

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
March 16, 2017**

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 were: Diane Maglione, Lloyd Domke, Gil Bell, Mike Ruiz and Tom Strowbridge. Excused: Hal Bomzer, Jimmy Coloma, Rodney Craft, Scott Garris, Mercedes Haines, Kaitlyn Maglione and David Urbay.

The minutes of the February 16, 2017, meeting was approved by a motion made by Gil Bell and seconded by Mike Ruiz. All were in favor of this motion.

Correspondence: 1) invitation from Sam Aguilar to ScarletDevils Football & Cheerleader Awards 2016 2) email from Nicole Pucciarelli regarding Bergen Travel Basketball League 3) invoice from Verified Volunteers for background checks 4) invoice for use of buses for the Middle School Recreation Basketball 5) letter from the Green Team advising of a meeting for the new Community Garden

Hearing of Citizens: Falon Brady was present to discuss the wrestling program.

Bowling – Nothing to report.

Wrestling – Falon Brady was present to discuss the wrestling program. She said next year she is going to be the person responsible for organizing the program for the division chairman. Falon has a problem that the warm-up suits that were ordered were not distributed. She said the warm-up suits were supposed to be a “gift” from the Board to the wrestlers. The Board advised that it never intended on “gifting” the warm-up suits to the players. Diane Maglione gave Falon some behind the scenes details on this order that she and other parents are not aware of.

Dan Reeves had asked if the Board could supply a cover-up for the wrestlers. The Board agreed to this but the proper sequence was never followed. The warm-ups cost much more than the Board had expected. Instead of getting a price and presenting it to the Board for approval, Dan presented the Board with a bill in the amount of \$4,979.88. The warm-ups cost \$100.00 per child. Registration is only \$45.00 so the Board is already in the red \$55.00 just on the warm-ups without taking into account any other costs for the program. Registration fees typically include shirt (singlet in this case), party and trophy. The Village foots the bill for items purchased for safety.

There has been an issue with the warm-ups since they were first ordered in December. The price was much higher than the Board ever expected. The Board has ordered cover-ups for other programs but they were a shirt that cost approximately \$15-\$20, not \$100.00. Since the Board did not specify a specific amount it decided to eat the cost this time. The warm-ups were never coming in. The Board asked Dan for contact information so they could attempt to contact the company, Tri-Titans. Dan said he dealt with a Rick Puerto. On January 25, 2017, Diane began to correspond with Rick Puerto.

Diane was finally able to get in contact with Rick Puerto, who said they were moving to a new warehouse. He advised her that the California number is disconnected because they were moving to a new warehouse. Rick said he told Dan to give him the payment so the order could be placed immediately. Dan never gave that information to the Board. Once Dan told him the check was sent and cashed and Rick verified that, the order was placed and it was too late to cancel it. Rick did request a tax exempt form be emailed to him so the tax could be returned.

On February 27, when it was near the end of the program, Diane again attempted to contact Rick Puerto to find out where the warm-ups were. Diane tried contact via text message, phone messages and emails

and yet, Rick, never called her back. She advised Rick that the Board of Recreation needed to bring this matter to a closure. The Board was out \$4,979.88 and still did not have the wrestling warm-ups and coaches' shirts. The Board was not provided with a tracking number or an in service number for the Tri-Titans company in California. During her two previous phone conversations, she articulated that Rick were to conduct all further business with the Board and not Coach Dan Reeves yet the Board still has no idea on the status of the order or the tax refund although the Board would prefer a complete refund. Diane advised Rick that if she did not hear from Rick or the company by February 28th, 2017 with valid information concerning the order, that he was leaving her no choice but to have the Village's legal department take over.

On February 27, 2017, Diane sent another email to Rick Puerto: "You have given me several different versions of the shipping and delivery dates. You told me the order was to arrive by Friday the 24th of February or so. Now you're telling me it was only shipped from Vietnam on the 23rd of February. I tried to cancel this order on January 25th but you told me it was too late as it was to be shipped on February 1st, a week turn-around. You have not been straight with me since the beginning. Let me remind you that the company received and cashed our check the 3rd week of December, 2016.

