

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
November 17, 2016**

President Diane Maglione called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 on the 31stth day of December 2015. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Diane Maglione, Lloyd Domke, Gil Bell, Jimmy Coloma, Rodney Craft and Scott Garris. Hal Bomzer, Mercedes Haines, Kaitlyn Maglione, Tom Strowbridge and David Urbay were excused. Mike Ruiz was absent.

The minutes of the October 20, 2016, meeting was approved by a motion made by Jimmy Coloma and seconded by Scott Garris. All were in favor of this motion.

Correspondence: 1) Little Ferry Basketball Holiday Tournament – will be held December 5, 7 & 8 for 7/8 girls and boys teams. This is what the school teams used to play. The registration fee will be sent to them. 2) email from Berlinda Rodriguez, one of the moms present at the last meeting to discuss a special needs program. She thanked the Board for its time and advised the group is going to look at different avenues. 3) Ricardo Martinez, 7/8 Division Head – sent an email advising that one team is down a player and a stronger girl wanted to be added late. He was putting her on a team that was not one of the stronger teams anyway.

Hearing of Citizens: Dan Reeves was present to give a report as the new Wrestling Chairman. Patricia, the Associate Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church, was present to ask about the acting program run by Rachel Maddock.

Bowling – Nothing to report.

Wrestling – Dan Reeves was present to give a report on wrestling as he is the new Chairman to run the program. Good turn-out at registration, about 45 kids. He is in the process of getting all the registrations together; he'll probably have them done the end of the week. There are two league meetings. He went to one last week. The season is set. Tournaments are 12/3 Don Bosco, 12/18 Cutler Classic, 1/8 Skip Bailey, 1/22 Oakland and 2/5 Metuchen. There will be two home meets, 1/28 and 2/11. There will be four home dual matches @ TJ: 12/20, 1/10, 1/24 & 1/31. There will be seven Saturday matches. He spoke to Mike Raimondi at the high school. He was able to get him Thomas Jefferson for the dual matches. There are no mats there so Dennis Murri gave him the varsity mats and he'll transport them to TJ and then return them.

The only two things he is concerned about are 1) where he told him the singlets are, he has seven and there are 45 kids. He found a bunch of the old ones and if he has to order more singlets, he wondered if it that was ok. He said if he had to drop a tournament to save money, he would like the team to look uniform and more professional, especially at home. These are his biggest concerns. He has the names of all the coaches. He knows the class is December 8 and has advised the coaches. He will make sure they take the online concussion course and get the certificates to the Board. He has all the medical cards and birth certificates. He will get a copy of the cards to the Board. The Board doesn't need the birth certificate only the registration forms and a copy of the insurance card. He should keep what he needs. He said he'll scan them onto an email to make it easier. Right now he has 5 coaches including himself. He turned in the names and emails of his coaches for background checks.

Diane said she checked with Commissioner MacNeill about something. One of the parents whose child is participating said she had to go to practice tonight so couldn't attend our meeting. She sent Diane a copy of a fundraising flyer. Last year they were able to walk a thin line doing fundraising. They were able to get away with it because the 7/8 school team was part of the school program. This year 7/8 grade is under rec. Diane asked if they ran the flyer past Dan first. He said he stays away from that. The flyer

they sent out says Parent Association Fundraiser, all proceeds to benefit rec wrestling. They can't do that. The Board **cannot** fundraise. This was made clear last year. There is a parent group meeting scheduled for Tuesday to discuss the fundraising. Dan said he has a meeting scheduled for November 30 with the parents. Diane said this was a meeting of the Parent Association. Dan said the person who was running that, Kim Calabrese, is no longer a part of the program.

Diane explained that the Board is part of the town and the town cannot have fundraisers. It is the law. It would be against the law for the Board of Rec to have a fundraiser. There are no longer school teams. It is completely rec wrestling now so they can no longer fundraise. Parents are either going to have to pay for items themselves or do without. In the past, funds that were raised were done by school fundraisers and turned into the school. Diane wants to make it clear that she will not get involved in anything underhanded and she will not put up with it. She showed the flyer to the Commissioner and he said absolutely not. The only way they can make money is through the school. Maybe the high school wrestling team might want to throw a sweatshirt or party to the kids, that it up to the school. Dan said he didn't understand that the Parents Association would have to be part of the school. Diane asked who the checks should be made out to and there was nothing on the form. Dan said he thought they were opening up their own account. It was specifically called RP Scarlet because he thought they didn't want to use the word Rec.

