

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012, at 7:00 P.M.**

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 19, 2012**

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 on the 30th day of December, 2011, and sent to the Star-Ledger on the 28th day of December, 2011. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Diane Maglione, Gil Bell, Lloyd Domke, Tom Essig, Mary Koegel, Leigh Rivera, Mike Ruiz and Tom Strowbridge were present. Kaitlyn Maglione was also present. Hal Bomzer and Mercedes Haines were excused. Carlos Carames and Frank Zaccherio were absent.

A motion was made by Lloyd Domke and seconded by Tom Strowbridge to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2011, meeting. All were in favor of this motion.

**Correspondence:** Letter from Mayor Fosdick thanking the Board for the tree lighting and the work it does throughout the year. Permits for use of schools for softball practice, copy of insurance certificate for wrestling program.

**Hearing of Citizens:** Two subjects of a closed minutes session, Mr. and Mrs. Cartagena, were present to express their feelings about the recent restrictions placed upon them for violating rules of conduct. They brought along with them Jocelyn Perez-Rivera as well to discuss the incident.

This discussion will be held in a closed session.

Activity reports were as follows:.

**Bowling** – Nothing to report. No one has seen any forms for the program.

**Wrestling** – The season has been going well so far. The only problem was that the EMT did not show up for the first meet. Mary Koegel will try to contact Sylvio from the ambulance corps to make sure there is an EMT present for the February 4 meet.

**Girls' Softball** - Registration will be held on February 11 at Roosevelt School. Permits came in for use of the gym for practice. Lloyd Domke has distributed permission slips for the open gym nights and registration slips will go out shortly. Lloyd will speak to the parents at basketball to alert them to the upcoming registration.

Lloyd asked what comes out of the registration money. The uniforms come out of the registration money as well as the softballs. Things such as mitts, socks, etc., are not included in the registration fees. They are personal expenses. Medical equipment is supplied by the town. The request for fields will be submitted. Lloyd said a meeting will be scheduled with soccer and baseball to prearrange field times.

**Women's Softball** – The Board still needs to speak with Frank Zaccherio regarding the program. Championship trophies are in and will be distributed at the meeting to be held in February with all teams.

There will be some changes necessary to registration next year as per the safety meeting attended by Diane Maglione on June 15.

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

**Easter Egg Hunt** – Mary Koegel has been looking into alternative ways to handle the egg hunt. She has been researching prices of candy-filled eggs. 3,600 eggs are needed for the egg hunt.

**Holiday Display Contest** – The contest took place on December 23. The 35 entries included both lavishly and simply decorated homes, businesses, an apartment terrace, and even the Village Clerk's office. Twenty six miles were driven while the judge mulled over the difficult decisions to be made. The judge appreciated the more simple displays that conveyed a sense of nostalgia that reminded him of his youth. Winners were as follows:

Grand Prize: 79 Grand Ave. The elves were some of the most unique figures he'd ever seen and conjured for him memories of his childhood dreaming of them building his gifts.

First Prize: 120 Hazelton St. The snowmen offered a chilly embrace as one of his favorite Christmas carols played over the outdoor speakers.

Second Prize: Odd Couple's Attic, 190 Main St. The officials only wished they could have been invited to this tea party with Santa.

Third Prize: 137 Highland Place. The infamous leg lamp from "A Christmas Story" turned the judge's eye and became an instant favorite.

Fourth Prize: 19 Grand Ave. The display was carefully designed and well balanced.

Honorable Mentions:

58 Euclid Ave. A simple and solemn reminder of the holidays.

131 Brinkerhoff St. An explosion of color at Santa's Workshop.

206 Christie St. Frosty blue lights and sugary candy canes.

64 Park St. A simple, quiet, and peaceful starlit night.

190 Main St, Banners & Signs. Instantly conjured the text from "The Night Before Christmas" waiting for Santa's feet to appear in the fireplace.