If and when the order actually arrives, you need to contact the Board ASAP. Again, do not turn this shipment over to anyone but the Board of Recreation."

Rick Puerto then sent an email: "The order had been shipped from Vietnam on Thursday. I will have a tracking number for you once it's received at the corporate offices in San Diego and redirected to NJ for delivery. Tri-Titans contact, Duke Le, [858-688-5950](tel:858-688-5950)".

Diane sent a final email to all concerned on February 27, 2017:

The Board doesn't play games. Rick, you told me you didn't know where Dan got his info from concerning the delivery date of the merchandise. Dan, Lloyd and I separately told you in person that if you received the merchandise that you were not to distribute it. Our regular season is over and so REC will take delivery directly. This order was mismanaged from the beginning, check was cashed mid-December, we were charged tax, haven't received tax reimbursement yet, been told incorrect delivery info, AND we still don't have our merchandise in hand.

Finally on March 1, 2017, Diane received an email and phone call from Duke Le, the owner of Tri-Titans. To sum it all up: The order was received and began being processed as soon as the check cleared in mid-December. There was custom art work that went with the order BUT only the sweatshirts' and coaches' art work was signed off on. The California site was still waiting on the sweat pants art work to be approved and signed off on.

When Rick Puerto contacted them the other day, he was informed of the above. Rick never got the pants' artwork approved by the customer. Then Duke Lee received Rick's email again asking about the order (just recently) followed up Diane's email. Duke called Rick to get the story straight. Rick has been released as an east coast salesman by the company and we are not to have any more dealings with him. Rick also DIDN'T FORWARD our tax exempt form to the company. Diane scanned a copy of the invoice and the completed tax exempt form to Duke Lee. He will be reimbursing the tax money and the cost of the sweatpants to the Board.

Diane also received the tracking information too. The merchandise was supposed to be shipped to the home of Daniel Reeves. Diane asked Duke to have UPS, when they receive the shipment, to change the delivery address to the municipal building. ETA Tuesday, March 7th, 2017.

Duke Le apologized several times and said that he was embarrassed by this incident. He asked to see a copy of the Board's invoice so he could see what was charged so he could reimburse for the pants. Nothing looks right about this entire transaction from the beginning.

On March 8, 2017, the wrestling order finally arrived. It was only the sweatshirts. The Board did show them to another vendor and was told they were dye-subbed jackets, which are very expensive.

Falon Brady said the parents are expecting this "gift" from the Board. The Board again explained to her that there was never a mention of a gift. The warm-ups were to be used and returned at the end of the season just like the singlets and uniforms in other programs. Participants only keep t-shirts when they are issued. Diane reminded Falon that at one of the meets she even said that the Board should hold onto the warm-ups since the season had ended.

Falon said at this point she feels the company needs to do damage control. Diane broke down the expenses for her. 43 shirts cost \$2,475, 42 pants cost \$1,890.00 and 10 coaches' shirts costing \$356.00 were ordered even though the Board is only aware of six coaches. The telephone numbers were wrong. The email was wrong, company address wrong. All of these were non-existent. This order has been wrong since the very beginning.

The Board explained that the wrestling program has brought about several procedural changes for the Board of Recreation. From this point on, a Board of Recreation member must be present at all registrations. Forms and fees must immediately be put in the possession of the Board. This is because this year fees were not promptly submitted to the Board.

All vendors must be approved by the Board of Recreation before any orders are placed. The Board expects to get a request and quote rather than the Board got an order that was already placed.

The registration fee is supposed to cover singlet, party and trophy. The Board's budget pays for safety – such as referees, saving money to refurbish mats, etc. Uniforms are supposed to be replaced staggered, not everyone at the same time.

Dual meets seemed to be using Teaneck wrestlers instead of RP. There were more Teaneck wrestlers instead of RP. Dan Reeves seems to do things first and then tell (if he even told) the Board. It is not fair for the Board to fund expenses for only a few kids.

