

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2013, at 7:00 P.M.**

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2013**

Vice President Mary Koegel called the meeting to order at 7:15 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 on the 28th day of December, 2012, and sent to the Star-Ledger on the 28th day of December, 2012. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Hal Bomzer, Tom Essig, Mary Koegel, Kaitlyn Maglione, Angie Rivera. Lloyd Domke, Scott Garris, Mercedes Haines, Diane Maglione, Mike Ruiz and Tom Strowbridge were excused.

The minutes of the June 20, 2013, meeting could not be approved as there was no quorum.

**Correspondence:** OPRA request from Roy Lapidus (complied with); email from Ken Forsett regarding group ticket sales at Barclays Center; email from Scott Lancaster regarding flag football fund raiser; email from Tracey Galluzzo regarding group sales at Mountain Creek; Minutes from September 3 Safety Meeting.

**Hearing of Citizens:** None Present

Activity reports were as follows:

**Bowling –** Nothing to report.

**Wrestling –** Registration will take place at the Ridgefield Park Jr/Sr High School Auxiliary Gym on November 6th and 12th. First practice will be December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Uly Encarnacion has to send over his new flyer to be copied and distributed in the schools.

**Girls' Softball -** No activity at this time.

**Women's Softball –** The season went very smoothly. Peggy Schneider did a great job keeping the schedule going and arranging make-ups. The end of the year party was last week. Peggy got the trophies for the winning teams. Frank still needs to turn in the keys he has for lights, etc. Next year the Board will get the safety bases.

**Fourth of July –** No activity at this time.

**Easter Egg Hunt –** No activity at this time.

**Holiday Display Contest –** Funds have been encumbered under PO#10946 in the amount of \$1,500.00. The contest will take place on Friday, December 20, 2013. Mary Koegel has to select prizes for the contest.

**Wish Tree –** No activity at this time. Kathy Tobin will contact Kaitlyn Maglione with the list, which is usually ready right after Thanksgiving. Gifts should be returned by December 13.

**Tree Lighting –** Funds were encumbered under PO#10944 in the amount of \$1,000.00. Mercedes Haines has the following in place: Father Larry from St. Francis will say the prayer. Singers: Rosa Martinez and her mom Courtney (Mother and daughter Christmas song). Girl and boy scouts have confirmed. Grant school chorus will perform. Bike raffle will be confirmed with Don Ingwersen. Mercedes will speak with 7-11's new manager and have him write the date again. Diane will let Mayor and Commissioners know as well as the police. Truck No. One of the Fire Department needs to be called as

well as the Marines and the Gooney Birds. Sound System has been secured and invoice received. Tom Essig will handle the check for the sound system.

**Rag-A-Muffin** – Funds were encumbered under PO #10943 in the amount of \$1,500.00. The parade will take place on Saturday, October 26, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. All participants should meet at the corner of Euclid Avenue and Hobart Street, no later than 10:30 a.m. The rain date will be Sunday, October 27, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. Candy will be picked up and ready for the parade. The trophies have been ordered. Flyers will go out in the schools in October.

**Adult Trips/Activities** – Vanessa Diaz was notified that she can use the Civic Center for zumba classes. She also must contact GJEM Insurance before starting classes. The Board has not heard back from her yet. Angie Rivera will look into possible activities for the Board to sponsor. Several emails have come in and Angie will see if they are worthwhile..

**Adult Craft Classes** – No activities at this time.

**Basketball** – Early bird registration was held and about 120 registrations received. Registration will be held on Friday, September 20 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm and on Saturday, September 21 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Hal is not available on Saturday. Coverage on Friday is: Hal, Lloyd and Mike; Saturday is: Scott, Tom Strowbridge and Angie Rivera.

Diane is still looking into details on the background checks.

**Tennis** – Barry Ruback (568-3946) runs this program, which is taught by All Pro Tennis Staff. There will be no permit charge to the Board of Recreation next year for use of the tennis courts.

**Treasurer's Report** - Beginning balance as of June 2013 was \$28,690.77, total deposits for month were \$570.00, total expenses for month were \$793.00, leaving a balance of \$28,467.77. A detailed report is attached. There is \$1,300.00 available for the end-of-season party for the women's softball program. Beginning balance as of July 2013 was \$28,467.77, total deposits for month were \$780.00, total expenses for month were \$42.00, leaving a balance of \$29,205.77. A detailed report is attached. Beginning balance as of August 2013 was \$29,205.77, total deposits for month were \$2,405.00, leaving a balance of \$30,878.77. A detailed report is attached.

A motion was made by Angie Rivera and seconded by Hal Bomzer approving the Treasurer's Report. All were in favor of this motion.

**New Business** – Barbara DeLuca attended the June 4, 2013, safety meeting. Most of the items discussed don't really pertain to the Board. The Board of Rec asked if there were any issues of safety concerning background checks on coaches and if there were any law suits would the town's insurance coverage the costs? Mr. Schulz stated it is not mandatory to do background checks. Lt. Ehalt told the Board to check with Detective Sgt. Anthony Sgroi. Det. Sgroi recently went through training with the County regarding this issue and should be able to help and answer any questions. Mr. McArow stated that if the Board of Rec or a coach was sued, it would be covered under the Village insurance plan.

**Old Business** – The Board of Recreation is very concerned that no background checks are done on coaches working with children. The safety and welfare of the children needs to become a priority. The Board became aware of a coach (in a non-Board of Recreation activity) that failed to register as a sex offender under Meghan's Law and was coaching children. There was another arrest of a Ridgefield Park resident for one count of sexual assault and one count of endangering the welfare of a child. The Board cannot take any chances with the children's' welfare.

Beginning with the next basketball season, the Board will require all coaches to submit to a background check that includes fingerprinting. The cost is approximately \$75. The coach must submit payment online at the time of fingerprinting and the Board will reimburse coaches for this expense. This will only need to be done once by the coach as the fingerprints will be good forever. The logistics still need to be worked out such as to who the information will be sent.

Although some coaches may object to a background check, the Board is only interested in making sure that there are no adults with a criminal history concerning children (registered sex offenders, endangering welfare of a child, molestation of a child, etc.) The Board is not interested in any other background history concerning a coach. If a coach does not submit to a background check, they will not be permitted to coach.

Diane Maglione is going to do some research on the Meghan Kanka Foundation to find out who they use to do background checks. She will also check with Bogota Recreation to see how they handle background checks. The Board wants to make sure background checks are done before the next basketball season. Diane will check on the specifics of having this done and see where the reported information is sent. It will be made clear to all coaches that the Board is not interested in personally knowing the background of the coaches. The purpose will be the safety of the children. The scope of the investigation will be clearly defined in a letter to all coaches.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2013.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Tom Essig and seconded by Mary Koegel to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Adam MacNeill