

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
September 19, 2019**

President Diane Maglione called the meeting to order at 7:04 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, Lloyd Domke, Hal Bomzer, Mercedes Haines, Howie Jacobs, Mike Ruiz, Tom Strowbridge. Excused: Gil Bell, Jimmy Coloma, Scott Garriss, Kaitlyn Maglione.

The minutes of the June 20, 2019, meeting were approved on a motion made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Tom Strowbridge. All were in favor of the motion.

Correspondence: 1) Permits came in for the basketball program, including Saturday night hoops.

Hearing of Citizens – Maria and Gabe Ceceres, Tina Pozas, Marlene and Scott Toledo, Jose Rivera, Jacquelyn Thompson, Fausta and Jose Vargas, Kellie Nagle, Kelly Thompson, Kristan Gonzalez were present to discuss the cheering program.

Jose Rivera spoke first. He asked why were several girls denied participation in the cheering program. Scott Toledo then continued that the season usually starts around January. At this point, they are just preparing for January. One girl was denied participation even though her sister was accepted. There should be open arms to letting kids register. If there is no place to place the kid it is one thing. There should not be an issue.

President Diane Maglione explained to the parents that they are not aware of all the facts of what went on. At the meeting where the dates were chosen (July 1 being the date for final payment), Diane asked head coach Fausta Vargas “do you think that is enough time?” Fausta’s answer was yes. The dates were chosen by the two head coaches and they were expected to be followed. Fausta said she thought it wouldn’t be a problem because in the past she had accepted late registrations.

The Board told both Fausta Vargas and Kellie Nagle that due to family issues of some members that some details were relaxed a bit in past years due to these personal circumstances and that this year the rules and regulations would be enforced as in other programs and were to be followed closely this year. The Board would be keeping track of who paid and who did not pay in full. The Board made this very clear to both of them.

Choreography comes under safety so the Village pays for it. All girls would learn by a certain time and needed to be registered by a certain time. Certain things were explained to you, such as unless a Board of Recreation member was at registration, there would be no cash accepted. We told you not to personally accept registrations, that registrations were to be submitted at the Clerk’s Office. This was so there is a paper trail of who registered and how and who payment was made by.

Jose Ramirez said choreography is not for safety, it is for music. Safety comes from coaches. They make sure things are done safely. It is not from choreography.

Maria Cecere then spoke and said it is devastating to push a child away. It is upsetting to coaches. Coaches put their heart and soul into all these girls. Jose Rivera continued that the girls are protective of each other. They instill confidence in the girls.

Diane Maglione advised the parents that they are putting the onus on the Board of Recreation when they should ask the parent what happened. They did not sign up on time. Things were not run tight. The Board did not know there were more than two coaches. This is a violation of our insurance policy and the town’s policies. The coaches chose the deadline. Many did not pay by the July 1 deadline. The Board did not have to extend the deadline for payment but it did.

Gabriel Cecere said the Board should have just charged a late fee and accepted the registration.

At this point there was a discussion about a donation of several thousand dollars the coaches received from the K of C but did not inform the Board about until after the fact and after the competition was complete despite having been previously

informed by the Board that it cannot fundraise. Jose Ramirez said the K of C donated to US Gym. The coaches said the check was not made out to them. They are fathers and they belong to the K of C.

The Board again explained that the coaches told the Board they were running the fundraiser as a thank you for the K of C allowing them to use the hall at no charge for practices. They said the Board told them there was no problem with a grandparent paying a grandchild's registration fee so this was the same thing. The Board told them that a family member paying a registration fee for another family member is not the same as getting a donation of thousands of dollars from a civic organization. They knew they were not to fundraise. If the parents wanted to get together and pay their child's fee, that is different.

Kelly Thompson – I participate in other activities and they cannot accept donations.

Mike Ruiz explained that the Board can't just change things and add a late fee without telling anyone. There were some missed opportunities and liberties taken. Lessons are learned on both sides but procedures must be followed.