If there is an elite program, then that individual must pay the expenses of the elite team. The budget is not determined until you know how many kids sign up. Singlets, party, trophy are covered by the registration fee. Registration fees collected from the participants (\$1,890 - \$45x42 participants) is what was used to cover those costs, [\$700 + \$1,050 = \$1,750], \$1890- \$1750 = \$140. This is what would be left to cover any costs of Singlets or returned for use of year end party. The costs of Referee fees are covered by the "Town as Safety issues". The Board of Recreation only pays for referees and tournaments that everyone participates in. Singlets are to be reused and replaced only when needed; league fee of \$700, referees are what the budget should be able to cover. The party is a simple pizza party and a participation trophy if desired. Tournaments and these entry fees are covered by the Board. Everything else must be approved first.

Registration Fees Collected from the participants (\$1,890 - \$45x42 participants) is what was used to cover those costs, [\$700 + \$1,050 = \$1,750], \$1890- \$1750 = \$140. This is what would be left to cover any costs of Singlets or returned for use of year end party. The costs of Referee fees are covered by the "Town as Safety issues".

The Board wants to make it very clear that it will not pay for a meet where only the elite will go. Parents can pay for it and participate if a child qualifies, but the Board will not pay for it. The child will be insured under the Board of Recreation, but the Board will not foot the bill for a tournament for only select children. The Teaneck meet had only three RP children yet the Board paid for all the referees. The Board was not even told that Teaneck was participating. The Board cannot pay the expenses for a few elite wrestlers.

There is a lack of control at the meets and practices. Diane Maglione had to step in and remove children that were not attended to. Children left a mess after the party. Diane had to enforce this rule with the children. Dan Reeves had no administrative skills in this respect. This needs to be tightened up next year.

Falon Brady said she would handle the referees and vouchers. Dan had wanted cash to pay the referees. Vouchers were turned in without signatures. This will not happen next year. The Village does

not deal in cash. All officials will be paid by submitting a voucher to the Village and will be paid when checks are cut.

Falon said the wrestlers need to look the part. They must wear matching uniforms. Falon would like to see the registration fee increased to \$145 next year so that it would include uniforms. She wants the teams to have matching warm-ups. The Board again advised her that it cannot cover the cost of an elite team. It will not pay for the costs of a few elite children and will not make the other parents responsible for the costs of a few elite children.

Falon asked what if an "angel group" wants to raise money and donate it to the program. The Board told her that fundraising is not permitted by the Board of Recreation. It is a Village organization and there can be no fundraising. The "angel group" cannot simply decide they want something and raise money for it or make decisions for the program. Falon said this "angel group" cannot be stopped. It is America.

The Board advised her that it will take all of this under advisement and discuss it further in a closed session. The Board will make a decision and get back to her. The Board will decide if these uniforms are null and void. The Board must meet with the Commissioner to discuss this.

Falon wanted to be clear on the topics to be discussed in a closed session:

1) increase registration fee to \$145 to include uniform. The Board advised her that it only decided that the fee will be increased due to increased expenses not to pay for a uniform.

Falon asked if they can tell a parent they must buy a uniform. The Board again stressed these were never to be handed out as a gift. The Board still had to pay for it. Dan Reeves was told the warm-ups were never going to be handed out to keep. They were to be reused. The Board still has not been reimbursed for pants it never received.

Falon feels the difference for the sweatshirts that came in is \$24.50. If parents are willing to pay out of pocket, can they pay for the sweatshirt? She wants to make up a budget for next year. The Board makes up the budget for each program. The budget is a guideline because sometimes an emergency happens and funds have to be used for another purpose.

The Board again advised Falon that it would take tonight's discussion under advisement and discuss the wrestling program further in a closed session when all members were present.

Girls' Softball – Registration forms went out in the schools.

Women's Softball – Packets went out to all teams. They are due to be returned by March 31. Teams will not be permitted to participate until they have submitted a complete packet, including the registration fee.

Fourth of July – Nominations are being accepted for grand marshal.

Easter Egg Hunt – The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 15. An email will be sent to the schools to see if the Honor Society is interested in helping to fill the eggs this year. Diane Maglione ordered the eggs but due to the storm, delivery is scheduled for Monday, March 19. The candy is ready. It was decided that for the older division that 12 prize certificates be purchased. Six Dunkin Donuts \$10 gift cards and six Dante certificates good for two slices of pizza and a soda will be used as prizes. A letter was already sent to the Ambulance Corps and Police Dept. Egg filling meetings are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the DARE Room on Monday, March 20; Wednesday, March 22 and Thursday, March 23.

