16 but it is very helpful if you drop off before the deadline if possible. It greatly helps in organizing and distributing the gifts.
- Gift certificates for purchase of food are always appreciated as well.

Tree Lighting – The tree lighting took place on December 5, 2021. Commissioner Olson said that next year the Village will have speakers and microphones available to use for events. Winners of the bicycle raffle and baskets were: 1) Mateo Millon 2) Isabella Evertz 3) Amanda Millon 4) Orlando Blanc. On the whole, the event went well but there are some areas the Board would like to change for next year.

Some people suggested moving the podium because it was hard to see those speaking. Next year, the Board will ask Commissioner Olson if the lights used for the concerts could be used at the tree lighting. Using the town's sound system will help ensure that everyone can hear. The carolers will be told that each of them must use a mic so all in the crowd are able to hear them singing. Robert Bannon sounded great and people felt he was a nice addition to the event. A motion was made by Bella Wagner and seconded by Mercedes Haines to gift Robert Bannon \$250 for the tree lighting. All were in favor of the motion.

Holiday Display Contest – Judging took place on December 17, 18 & 19. Winners were: 286 Teaneck Road (Business), 19 Grand Avenue, 44 Union Place, 265 Main Street, 88 Overpeck Avenue, 122 Euclid Avenue, 20 Highland Place. Citizens' Choice Award: 112 Union Place. Honorable Mention: 326 Teaneck Road, 105 Orchard Street, 206 Christie Street, 22 Overpeck Avenue, 81 Main Street, 115 Preston Street, 94 Bergen Avenue, 19 Roosevelt Avenue, 31 Austin Street. Prizes (vase with flowers) were delivered to all the winners. The honorable mention ornaments were delivered as well. A resident commented on their Citizens' Choice Award ballot that it was difficult to find some addresses and if the contest is held again, to make sure all addresses are easy to see. Members noted that some of the houses did not have their homes lit for all three nights. On next year's flyers, it will be stated that homes should be lit from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. for the judges. The Board will consider getting signs saying "I am in the contest" for participants. It would be nice to see the businesses decorate to make Main Street more festive. In the past, the Board has sent info to all the businesses to ask them to participate and only one or two did participate. The Board will try to reach out to the RP Business Association to see if they can promote the contest next year.

Adult Trips/Activities – Flyers for the March 10, 2022, Devil's game went out. The cost is \$67 per ticket in the lower bowl of the arena along with the chance for everyone to meet on the ice after the game to take a shot from the blue line. Order deadline is February 17, 2022. Flyers were distributed electronically in the schools. The flyer was also emailed to all participants in the basketball and archery programs as well as sent to the new Village Facebook page and put on social media as well as posted on the community message board.

Melina Pope posted ticket sales on Facebook. People liked the post but she has not had any inquiries about ticket purchases. People are directed to ask questions to the Board via email.

Archery Clinic – There were no updates available on this program for tonight's meeting.

Basketball – Hal Bomzer said there were some growing pains in the beginning with many new people, janitors and division heads but things have progressed. Covid has caused some issues with various quarantines needed but the Board has been working closely with the district nurse to get necessary information out promptly and to make sure Rec was complying with all school procedures.

Hal said he has been site manager and attended some boys 3/4 games and things seem to be going well. Melina Pope could not attend tonight's meeting but sent in her report. All teams started with 8 players, either 5 or 6 players currently show up for games. She said she has been the site manager at the games and no incidents - never need to remind parents to mask up.

Hal said there were no problems at boys 7/8 so far. Things seem to be going well but Melinda Lugo will report on that division since she was present at the meeting.

Hal did one boys' 5/6 game on a Saturday because Mike Ruiz was not available. There was a problem with one coach that resulted in a technical being issued. Mike Ruiz will speak to this coach.

Melinda Lugo said she never realized how much work goes into running the basketball program. She is learning as the season goes on. She said she was present at the draft and learned some things to think about for next year to make sure the teams end up with even skills as fair as possible. Melinda said she was present at the tryouts for Saturday Nite Hoops and they play a 5-minute game that

coaches use to evaluate the players. She thinks that might work better for this division as she noticed some inequality in the skill level of some teams. It would take about an hour so maybe next year 7/8 boys would tryout on a different night.

