

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013, at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
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 Garriss, 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.

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 seems 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.

Tree Lighting – No activity at this time. Funds were encumbered under PO#10944 in the amount of \$1,000.00. Mercedes Haines does have one soloist for the tree lighting.

Rag-A-Muffin – No activity at this time. Funds were encumbered under PO #10943 in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Adult Trips/Activities – Vanessa Diaz is trying to find a location to host the zumba classes. The schools have no available time to offer her. She tried getting the Civic Center but was advised that it is only available to civic organizations. Diane Maglione sent an email to Commissioner MacNeill about using the civic center but did not get a response yet. Vanessa would also like to offer the classes to children as well. The Board left a message with the VFW to see if the VFW might be able to work out something with the Board for use of their hall.

Diane Maglione spoke to Mayor Fosdick and advised that she did not understand why the Board of Recreation was not considered a civic organization. Under the by-laws of the Board of Recreation, one of its missions is to provide activities for adults and children. This would serve both adults and children. Mayor Fosdick said he didn't understand why the Board of Recreation was not considered a civic organization and would speak with Commissioner MacNeill.

Leigh Rivera said she would look into any information that comes in for adult activities and see if it is worthwhile.

Adult Craft Classes – No activities at this time.

Basketball – Early bird registration will be open until August 15. Forms were distributed in the schools for the first grade students. Early bird forms were mailed to all players that participated this past season. A flyer was also made up for girls in grades 1-3 to try to attract more of the younger girls to the program. Permits came in for use of the schools for next season.

Diane Maglione did speak to the Police Dept. They said they would take the names of coaches and see if any looked familiar to them as having any history of offenses with minors. Detailed background checks will be discussed under old business.

Tennis – Barry Ruback (568-3946) runs this program, which is taught by All Pro Tennis Staff. Lessons are at Fellowship Park and started on May 30. There are 26 children involved and all live in Ridgefield Park. Barry Ruback called the Board to say that after lessons started he was advised by the DPW that he needed to pay a \$500 permit fee, which he was not aware of and had never been charged before. He contacted Commissioner MacNeill and advised him that he was only using the courts for a few times and for only minimal hours. He has kept about the same rate for the kids for over 10 years. His goal is to introduce the game to kids and do so at the lowest price possible.

The program has always been sponsored by the Board of Recreation and originated under Commissioner Anlian. Since Ridgefield Park gave him an opportunity when he was an aspiring tennis pro, and because of the kindness of the town, he has continued to offer the clinic at an affordable price. The fees barely cover the cost of the instructors. He also, out of his own pocket, provides every child with a racket to use.

Commissioner MacNeill advised him there was no way around the fee. Rather than cancelling the program, the Board of Recreation paid the \$500.00 fee. Diane Maglione happened to see Mayor Fosdick at a function and asked him about the Village charging itself to use the courts. Mayor Fosdick thought it did not make sense to him for the Village to charge itself to use its own facilities and would speak to Commissioner MacNeill about this.

Treasurer's Report - Beginning balance as of May 2013 was \$35,211.45 total deposits for month were \$612.00, total expenses for month were \$7,132.69, leaving a balance of \$28,690.77. A detailed report is attached. There is \$1,300.00 available for the pre-season party for the women's softball program.

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

New Business – Diane Maglione attended the June 4, 2013, safety meeting. Most of the items discussed don't really pertain to the Board. Diane did ask if background checks were done on the summer recreation employees. The Safety Office was not aware that summer recreation is not a part of the Board of Recreation so Diane advised that it is a separate activity and is run by Daina Scheideler. The Safety Officer wants everyone to take a haz-mat online course. Diane advised that she thought these classes were going to put-off some volunteers.

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 also a recent 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.

A motion was made by Mary Koegel and seconded by Mike Ruiz to investigate a fingerprint system (logistics to be worked out) in which all Board of Recreation coaches must be fingerprinted and will be reimbursed by the Board of Recreation after the fingerprinting is done. All were in favor of this motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2013.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Leigh Rivera and seconded by Scott Garris to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Adam MacNeill