

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
November 19, 2020**

President Diane Maglione called the meeting to order at 7:10 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, Gil Bell, Hal Bomzer, Mercedes Haines, Howie Jacobs. Excused: Jimmy Coloma, Scott Garriss, Kaitlyn Maglione, Mike Ruiz.

The minutes of the October 15, 2020, meeting were approved on a motion by Gil Bell and seconded by Howie Jacobs. All were in favor of the motion.

Correspondence:

- Memo dated 11/13/20 from Tara O'Grady asking for 2021 meeting dates, roster, and list of reappointments
- Email dated 11/17/20 from Commissioner Olson Re: Proposed holiday activity from high school. The idea is to invite residents to decorate their car/vehicle and park them at the swimming pool parking lot one evening for other residents to drive by/look at.

Hearing of Citizens – Nicole Pucciarelli was present to discuss a proposed new holiday event. She is the student government advisor for the high school. She and the students have an idea, which they would like to do and would be willing to help the Board do it.

The idea is to invite residents to decorate their car/vehicle and park them at the swimming pool parking lot one evening for a winter wonderland for other residents to drive by/look at. They want to do this because there isn't much else socially people will be able to do this year. They are not permitted to do it in front of the high school, which was their original idea.

The Board discussed this further with Nicole. It was suggested that a nominal fee of \$5 or \$10 be charged to the cars to enter and then some prizes could be given to the winning cars. A Board member suggested that instead of trying to rush to get this done before Christmas since the Board is already hosting the holiday display contest on December 18 that it might be a good idea to hold it on new year's eve to say good-bye to 2020 and hope for a better 2021. It would give people something to look forward to. Since bars and restaurants will be closed, there would be little concern about drinking and driving. The event could be held from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. It was suggested by the Board of Commissioners that maybe the event could be held in the town pool parking lot. The police would need to be informed of the event. Nicole will check with the students on their ideas and come up with a flyer that the Board will distribute.

****Commissioner Olson** arrived after members had left and was able to speak to Diane Maglione, who was still present in the building. Commissioner Olson advised Diane that he had already spoke with Chief Rella who suggested using one of the open lots on Challenger Road. Commissioner Olson said he was going to check with the management company to see if it's feasible to use the parking lot. He loved the idea of doing the event on New Year's Eve. Final details will be worked out with Nicole after permission is gotten to use the parking lot.

Bowling – No activity at this time.

Women's Softball – No activity at this time.

4th of July – No activity at this time.

Holiday Display Contest – The contest is scheduled for Friday, December 18, 2020. The prizes this year will be doormats for the top winners and ornaments for the honorable mentions, which have been ordered. Judges will have to drive around in their own cars this year to do the judging. The judges will be sent the list of homes that are entered and can then email their results to the Board. Prizes will be dropped off at the winner's home rather than distributed at the Commissioner's meeting due to covid restrictions. Winners will be posted on the internet and community message board.

Wish Tree – The Board will work with Elizabeth Van Geldren on the ornaments. This year there will be an on-line tree for people to select an ornament. A sign-up link will be available where people can pick an ornament and then return their

gift to the Welfare Dept. The link will be posted on the Village website, school website and RP Mom's page. Paper ornaments will also be available in the municipal building for people to select from as well.

Tree Lighting – The tree lighting is scheduled for Sunday, December 6. Members should meet at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Olson advised Mercedes Haines that the tree lighting would take place and just look a little different this year. Due to covid precautions, there will be no live singing from the school's chorus or free Slurpees or special guests other than Santa. Instead Bob Sienicki will be asked if he can read Twas the Night Before Christmas and maybe another poem. There will be no empty ballots or pencils available at the lighting. The ballots will be posted online, and children must bring their completed ballot to the lighting to deposit into the ballot box.

The DPW/police will need to bring a microphone, podium and barricading in front of the steps. Rec will see if music can be piped in. Light wands will be given to the children in attendance. The Commissioner is checking on a violinist to play and Mrs. Claus might be able to make an appearance as well. Mercedes Haines will check to see if the fire department and Santa are participating.

Rag-A-Muffin – Only a few people sent in pictures, which were made into a slideshow and posted on the webpage.

Adult Trips/Activities – No activity at this time but a dart program is in the works.

Basketball – With covid 19 protocols by NJSIAA and Governor Murphy, it is not realistic for the Board to successfully manage games and attendance. Also, the Board of Education is not yet issuing permits for the gyms and there is no timetable for that. Lastly, even if the Board could start the program, we face the problem of a school or government shutdown on a moment's notice. This would not be fair to those paying for their children to play and getting nothing for their investment. So, for these reasons, the Board feels it would not be feasible to run the rec program this season.

Saturday Night Hoops – Until the school is available for use, no plans can begin for this program.

Girls' 5/6 Travel Basketball Team – The team participated in a few outdoor tournaments but stopped once the covid numbers started to go up again.

Tennis – A short mini-clinic just finished up. Tennis was a big hit this year. All sessions were full, and adults even enjoyed the clinics this year.

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

Easter Egg Hunt – No activity at this time.

Treasurer's Report - The beginning balance this month was \$18,728.10 with deposit of \$207.96 for reimbursement for thermometers leaving an ending balance of \$18,936.06.

Old Business – No activity at this time.

Archery Clinic: The program has had a very good turnout. There are some things we need to tighten up on by following the NASP guidelines. Commissioner Olson thinks it is important for us to make changes now both for safety and to learn more how we want to structure the program for the spring. He thinks the coaches should meet as soon as they can after the season to start talking about what they want to do in the spring so it will be fresh in everyone's minds.

New Business:

Yoga – There is a yoga instructor available to teach an outdoor class or in an open garage or inside location, zoom, etc., if the Board wants to pursue this activity.

Civic Center – The Board will be using the Civic Center for all meetings and storage of program supplies.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2021, in the civic center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. on a motion made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Mercedes Haines. All were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

Cc: Commissioner Mark Olson