Fausta said she did not pick a later date because she was feeling a lot of negativity and trying to make as little friction as possible. She said there aren't deadlines in other programs because her daughter joined basketball with only two games left in the season. Hal Bomzer, Basketball Chairman, said no child has ever been permitted to join with only two games left in the season. No one on the Board of Recreation was aware of her daughter being added to the roster with only two games left in the season if she did, in fact, play. Players are only added late in the season to replace an injured player.

Tina Pozas said her younger daughter was devastated she could not join. She did not originally want to join and then changed her mind and wanted to join. Her daughter was crying because she could not join. The coach never mentioned to the Board that there was a girl who was hesitant in joining. The Board cannot make decisions not knowing all the facts. The deadline was July 1. On August 6, Diane Maglione sent an email to Fausta Vargas telling her not to accept anymore registrations. This registration arrived after that email. It was not a few days late; it was 6 weeks late. One other registration came in on August 15 and that girl was advised that registration was closed.

The parents were advised that rules and procedures need to be in place. There are deadlines and cutoffs in other programs such as basketball. No registrations are accepted at evaluations. Registrations received after the deadline are put on a waiting list and players are only added to the roster if there is an injury or a need to replace a player. Enrollment is capped in each division. The Board must have guidelines for all programs.

Kellie Nagle asked when did the town stop caring about kids? The Board replied that the parent did not register the child. Do not place the blame on the Board of Recreation for a registration being six weeks past the deadline. Diane again explained that rules were not followed by the coaches. Registrations and cash were accepted by the coach despite the Board advising them both verbally and in writing that coaches are not to accept cash and registrations. The Board only learned, while sitting at this year's registration, that there were more than two coaches involved in the program. The Board did not do background checks or check on any requirements of the other six coaches and this could have put the Board in serious jeopardy had anything happened. The Board was only given the name of the two head coaches when it came time to do the mandatory requirements of being a Board of Recreation coach. The safety of the children is always the priority of the Board.

The Board also explained all the things that are done in other programs such as reminders, emails, sending forms to former players, hours of preparation, etc., numerous things they may not be aware of. To say the town and Board of Recreation does not care about the kids is insulting.

Tom Strowbridge said all sides have been heard. The issue should now go back before the Board for discussion. The reason deadlines are made is because once you start making exceptions, more people will assume they can register.

Fausta said what is lacking is they are doing good, getting a lot more kids, you would think she is doing wrong, getting scolded like a child. The Board explained that it is important that procedures and regulations are followed. These regulations and procedures are for the protection of the Board as well as coaches and players. For instance, at registration, Diane explained to you that all registrations need to be either mailed or dropped off at the Clerk's Office. A coach is not to collect the registrations and fees. Despite being repeatedly told that you were not to collect registrations and fees, you continued. You accepted money from participants and then submitted personal checks as payment for the registrations. This makes things very difficult as far as paperwork. Coaches should never accept money and you were repeatedly advised of this, so yes, you did receive emails that you were not following procedures for both the Board's

protection as well as your own. A refund was requested but the registration was paid by a personal check under your name. If the Board does allow a refund (even though all forms clearly state no refunds on registration fees), no check was received from the participant.

Diane explained to the parents present that if anyone has a complaint about any program, the Board does not take anonymous complaints. The Board takes what they have to say and then investigates it. The Board does not reveal who the parent was. The Board mentioned it to the coaches when there was a complaint. Parents need to know that if they make a complaint, the Board will not reveal who the parent is. There was a suggestion, the Board followed up on it and the coaches would like to know who they were that said it. Rather than take a suggestion/comment, the coaches would rather know where it came from. The Board wants the relationship with the parent and coach not to be affected by any concerns. Only the Board needs to know the source of a complaint so it can investigate and the Board will not reveal the source of any complaints/concerns.

The Board will discuss this in detail later in the meeting. Jose Vargas said there are only two girls now, one joined the other team. They are really only concerned about the younger sister of the girl already participating.