Rite-Aid was very accommodating in helping to get the supplies for the Easter Egg Hunt. A thank you letter will be sent to them.

Holiday Display Contest – No activity at this time.

Wish Tree – No activity at this time.

Tree Lighting – No activity at this time.

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

Adult Trips/Activities – No activity at this time.

Ping Pong – This program is on hold due to the Civic Center being currently unavailable. Work is underway and the program will start up again once the room is ready.

Basketball – Hal Bomzer was at a make-up basketball game and unable to give a final report. He will give his report next month. Finals are underway right now and the program should be finished in the next week. The invoice came in for use of the bus for the school teams and will be turned in for payment.

Tennis – Barry Ruback (568-3946) runs this program, which is taught by All Pro Tennis Staff. 2017 Spring Tennis Clinic is scheduled for: Session 1 April 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6; Session 2 May 20, 27, June 3, 10, 17. Fee is \$75 and participants can email Barry to reserve a spot. Payment is made at the first class.

T2S Basketball – Larry Umana will be starting up his next session shortly.

Summer Fitness Camp – No activity at this time.

Competition Cheer Team – Diane Maglione emailed Commissioner MacNeill about Kathy Tabasco advertising fundraisers for her “Recreation” Competition Cheer Team. The Board received another flyer for a different fundraiser for “Recreation” Cheering done by Kathy Tabasco.

Commissioner MacNeill requested that the Board of Recreation set up a roundtable discussion with Kathy Tabasco, the Board of Recreation coaches and the Executive Board. The discussion needs to be rescheduled when all parties are available. Sam Aguilar was unavailable to meet due to the storm.

Diane Maglione went to a recent cheering event. It was run quite well. The RP Storm parents purchased a banner for Storm. There seems to be no problem with the kids at all.

RP Storm won a bid for a tournament in Atlantic City. The entry fee is \$100, which the Board gave to them so they could enter. The cost to participate is \$68.00 per girl for a total of \$1,224.00. They asked if the Board would be able to sponsor this tournament.

A motion was made by Tom Strowbridge and seconded by Gil Bell to approve the cost of \$1,324.00 total to enter the Atlantic City tournament; broken down to \$100.00 entry fee and 18 girls @ \$68 per girl. All were in favor of this motion.

Acting and Improvisation – Rachel Maddock is running classes for children and teens in Grades K-12. Rachel will shortly be starting the next session shortly. Diane Maglione submitted the checks received for registration fees to the Clerk's Office so a check can be made to Rachel once the checks clear.

Treasurer's Report - Beginning balance as of February was \$25,169.90, total deposits were \$0 total expenses were \$2,512.00, leaving a balance of \$22,657.90. A detailed report is in the file. A motion was made by Tom Strowbridge and seconded by Mike Ruiz to approve the Treasurer's report. All were in favor of this motion.

Old Business – None at this time.

New Business: An email was received from Nicole Pucciarelli. She is interested in getting Ridgefield Park to set up a travel team for girls' basketball. This could benefit kids grades 3-8. The league that she is interested in joining is the Bergen Travel Basketball League <http://www.bergentravelbasketball.com/>

Most towns in Bergen County are represented in this league, and it is a true benefit to the kids and the

high school programs. She was hoping that maybe we could get two teams joined for the coming fall.

She would not be allowed to coach due to her conflict of interest as the Varsity coach, but she wanted to get the word out to RP residents. There may be a parent interested in coaching, and based on enrollment at her summer camp, she knows there are plenty of girls who would enjoy playing. It is also open to boys.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2017.

A motion was made by Mike Ruiz and seconded by Gil Bell to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. All were in favor of the motion. At the conclusion of the regular portion of the meeting, the Board went into closed session to have a short discussion on the wrestling program.

Respectfully submitted,

cc: Commissioner Adam MacNeill

Barbara DeLuca