At this point, the Board went into a short Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Dan said he knows his parents are going to try to do something for these kids one way or the other. Diane said they can create their own separate organization but it is not going to be easy. It would probably be easier to just buy what they need. The Board provides the uniforms. They try to get something for over their uniform. If they want the windbreaker that is something the parents will have to provide. The parents can buy anything they want as long as it does not say Recreation on it. If they are printing anything that says Rec, they must first get approval from the Board. They can just use Scarlets. The Board does not care if Rec is not on their clothing. If the schools are able to take the program back, that would be great. The Board is trying to help out the kids. The clothing comes out of the registration fee.

Girls' Softball – Lloyd Domke has spoken to Coach Mike Luterzo and hopes to be able to work out the details to run an "all-star" 7/8 softball school team since it was cut from the school's program due to the budget deficit. Lloyd will reach out to the school at a later date.

Women's Softball – There is still one team that needs to submit a new check for the one that was returned by the bank.

Fourth of July – No activity at this time.

Easter Egg Hunt – No activity at this time.

Holiday Display Contest – The 12 ornaments and six holiday throws for the prize winners are ready. A letter was sent to Supt. Koenig requesting the use of a bus for the judging. The contest will be held on Friday, December 23 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to come, should meet at 7:00 p.m. in front of the high school

Wish Tree – No activity at this time. TD Bank is closing on January 27, 2017, so this is the last year the wish tree will be located at the bank. Next year, the Board will ask another bank or put the wish tree in the hallway of the Municipal Building. Deadline for return of gifts is December 16. The flyer was put on the website.

Tree Lighting – Mercedes Haines has everything ready for the tree lighting. She will have three characters and a cotton candy cart at the tree lighting. Grant School chorus will perform as well as two soloists from the high school. The girl scouts have asked if they could bring 2 daisy troops, 1 brownie troop and 1 junior troop for a total of 40 girls. The cub scouts will bring only about 9 boys but this would be a total of about 50 kids singing.

She will speak with Santa. The sound system has been ordered. Mercedes will get the two prize baskets for runner-up prizes. She has already confirmed the Slurpees with 7-11. Vorhees-Ingwersen Funeral Home will again supply the bike for the raffle.

The tree lighting is scheduled for Sunday, December 4 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Members will meet at 5:00 p.m. A memo was sent to the Police and DPW about the assistance needed for the tree lighting. The flyer is on the website.

Rag-A-Muffin – The parade took place on Saturday, October 29, 2016. Everything seemed to go well this year. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. There were about 150 participants. Entries were as follows:

Division 1 – 33	Division 5 – 7
Division 2 – 15	Division 6 – 5
Division 3 – 25	Division 7 – 16
Division 4 – 16	

The addition of the DJ and three food carts (cotton candy and popcorn) was well received from everyone. Adding a second popcorn cart cut down on the line and everyone was able to get popcorn. This year the DJ played from 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Next year the DJ will play for 3 hours from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The Board used about 200 small waters for the parade. There were also 200 glow lights and stickers for the younger participants. There were 500 candy bags and the extras were given to the municipal building. Three Little Ferry students showed up to judge and were very helpful. Three other community service students showed up before 9:00 and stayed until the end and were quite helpful. They were willing to do anything needed. They assisted with set-up, registration, carrying signs, assisting the judges to get the winning entries organized for announcing of the trophies and anything that needed to be done.

Adding an honorable mention and judges' choice prize in each division really helped the judges. The addition of one trophy for Judges' Choice Best Overall worked out nicely and will be added to the trophies. The judges had two suggestions to make next year easier. They think having a clipboard to write on would make judging easier. They also think that it makes selecting winners harder when contestants are not eligible to win a special prize if they have won a division trophy. They gave the sixth division of floats as an example. Some of these entries did a great deal of work on their entry and really deserved a special award but there weren't even enough entries to hand out all of the division trophies in that division. The judges also pointed out that the first division was complete until special awards were selected and then this division had to select some new winners at the very end. This year to speed up the judging that rule was relaxed and next year we will try it again to see if it speeds things up.

One of the winners left before they were awarded their trophy. It was delivered to that person later in the day. There are some trophies leftover from previous years. New plaques will be ordered next year so they can be reused.

The Mayor was present at the parade and impressed with the amount of contestants and quality of the costumes. He asked if there was any way to get these people to participate in the July 4th parade. The Board made an announcement telling people to recycle and reuse their costumes in the July 4th parade so it would also have a large turnout.

Adult Trips/Activities – No activity at this time.

Ping Pong – This program is on hold due to the Civic Center being currently unavailable.

Basketball – Hal Bomzer was away but sent the following report:

I received a call from Mr. Keonig and all permits have been approved, including the Saturday requests for the gyms. But the district will be scrutinizing all expenses. Preseason schedule distributed and approved by the schools for the 4 gyms. Practices started this week. As discussed last spring, I provided each team

with 5 pinnies each to help them in their practices. I was able to offset the cost by saving money on balls purchased through Wal-Mart. Balls should be similar in quality to last year's.