Lloyd Domke ended the discussion advising the coaches that from hereon in the coaches better make sure that every rule we have set down is followed. Every coach that goes on that mat must be Rutgers's certified, taken the online concussion course and have passed a background check. If the Board says no fundraising, there is no fundraising. Lloyd said this was outlined in the June letter he sent to both Fausta and Kellie. Both coaches said they didn't receive the letter and the Board said it would resend it but then Fausta and Kellie realized they did receive the letter.

The Board said it will discuss allowing the two girls that they have received late registrations for to register. It might take some time since not all members are present at the meeting. If they are permitted to join, it will be under special circumstance for these two girls only.

The Board thanked the parents for attending and said it will advise the coaches what the outcome is after speaking to all members.

Bowling – No activity at this time.

Women's Softball – The season ended. All went well this year. Trophies were handed out at the championship game. Peggy Schneider does a fantastic job running this program.

Deposits:

Registrations \$ 815.00

Expenses:

Trophies \$116.90

League Manager Stipend \$300

Umpire Fees \$2,547.90

Total \$2,964.80

Fourth of July – No activity at this time.

Easter Egg Hunt – No activity at this time but a short discussion was held on the event. Next year, the flyer will include that in case of inclement weather the Board will be available to hand out eggs to anyone who wishes to come get them. It worked out well last year when the weather was too bad to conduct the hunt.

Holiday Display Contest – No activity at this time.

Wish Tree – No activity at this time. The snowman wands came in during the summer.

Tree Lighting – No activity at this time.

Rag-A-Muffin – The same arrangements were made with Parties for Peanuts for the popcorn carts and magician. The parade is scheduled for October 26, 2019, with a rain date of Sunday, October 27. Everything is ready other than the candy bags. This year the Board will stick with a rain date. It will look into the possibility of a rain location for the future but the problem with that is there is no inside location for the floats.

Adult Trips/Activities – No activity at this time.

Ping Pong – This program has been on hold due to the Civic Center being unavailable. The Board will contact the instructor to see if she can start up again during hours the room is available. Commissioner MacNeill said the Youth Center will be open from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. weekdays and after that should be available to the Board of Rec. Arrangements to reserve the Civic Center should be done through Donna Rose-McEntee at the DPW.

Basketball – Registration dates are set for September 27 & 28. Evaluations will be held on October 28 & 29. The registration forms are on the village and school websites. Paper copies will be given out in the schools next week. Lloyd Domke said he is available for registration on Saturday, September 28 but needs another member to help out. Mike Ruiz and Hal Bomzer will handle Friday night's registration. Registration forms, evaluation reminders and a list of those who enrolled through early bird registration will be given to Hal.

Hal has the new scoreboard for Roosevelt School. Amanda Lax has offered her services to the program. She said she is willing to hold a coaching clinic or help with clinic if the Board would like her assistance.

Deposits:

Registrations \$815.00

Expenses:

Roosevelt School Scoreboard \$870

Saturday Night Hoops – Howie Jacob is looking into working in a game at Barclay's in the next season. He will include it on the form. He will get together with Jimmy Coloma to pick out a try out date so forms can go out. He has a few changes in mind for this year but the season was pretty successful last year. This year the program will be open to 9-11 grade boys.

Girls' 5/6 Travel Basketball Team – The girls practiced all summer and 12 girls were chosen for a team to enter at Hoop Heaven. The coach will be Russell Hodge. The uniforms are in and their first game is Friday night.

Expenses:

League Fee \$1,095.00

Uniforms \$ 540.00

Tennis – Barry Ruback (568-3946) runs this program, which is taught by All Pro Tennis Staff. The fall session is scheduled for Saturdays, September 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12. The program is running well and Barry said he has a nice group in RP. The permit for Fellowship Park has been received from the DPW.

