

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
September 17, 2020**

The Secretary called the meeting to order at 7:12 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: Gil Bell, Hal Bomzer, Mercedes Haines (via telephone), Howie Jacobs, Mike Ruiz. Excused: Diane Maglione, Jimmy Coloma, Scott Garriss, Kaitlyn Maglione.

The minutes of the February 20, 2020, meeting were approved on a motion by Gil Bell and seconded by Hal Bomzer. All were in favor of the motion. There were no meetings held March – August due to covid.

Correspondence:

- Letter dated 5/15/20 from Mayor Fosdick thanking members for their help throughout the years
- Letter dated 6/8/20 from Larry Umana Re: Summer program
- Email dated 8/18/20 from Fausta Vargas advising that the cheering program has decided to go on its own
- Email dated 8/25/20 from Lloyd Domke resigning from the Board of Recreation
- Email dated 9/10/20 from Tom Strowbridge resigning from the Board of Recreation
- Email dated 9/13/20 from Commissioner Mark Olson advising that the Archery Clinic held on 9/12/20 was a big success and that he will be looking into purchasing equipment so this activity can be a new program sponsored by the Board of Recreation
- Permits for: summer basketball clinic/teams and tennis that were held outdoors

Hearing of Citizens – None present.

Bowling – No activity at this time.

Women's Softball – Season started late but went well despite the obstacles to run the program. The season ended and trophies were awarded. Peggy Schneider ran the program for the Board and did a great job.

4th of July – No activity at this time. The parade was held with vehicles only and no marchers due to covid restrictions.

Holiday Display Contest – No activity at this time. The Board will have to discuss the contest at next meeting and make changes in how judging is done due to covid restrictions that might be in place.

Wish Tree – Oritani Savings is closed. The Board will speak to Commissioner Olson about putting the wish tree in the hallway of the Municipal Building. This would also make it easier for the Welfare Dept. to keep track of the gifts that come in and make sure all ornaments are taken and returned.

Tree Lighting – The Board will ask the BOC what they want to do about the tree lighting. With current restrictions, the tree lighting ceremony would need to be changed as it would not be possible to keep the children socially distanced. The Board will continue further discussion on alternate plans via email to all members.

Rag-A-Muffin – The parade will not be able to be held this year due to covid restrictions. The Board will offer to make a video show of all children who want to share a picture of their costume and put it on the website for everyone to view. In the future, the Board will send a letter to all schools advising of the time of the Rag-A-Muffin parade so schools will hopefully avoid a scheduling conflict with the annual parade like what happened the previous year.

Adult Trips/Activities – No activity at this time but possible activities will be discussed under new business.

Basketball – Due to covid restrictions, the Board of Recreation cannot plan a basketball season at this time. The Board of Recreation must wait to see what the schools are planning and what restrictions are in place before any recreation plans can be made.

Saturday Night Hoops – Due to covid restrictions, the Board of Recreation cannot plan a basketball season at this time. The Board of Recreation must wait to see what the schools are planning and what restrictions are in place before any recreation plans can be made.

Girls' 5/6 Travel Basketball Team – The team has practiced throughout the summer and continues to practice at Veteran's Park following current covid restrictions. They plan to enter some outside games in the fall.

Tennis – The summer session went well. Registration for the fall session was just held and it is full. All social distancing requirements are being followed. Rackets are not shared.

T2S Basketball – The program is continuing under Larry Umana and Nate Lopez. They held a summer clinic and are planning for the fall with another outdoor clinic.

Competition Cheer Team – The Board received an email dated 8/18/20 from Fausta Vargas advising that they have decided to go on their own. The mats purchased for the cheering program will be donated to the high school cheering program in appreciation for the Board of Education's continued support of our school-aged children's programs.

A motion was made by Howie Jacobs and seconded by Mike Ruiz to donate the cheering mats to the Ridgefield Park High School cheering program in appreciation for the Board of Education's continued support of our school-aged children's programs if the Board of Recreation is permitted to make the donation; if not permitted to make the donation, the Board of Recreation will loan the mats to the high school cheering program. All were in favor of this motion.

Easter Egg Hunt – The hunt was cancelled this year.

Treasurer's Report - The Treasurer's Report was not available for the meeting and will be given at next month's meeting.

Old Business – No activity at this time.

New Business:

Archery Clinic: Commissioner Mark Olson emailed the Board that he would like the Board to hold an archery clinic on September 12. He had previously talked to the high school about this and they are looking into it. The program is NASP (National Archery in Schools Program: <https://www.naspschools.org/>). He spoke to the Bergen Bowmen. They are NASP certified and seemed to be excited about the idea.

The archery clinic was held on September 12 in Riverside Park. It was a big success. There were 71 shooters and some parents who just watched. There was only time for each participant to shoot a few times but they were still very happy.

Much of having a good time was just being out on a sunny day and not having to think of Covid 19 much for a little while. But there was a lot of genuine interest.

Commissioner Olson asked those who wanted to be notified about Rec doing another event or program to leave their name and email address as they left. He thinks everyone did.

Commissioner Olson talked with Commissioner Portorreal about having an archery program of some kind in Riverside Park. She agrees it would be good to do and has agreed on the use of an area for the park. Since she is responsible for the parks and Commissioner Olson recreation, there is no other approvals needed.

The area used would be where the Wanda Canoe Club building was. It was taken down last week. In its place will go shipping containers. The containers will be arranged in a U shape to accommodate a small archery range. This will be done in the next couple of weeks.

Gil Bell was at the event and was excited about the turnout. Commissioner Olson talked to the Bergen Bowmen, who ran the clinic, for a while after Gil left about what would need to be done. In general, it is like any other sport. Coaches need to attend the safety class for insurance reasons. Training beyond that is, of course, good but not necessary.

Commissioner Olson looked into this equipment a while ago and it was around \$2,000. He will check again.

Gil said he was at the clinic and things went well. There are some safety items, such as cones, that Gil thinks the Board should also get.

Gil thinks the Board needs to get some more adult activities in addition to the children's activities already in place. Gil had a few suggestions for programs he would like to see added by the Board of Recreation. They are: darts (3 boards would probably be enough), corn hole and pool. Gil said if the Board could put a pool table somewhere it could also double as a ping pong table and the ping pong program could come back. The Board is hoping it will get to use the Civic Center to run some of its activities now that it has been done over.

Longtime members Lloyd Domke and Tom Strowbridge recently resigned from the Board. The Board had a discussion and it was suggested the Board give them each a token of appreciation for their years of volunteering their time to the Board of Recreation.

A motion was made by Gil Bell and seconded by Mike Ruiz to get Lloyd Domke a gift certificate to a local restaurant. All were in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Howie Jacob and seconded by Mercedes Haines to get Tom Strowbridge a gift card to purchase new sneakers. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m. on a motion made by Howie Jacob and seconded by Mike Ruiz. All were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

cc: Commissioner Mark Olson

Barbara DeLuca