

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2009, at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
FEBRUARY 19, 2009**

President Diane Maglione 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 31st day of December, 20087, and sent to the Star-Ledger on the 31st day of December, 2008. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Diane Maglione, Rich DePena, Tom Essig, Mary Koegel, Mike Ruiz and Frank Zaccherio. Gil Bell, Hal Bomzer, Carlos Carames, Lloyd Domke, Mercedes Haines and Leigh Rivera were excused.

A motion was made by Rich DePena and seconded by Mary Koegel approving the minutes of the January 15, 2009, meeting.

Correspondence: Letter from Leigh Rivera that she needs to take a temporary leave to handle personal business. Leigh will be excused from duties until further notice. Permits came in for Roosevelt School for registration and the crafts class.

Hearing of Citizens: None present.

Activity reports were as follows:

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

Wrestling - There was a recent meet in Boonton and the time was changed from 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. but the RP players were not notified of the time change. Parents were upset that they arrived on the originally scheduled time because no one notified them of the time change. There were also comments from parents that the younger kids are left out of some of the meets and only the older kids get to wrestle. It also seems that skill levels are not matched appropriately this year and parents are concerned about injuries. The next meet is scheduled for Elmwood Park. A procedures list is being worked on this year. Mary Koegel and Diane Maglione will sit down with Joseph Neubert to discuss better preparation for next year.

A letter will be sent to the Ambulance Corps. to confirm that there was a miscommunication regarding the duties of the ambulance personnel at the meet and that the Board hopes to remedy these problems for next year. The inadvertent miscommunication is in no way any reflection on the working relationship between the ambulance corps. and the Board.

T-Ball – Registration is scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2009, from 10:00

a.m. – noon at Roosevelt School. Registration fee is \$25.00. Lloyd Domke's schedule will not allow him to run t-ball this year. He is going to need some assistance if there are enough players to run a program this year. After registration, a letter will be sent out to players advising that if no one steps up to help run the program, the Board will not be able to continue the program this year.

Girls' Softball - Registration is scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. – noon at Roosevelt School. Registration fee is \$45.00. Maywood has reached out to the Board and would like to schedule some games with Ridgefield Park. Lloyd Domke needs to purchase about \$700 worth of equipment for this year. He has not decided how he will handle umpires this year. He may try to go with private umpires rather than the umpiring association since there are different rules among the towns. GJEM will be contacted to make sure umpires are covered under town insurance. Umpires are paid \$55 per game.

As far as 7 & 8 grades, Lloyd is going to wait to see how many girls sign up and what their plans are. Last year it was tough to get enough girls to show up due to conflicts with school programs. Lloyd might wait to see if the girls would prefer to play some U-Gal games beginning in May. He also would like to use Lincoln School to hold some pitching practices once basketball ends. He will also try to make some plans to play Hackensack as well.

Summer Sandlot Baseball Program – No activity at this time.

Women's Softball – Packets were sent out to team representatives and are due back by March 2. Frank was reminded that there will be no schedule changes once the schedules are distributed unless there were extenuating circumstances.

Fourth of July – Bob Carlson and Charles Quigley were nominated for grand marshal.

Easter Egg Hunt – Hal Bomzer will be looking into a new Easter Bunny costume. As for the poster contest, it will be stated on the form that no posters will be accepted that are larger than 8 ½ x 11 as stores will not accept large posters.

Holiday Display Contest – Most prizes have been picked up. There are a few still in the Clerk's Office and Frank Zaccherio said he will deliver these prizes.

Wish Tree – No activity at this time.

Tree Lighting – Next year the Board will see if it is able to obtain another set of risers. Side safety rails have been ordered so no one falls.

Rag-A-Muffin – Halloween is on a Saturday this year so the parade should be well attended.

Adult Trips/Activities – Frank Zaccherio has run tickets to the Harlem Globetrotters, two Nets games and the circus.

Ballroom Dancing – Due to lack of interest, lessons are not currently being held.

Adult Craft Classes – The Board was approached by Louise DeCicco, who offered to run an adult craft classes. The class will run for 6 weeks beginning March 3 and ending April 7. It will be held on Tuesday nights from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Roosevelt School art/music room. Cost will be \$96 per person, which includes all supplies. Students will leave each class with a finished project.

Basketball – Checks for the first half of the season went out last week.

Second grade clinic: The clinic is going very well. Kids are excited to be there and coaches have been consistently involved every week. Mercedes wanted to extend many thanks to Rich DePena. She asked Rich to help her coordinate the sessions, which would involve game formations. She felt she needed someone forceful and who would keep the kids on task. Rich quickly volunteered his expertise and that part of the clinic is going very well.

Travel teams: tryouts for 3-6 grades were held January 30, 2009. Tryouts for 7/8 grades will be held on Friday, February 20, 2009, at Grant School. Teams have asked for a more “uniform” style shirt to wear. It will cost more money but the parents have agreed they want to pay for the more expensive uniform rather than get a simple reversible jersey.

There was a very good turnout for the tryouts. There will be four boys traveling teams (no interest was expressed in a girl’s team by any coach this year). 3/4 grade team coached by Jenisse and Rich DePena, 5 grade coached by Tom Strowbridge, 6 grade by Jim Donohue and 7/8 grade by Julio Cardenas. There will be 12 players on a team. They will be splitting their time between Wayne PAL and Immaculate Conception in Mahwah. Cost is \$900 per team (they received a \$100 discount). The season will be 10 games plus playoffs. It will be a competitive league. Season begins first week in April and ends in middle of June.

We are one week from regular season conclusion and really have had no major issues. Any division leaders in attendance can give their perspective, but Hal has really have not seen problems with players, coaches, or fans this year. There is one major issue. The height adjuster in Grant school on the one backboard near the stage has broken again and now it really needs a whole new adjuster. The school has gotten the estimate and I told them I would see what I could do about

paying for half of the repair. The cost of the new adjuster is \$2,125.00 and the Board would be responsible for half if approved. An email vote will take place among the members. (Note: Members voted in approval of the new adjusters. The actual cost to the Board will be \$900.00. Tom Essig will deliver the check.)

The only problem that the Board was advised about was a cancellation of a game in the 6/7/8 girls' division because apparently one team was not informed of the schedule change. This needs to be cleared up for next year.

There was some discussion about some changes needed for next year. It was suggested that coaches only be allowed to be a head coach on one team at a time unless absolutely necessary. A general discussion was also held on how to handle a situation when a coach no longer has a child in a program but wants to continue to coach. No coach should ever be turned away but parents should be given the opportunity to coach their own child. If there are more coaches than positions available in the program, then coaches should only be able to coach one team at a time. Senior coaches will get priority over newer coaches. Parents that volunteer to assist cannot pick the team their child is on, they will assist whatever team the child ends up on. Assistants will go into a pool. A full discussion will be held when all members are available.

Tennis – Barry Rubach (568-3946) runs this program. Barry Rubach will be instructed to contact the DPW to see about reserving courts.

Treasurer's Report - Tom Essig noticed some fraudulent charges on the debit card, which has now been cancelled. The bank is looking into these charges. Beginning balance as December 2008, was \$20,567.72, total deposits for month were \$3,197.70, total expenses for month were \$4,614.30 leaving a balance of \$19,151.12. A detailed report is attached. Beginning balance as of January 2009, was 19,151.12, total deposits for month were \$397.85, total expenses for month were \$807.52, leaving a balance of \$18,741.56. A detailed report is attached.

New Business – None at this time.

Old Business – None at this time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2009.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Tom Essig and seconded by Frank Zaccherio to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Hugo Poli