

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2007, at 7:00 P.M.**

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY  
FEBRUARY 15, 2007**

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 sent to The Record on the 27th day of December, 2006, and to the Star-Ledger on the 27th day of December, 2006. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Hal Bomzer, Lloyd Domke, Tom Essig, Mary Koegel and Frank Zaccherio. Diane Maglione, Carlos Carames, Leigh Rivera, Rich DePena, Gil Bell and Mercedes Haines were excused. Commissioner Poli was also present at the meeting.

A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Tom Essig approving the minutes of the January 18, 2007, meeting.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Hearing of Citizens:** None present.

Activity reports were as follows:

**Bowling** – The fall league is in session. The next session will begin in February.

**Wrestling** - There is a tournament this Sunday at Becton.

**T-Ball** – Dates for use of the field were given to Commissioner Boyd. Registration was held and there are currently 8 participants. Lloyd Domke is hoping to get enough participants to field a team. He would like to schedule some games with Bogota and Little Ferry this year. Last year the kids seemed to really enjoy the few games that were scheduled.

**Girls' Softball** - Dates for use of the field were given to Commissioner Boyd. Registration was held and currently there are 20 girls for the 9-10 year old team. Lloyd Domke would like to get 6 more girls because 20 are too many for one team to have any quality playing time. He would like to have two teams of 13 each. The older girls are now at 15. There is at least one more girl that will join. Lloyd said he is also telling the girls that if they are playing he wants them to be there to learn the game. If they were only there to socialize, he would rather not have them. He doesn't want to see someone get hurt because they aren't paying attention. Lloyd has plenty of coaches. He was approached by a parent that wanted to add a 7/8 grade team. Lloyd told him if he has the coaches and girls, it would be no problem to add another team. Bogota wanted to know if they could

possibly combine teams to field a 13-15 year old girls team. Ridgefield Park has 5 girls to add to a team.

Lloyd Domke also pointed out to Commissioner Poli that Ridgefield Park is currently at a crossroads. There are not enough fields and maybe it is time to let Babe Ruth and the girls have an extra night or two at the Hobart Street field. The men's leagues currently use this field but many of them no longer reside in Ridgefield Park. Perhaps they could get another night or two in a town in which they reside to free up a field for the youth of Ridgefield Park. Lloyd just wants the Commissioners to think about this for the future.

Tom Essig advised Lloyd that if it were possible for any returning coaches to use the same shirts and hats, it would help keep the expenses down.

**Summer Sandlot Baseball Program** – No activity at this time.

**Women's Softball** – Frank Zaccherio held a meeting with the teams last Thursday. Mary Koegel attended this meeting. Frank was reminded that as per the by-laws, in the future, he needs to inform the officers of any meetings. Only four teams showed up at the meeting as some were confused about the date. The registration packets are due March 1. Frank is in the process of revising the rules, which will be distributed to all teams.

Frank questioned the Board wanting to make the playoffs a one-game elimination. Frank was advised at the August meeting this was a suggestion from some of the teams and not one of the eight teams that showed up at the August meeting objected at that time. All teams were mailed registration packets listing five teams were eligible for the playoffs and it would be a one-game elimination and none of them contacted the Board to suggest an alternative arrangement.

Frank feels this will not work and cause all kinds of problems. He doesn't feel it is fair that if one team has a bad night, they could be knocked out of playoffs in just one game. Tom Essig explained to Frank that it was a matter of budgeting why the playoffs were being shortened. The registration fee of \$85 per player was figured out using 10 teams and a total of 180 games. If Frank wanted to make the playoffs longer, these extra expenses would have to be paid by the teams. The Village cannot fund any extra expenses not budgeted for this activity. It was explained at the August meeting that this activity had to cover their own expenses. Frank still thinks the playoffs need to be longer. He doesn't care how many teams are included but they can't be one game. Tom again explained that the registration fee would have been higher if the Board knew that the playoffs would include more games than one. The current registration fee includes, shirt, end of year party and 180 games. This is how the figure was determined for each player. Playoffs would cost another \$105 per team.

Frank suggested that the Board send an email to all teams asking their thoughts on how the playoffs should run. The email will also include how the \$85 registration fee was determined and that if playoffs are extended, each team must pick up the extra expense.

The registration packets are due March 1. By the next meeting, the Board will know exactly how many teams and players are participating and can have a better estimate as to expenses for the season.

Diane Maglione wanted it made clear to Frank that there can be no changes made that will affect the costs of running the program unless there is a vote on it. Any increase in costs is to be paid by the teams and not by the Board.