30 Hudson Ave. Tiny Tim in the window reminds us to have a helping of "razzleberry dressing."

62 Brinkerhoff St. Even the realtor's sign was tastefully decorated.

226 Fifth St. The blue window lights draw the eye down to the Nativity scene.

80 Grand Ave. A bright star beamed above a tree creatively fashioned from strings of lights.

114 Union Place. Caused the officials to pause for reflection.

234 Main St. Yeah for Christmas!

22 Overpeck Ave. For decorating three levels of their front yard as well as their house.

Everyone involved is looking forward to seeing new, unique displays next holiday season! Prizes were delivered to the winners. They are thinking of changing some of the prize categories for next year to possibly add something such as best use of a blow up.

**Wish Tree** – Kaitlyn and Diane Maglione handled this event. Most of the tags were returned on time and the few that weren't received gift cards. The only slight problem was that TD Bank did not put up a tree this year.

**Tree Lighting** – Funds have been encumbered under PO #6521. Mercedes Haines was unable to attend the meeting but sent in her report as follows. Next year, if anyone is singing, they must provide a CD. No excuses. In fact, they must give her the CD a week in advance. Her husband was standing by 7-11 and says that it is still very dark in front of the town hall steps. Two solutions, either we plug in the floods which Mercedes has or the hose company must shine their floods. The elves were wonderful young people and will be invited again next year. Mrs. Claus was busy circulating around the crowd. Santa must do the same. She is looking for singers,

musicians, etc. for next year. Trying to get new talent to become involved. Lastly, many thanks to all the Board of Recreation members that were able to attend. It's great to work with a wonderful team of individuals. Any other suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Thank you letters were sent out after the event. The Board did receive two suggestions for next year. One was to have a box present and invite people to bring a food item to be donated to the food pantry. Another suggestion was to possibly invite people to bring a toy for the Toys for Tot box.

**Rag-A-Muffin** – No activity at this time.

**Adult Trips/Activities** – No activities at this time.

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

**Basketball** – The Board went into closed session with the citizens present to discuss an incident at a recent basketball game. Mr. and Mrs. Cartagena as well as Jocelyn Perez-Rivera wanted to clarify an incident that occurred during a January 12 basketball game. Once the closed session ended, the regular meeting continued.

Hal Bomzer was refereeing at basketball tonight but sent the following report: Basketball has gotten off to a rocky start this season. As is usually the case, the players are not our problem. There have been two incidents involving parents of our players. On both occasions, there appears to be some history between parents involved. The first occurred outside Grant School in December during a 5th/6th Boys div practice. The parents involved each had son on same team. Diane has more information on this and can elaborate more. The second incident happened last week at 6/7/8 Girls game. Board members have been made aware and letters of discipline have been sent out. Diane and Mike Ruiz can elaborate more on the incident. This will be discussed further in a closed session.

As mandated by the Commissioners, the Board of Recreation was to offer more scorer/timer slots and referee slots to more people. We advertised in the Bulletin and in the Patriot for referees. We were able to bring in a number of new referees, but with some growing pains. Many of the new refs are either new to our program and/or new to refereeing basketball in general. We have had some misunderstandings with the different way we handle the number of fouls allowed (and penalties assessed) in different divisions. Hal did send an email out to all division heads in December to clear up any confusion with the fouls issue. We also have not had consistent flow in the games. Any time Hal referees with one of the inexperienced officials, he tries to help them out as much as he can as far as positioning and game flow are concerned. Hopefully, those refs that started with us last year and the new ones that joined this year will stay with us and can gain experience so the games can run little smoother in the future. Even with all the new refs, all the boys divisions have been having trouble filling their slots. Most of the problems occur on Saturdays, when we have three divisions playing at the same time. Hal has not heard any problems concerning scorers/timers.