Bella Wagner said that 6/7/8 girls hasn't had the opportunity to play much due to covid quarantines. Her team has only played one game and the other team has played twice. There are a lot of girls quitting both the Rec team and school team. Covid has wreaked havoc on this division. Next year the travel team girls must be split up so skill level is more even. Not all coaches knew who were on the travel team so most girls ended up on the same team, which makes it not fun for the other teams. The teams are playing with the bare minimum of players. She does have a new girl joining the program. The Board told Bella that teams can borrow players so girls are not overtired. You can ask the team that just played if they can stay in case players are needed or ask the second game to have players come early to play in the first game if they are short players. Rotation periods could be changed to 4 minutes so girls are not overtired if necessary.

Girls that participate in the Rec travel team must also continue to play in Rec. If any of the travel team has quit their Rec team, they are no longer eligible to play on the travel team. The Board will send Bella the current travel team roster to make sure all girls are still playing on the Rec league.

The clinic was able to hold 4 sessions so far. Scorebooks and tallies are due now. Hal will make sure the division heads know that the Site Manager also needs to be included in their tallies. Diane will go over the books and then give the amounts to Hal and Barbara so checks can be sent out. Royce said he would be willing to help out with the clinic. The Board will find out if Gabe Pratissoli is helping Carlos Alvarez.

Saturday Night Hoops – Howie Jacobs has everything ready to start on Saturday. Uniforms are in, gyms are lined up and coaches have been notified.

Girls' 5/6 Travel Basketball Team – The team will try to play in a few tournaments during the season. Hal was able to give the team Mondays from 8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. He was also able to give him two hours every Wednesday at Grant for practice. The league did postpone the first home game due to covid.

Boys' 5/6 Travel Basketball Team – Deinde Otuyelu emailed the Board that he was approached by some parents to see if he would start up a boys' travel basketball team. Howie Jacobs has spoken with Deinde to see about working out the logistics of starting a travel team and what the group is looking for from the Board. The team has been picked and the registration form will be updated. Howie will check with Deinde on the fee to make sure it covers the cost of all tournaments. The Board is picking up the cost of uniforms and they will be collected at the end of the season.

Tennis – The program will start up again next spring.

T2S Basketball – The program is continuing under Larry Umana and Nate Lopez.

Easter Egg Hunt – No activity at this time. It is scheduled for April 16. Diane will order the eggs and get the candy. The filled eggs can be stored at the Civic Center.

Ping Pong – Sue Chak will be asked if she would like to hold registration in February as originally planned. There is definitely one adult interested in joining and several Board members said they might be interested in joining so Sue will be asked if she'd like to Board to hold another registration. She also has a used table available if the Board is still interested.

Treasurer's Report – The beginning balance as of 11/2/21 was \$27,401.82. Deposits made: basketball registration \$2,120.00, Saturday Nite Hoops \$3,105.00, basketball registration \$150.00; as well as interest paid in the amount of \$1.35. There were expenses paid in the amount of \$882.17 leaving an ending balance of \$31,896.00 as of 11/30/21. For the period 11/30/21 – 12/31/21, the starting balance was \$31,896.00 with deposits of \$225.00 for Saturday Nite Hoops as well as interest in the amount of \$1.39 and expenses paid in the amount of \$3,317.50. leaving a balance of \$28,804.89 as of 12/31/21. A motion was made by Bella Wagner and seconded by Melinda Lugo to accept the Treasurer's Report. All were in favor of the motion.

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business:

Commissioner Olson sent a copy of the Illustrative Site Plan Veterans Park to the Board for their review and comments. This is in very early stages and Commissioner Olson requested comments from the Board on the proposed project. The Board did make a list of their thoughts and questions on the project.

The BOC has set up a new site for Village news. It is <https://www.facebook.com/VillageofRPNJ>. Postings for this site should be sent to: "RP Postings" media@ridgefieldpark.org.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. on a motion made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Bella Wagner. All were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara DeLuca
Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Olson

This link will be used for the monthly meeting when it is held via Zoom: [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71636345842?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71636345842?pwd=RDZEVE9LaXFxWoxbmXJSgQVdhWZz09)
pwd=RDZEVE9LaXFxWoxbmXJSgQVdhWZz09 Meeting ID: 716 3634 5842 Passcode: Y4rtpt