**Fourth of July** – No activity at this time.

**Easter Egg Hunt** – The Easter Egg hunt will be held on April 8 this year. At the March 15 meeting, posters will be collected between 7 and 8 p.m. Mary Koegel spoke to CVS and will be ordering candy from them. She will also speak to the IGA about the eggs.

**Holiday Display Contest** – Prizes that were not picked up at the Commissioner's meeting were left in the Clerk's Office for pick-up. There were some incorrect addresses.

**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** – Frank Zaccherio is currently selling tickets to the circus on March 12. He plans on doing one more Nets game in March. There was a call from a citizen asking if any events were planned for adults that were not sports related.

**Basketball** – Checks for the first half of the season were mailed on Wednesday. Juan Giglio received the wrong amount and the Board will check on this.

Hal Bomzer reported that there was an injury at Lincoln School on February 10 when a 5/6 division player slid into the padded stage. The police were called but the father refused medical attention for his son and was not very cooperative when the police arrived. An injury report is in the files. The father took the son for medical attention on his own. He returned to school the next week but was still not well. Medical clearance will be necessary before he can participate again.

There have been some minor incidents, which have been dealt with. Diane Maglione had a few questions regarding 3/4 boys. There ended up being a very talented player added to the roster late in the season replacing an injured player. Tom Essig said he spoke to the mother and found out the boy had been involved in karate this year and wasn't going to play basketball. A friend of his was on this particular team and asked if he wanted to replace an injured player. The coach asked the boy to join this team. Tom said the Board had to make sure all coaches agree to additions of this type late in the season to avoid any questions. There was another addition in the boys 7/8 player of a very talented player but there was no need for discussion as one team was weak and needed a good player to help balance out the team.

There was an incident in 3/4 boys division where the referees were unsure of a technicality in the rule awarding foul shots. The refs told the coaches to work out the technical foul situation because DeGloria's team stated the rule as it is written and Lingle's team disagreed. The referee asked Hal to clear up the rule for him after the game. Neither the referees nor the coaches remembered the rule at the time. The referee did make the wrong decision in this case.

Lloyd Domke said that next year something has to be changed regarding excessive fouling. In his division, he has girls that are getting 12 fouls. Hal said that next year there would be a cap of 10 fouls. He does not like fouling out younger players but the safety of the players must be the priority.

Diane questioned coaches yelling "foul" to their players, especially in the younger divisions. Hal said it may be immoral but it is not illegal. He hopes they would use better judgment, especially in the younger divisions but it is not illegal. Hal Bomzer offered the following clarification:

To clarify further about telling a player to foul:

1. There is absolutely nothing in NFHS (high school) rules about telling a player to foul. There is nothing listed in technical fouls indicating this is one reason to issue a technical.
2. If a player fouls too hard or does not play the ball an "intentional foul" is called, resulting in two shots and possession of the ball at the spot of the foul. The penalty is similar to a technical, but it is not a technical.

Diane also wanted to question playoffs in the younger division. She feels that they are not necessary and only create added stress. Hal said he felt that the kids really enjoy the playoffs and was not planning any changes at this time.

Lloyd Domke said that next year the Board also needs to be more aware of drafts. He understands that some coaches may make a "gentlemen's agreement" so that some may coach together or keep kids together for transportation purposes for instance. This year it did not work well in the older

girls' division and created a great imbalance in talent. Next year, it will have to be clear that players will end up on teams based on talent levels only and there can be no accommodations made for transportation.

Mercedes Haines had no report on the clinic other than she switched the ending date. There will be no clinic on March 3 because of Jesus Day. The last day will be on March 10th instead. Parents were notified of the switch with a flyer and she announced it to all at the clinic. Hopefully the ones not there will get the message through word of mouth. She will also re-announce it on February 24th.

**Tennis** – Barry Rubach (568-3946) runs this program. The Board has not received any copies of any flyers.

**Treasurer's Report** - Beginning balance as of January 2007, was \$16,371.52, total deposits for month was \$1,466.80, total expenses for month were \$2,623.50, leaving a balance of 15,219.82. A detailed report is attached.

**New Business** – None at this time.

**Old Business** – The information regarding a proposed golf program was passed onto Michael Alberque, Athletic Director. The Board has not received any more inquiries regarding this program.

The Board also passed on information to Michael Savino regarding his students' project and the building of a recreation center.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2007.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Hugo Poli