As far as the games are concerned, Hal has seen some good competition and balance in most of the divisions. He was at 3/4 B on Saturday and all three games were decided by 3 points or less. The 5/6 B have had good, competitive games, from what he has seen and heard. The clinic is being run a little differently this year. They are teaching skills without the normal 'stations,' trying to keep more like fun and games. From what he has seen and heard, it is going well. The 3/4/5 girls, 6/7/8 Girls, and 7/8 boys are run by Board members and they can give their own reports.

Gil Bell said that the 3/4/5 girls division has been running well. The girls are having fun. He spoke to the parents and told them they could cheer and scream all they want as long as he did not hear one bad word. He has kept his referee crew to three people – himself, Scott Garris and Hal Bomzer. It seems to be working well. The officials are getting to know the girls and the girls

and parents are getting to know the officials. The officials take the time to explain mistakes to the girls and it seems to be working.

Mike Ruiz said he does not need to add anymore referees. He is giving these referees a chance to grow with the division. There are some growing pains but he is developing a core of referees to use. There was an incident in his division last week and disciplinary measures had to be enforced. Mike Ruiz was present at the incident and was able to provide a first-hand account of what transpired that night. The incident will be discussed in detail during a closed session.

Mike said he is a little distracted this year because he was short coaches and had to take on a team. He did remind coaches that practices are closed and parents should drop off their child and then pick them up at the end of practice.

Mike thinks that next year teams should be capped off at nine players. This amount seems to ensure that rotations will always change and all players will receive a fair amount of playing time. Ten players seem to be too much for a team. Tom and Lloyd agreed with this.

Lloyd Domke said he felt that referees should come from the town and that the program should stick to local officials as they are paid with town funds.

Tom Strowbridge said his division seems to be running well. There have been a few growing pains with the officials.

**Tennis** – Barry Ruback (568-3946) runs this program, which is taught by All Pro Tennis Staff. For more information call Barry Ruback at 201-568-3946 or go to [www.allprotennis.net](http://www.allprotennis.net) or email: [barrys10s@gmail.com](mailto:barrys10s@gmail.com).

**Treasurer's Report** - Beginning balance as November 2011, was \$35,214.42, total deposits for month were \$2,800.00, total expenses for month were \$683.25, leaving a balance of \$37,331.17. Three checks were returned and two have been satisfied. A detailed report is attached.

Beginning balance as December 2011, was \$37,331.17, total deposits for month were \$1,355.00, total expenses for month were \$6,748.77, leaving a balance of \$31,937.40. A detailed report is attached.

The amount of \$1,380.00 will be put aside for the women's softball program to be used as a credit for next year's field fee. Trophies were paid from these funds.

A motion was made by Mike Ruiz and seconded by Leigh Rivera, accepting the report. All were in favor of this motion.

A discussion was held on costs for basketball equipment. Tom Essig thought that sweatshirts were only to be offered to coaches in Lincoln School. There is a coach in the 3/4/5 division that purchased a sweatshirt for himself in addition to the golf shirt. Tom Strowbridge said that some parents have said they would like to purchase a sweatshirt for their child. Since the Board cannot raise any funds, there was a discussion of possibly offering sweatshirts at cost to interested parties next year.

**New Business** – The Board of Recreation now has an email address. It is [boardofrecreation@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:boardofrecreation@ridgefieldpark.org). The webmaster will then forward emails received to Barbara DeLuca.

Lloyd Domke spoke to Miss Cerniglia and Miss Van Sadlers regarding starting a volleyball clinic or camp. They were definitely interested and will get back to the Board. They might possibly hold a summer clinic or open gym night once a week during the season. They were thinking of trying this out with girls in grades 4 – 8.

**Old Business** – The Board will speak to Commissioner Poli about doing background checks on coaches.

There was another quarterly safety meeting held. Diane Maglione was unable to attend so Barbara DeLuca attended for the Board and brought back information.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2012.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Lloyd Domke and seconded by Gil Bell to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Hugo Poli