T2S Basketball – Flyers for the fall session went out the first day of school. Session 1: Sept. 9th - Oct. 2nd / Session 2: Oct. 7th - Oct. 30th. Larry Umana runs this program.

Competition Cheer Team – The Board continued the discussion of the two late registrations and whether they should be permitted to join this season. The Board concluded the discussion with the opinion that in this particular instance, the Board is willing to make an exception for the two registrations that were submitted. The check received for one of the registrations will be cashed and the other registration that arrived without a registration fee will be informed that a check is due within a week.

A motion was made by Mike Ruiz and seconded by Howie Jacob that the Board has agreed to allow the two registrations received after the deadline; the two girls cannot participate in anything until full payment is received; full payment must be made by September 27, 2019; no participation is permitted unless the Board receives full payment by that date; the Board is making an exception for only the two registrations already submitted in August, no further registrations will be accepted for this program; all procedures must be followed for this program in the future; if the program continues to operate in that fashion, the Board of Recreation will not be able to support this program in the future. All were in favor of the motion.

The Board continued with the discussion of the cheering program. The Board sent a letter to both head coaches on June 23, 2019, and expects these procedures to be followed from this point on. Procedures were again emphasized at tonight's meeting. The Board needs to be kept fully informed of all activities **before** they happen. The Board had signed a contract for the choreography and after signing it learned an additional team was to be added without the Board's knowledge. The Board has budgets it must adhere to and did not allow this addition. Rules and procedures can no longer be disregarded. Coaches are not to collect fees and registration forms. There is absolutely no fundraising permitted.

Each month the Board will give a financial report to the head coaches. They can then decide which competitions they want to enter. The program cannot go over this budget. There are no additional funds available other than the amount already budgeted for this program. As previously advised in the June letter to both Fausta and Kellie, the Board expects the following to be strictly followed:

- We understand registrations are still coming in but they should be dropped off by the parents at town hall and never given directly to the coaches. No cash – checks or money orders only.
- Reminder, no child is allowed to participate in any activity who is not registered and paid in full. This is in place to make sure all participants are covered by insurance protecting everyone.
- All coaches need to be registered, and have completed a background check, be Rutgers certified and completed a concussion course, which is covered at the Board's cost. Coaches that have not completed all of these tasks will not be allowed to coach at any practices or events until all is submitted.
- In order for the Board to pay for any approved costs, you must supply an invoice/quote for services. It must include company name and address, contact, outline of services and all costs. This is a requirement by our town auditors and there will be no exceptions.
- Lastly, I wanted to remind you that no fundraising is allowed if you are a Board of Recreation activity and are receiving a town stipend.

Competition cheering as of August 31, 2019

Deposits:

Registrations \$15,300

Expenses:

Hotel for Choreography \$566.89

Expenses covered by Village:

Choreography \$6,400

Available funds for remainder of season: \$14,733.11

Acting and Improvisation – Rachel Maddock informed the Board that she would no longer be running her program out of RP. She thanked the Board for its continued support and assistance and said she greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work in RP. Since space was hard to find in RP, she was invited to teach this Fall at the Ridgewood Conservatory, where she will be teaching on Saturdays and some week nights. She said she would welcome the opportunity to work with the community again in the future but at this time, it does not fit into her schedule. The Board advised her that it would direct all inquiries about her program to her so that participants can continue their classes with her if they want to and would welcome the opportunity to work with her again in the future.

Treasurer's Report - Beginning balance as of June 1, 2019, was \$20,483.14 total deposits were \$25,773.10, total expenses were \$12,436.69, leaving a balance of \$33,819.55 as of August 31, 2019. A detailed report is in the file. A motion was made by Mike Ruiz and seconded by Howie Jacob to accept the Treasurer's report. All were in favor of the motion.

Old Business – None at this time.

New Business: Elections will take place at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. on a motion made by Mike Ruiz and seconded by Howie Jacob. All were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

cc: Commissioner Adam MacNeill

Barbara DeLuca