I am currently in the middle of getting the master schedules together. Hope to finish by Thanksgiving, if not, at least that weekend. Waiting for schools to confirm blackout dates for the gyms.

The 7/8 middle school travel program is a go. Larry Umana has volunteered to coach the girls and Brian Cooney will coach the boys. Registration forms were sent to Mike Raimondi with the 40.00 fee for only those selected to the teams. The schools will supply equipment, scorekeeper and uniforms. Because of that, we were able to offer the program to the players at that price. I am currently looking for referees and scoreboard operators. We are paying 58.00 for refs and 25.00 for timer. I have rearranged my schedule to be there to referee every home game. This way, we have a board member present at each game in case of any incidents.

A big thank you to all that helped out at the evaluations. They went very smoothly.

A motion was made by Jimmy Coloma and seconded by Gil Bell, approving the basketball report.

Shirt orders have been sent in. Gil said he has one team still looking for an assistant. He'll take care of that at the first practice. Some of the members said that they have received payment as referees from the Village but Oritani Savings will not cash the check for these people unless they have an account there even though the Village checks are from Oritani Savings. The Board will send an email to Tara O'Grady to see if she can help out with this situation.

Tennis – Barry Ruback (568-3946) runs this program, which is taught by All Pro Tennis Staff.

T2S Basketball – Coaches clinic was held last Saturday. There were different opinions given by the speakers. It was interesting hearing the different styles played by the coaches. It was beneficial. They gave out some good skills, good points. It was pretty good but unfortunately only about 8 coaches turned out. It is tough for the coaches to find free time this time of year.

Summer Fitness Camp – Rodney Craft said they will try to contact the DPW next week about when they can use the field.

Competition Cheer Team – Registration was held for a competition cheer team for Ridgefield Park and Little Ferry children in Grades 2-6 (as of Sept.). Payment #2 was due on October 1 and the final payment was due on November 1. The mats are in and have worked out well.

Fausta Vargas and Kellie Nagle were present to pick up the checks for the upcoming competitions. They have been trying to get the necessary insurance certificates from Matt McArow but still have not received them. Kellie said she has emailed him numerous times but he has not responded. Commissioner MacNeill is supposed to stop into the meeting later and he will be asked to call Matt and ask for the certificates.

Fausta and Kellie were given checks for the upcoming competitions. The mats are stored at the K of C. The women are concerned that the former head of RPFA is running fundraisers that make it easy to think the funds are going to the Board of Rec. Diane actually contacted the person running one of the fundraisers and asked who they thought the funds were going to. Diane explained to her that it is purposely misconstrued on the fundraising publicity to make it look like it is for Rec. The wording was never done this way in the past so the women have a hard time believing it is all coincidental that it is now called Recreation cheering. Everything else seems to be going good so far except for the lack of insurance certificates needed to enter the competitions. The first showcase is Saturday in Hackensack.

Fausta and Kellie asked if the Board could pay for the bows for the competitions. It comes to about \$360. They are shopping around for the best buy right now.

Next year, there will be tryouts for the program. Perhaps there could be a competition team and a "performance" team for the newer girls not quite ready for competition yet. They wouldn't have to buy a uniform and could get some experience before entering the competitions. Maybe the program would want to try two separate levels next year. This is simply one of the learning curves of starting a program.

Acting and Improvisation – Rachel Maddock has offered to run classes for children and teens in Grades K-12. Students will be introduced to the basic elements of acting through theatre games and improvisation. They will develop an understanding of building an acting ensemble through cooperative group work and will learn spontaneity, physical and vocal expression, pantomime, character exploration and basic playwriting. Older students will also study advanced acting techniques such as sensory work, monologue work, and basic scene study. Classes will be run in 8-10 weeks sessions (depending on age) and cost from \$160 - \$250 per session.

She said if the person is looking for a location to hold this program, the teacher should contact the First Presbyterian Church because they might have room for her program. It is the church located at Euclid and Poplar. Diane said they will contact her to advise of this offer. She left a contact email to give to Rachel Maddock. She said they couldn't offer Sundays but could offer the other days that Rachel was looking for. This is one of the things the church likes to be part of.

Treasurer's Report - Beginning balance as of November 1, 2016 was \$22,501.84, total deposits were \$12,205.00 total expenses were \$0, leaving a balance of \$34,706.84. A detailed report is in the file. Competition cheer and basketball had deposits. There was one returned sponsor check from the softball program. The team was again contacted to request a new check in the amount of \$512.00, which has not been received. A motion was made by Gil Bell and seconded by Rodney Craft to approve the Treasurer's report. All were in favor of this motion.

Old Business – None at this time.

New Business: None at this time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2017.

A motion was made by Scott Garris and seconded by Lloyd Domke to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

cc: Commissioner Adam MacNeill

Barbara DeLuca