

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2013, at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 21, 2013**

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 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: Diane Maglione, Hal Bomzer, Tom Essig, Mercedes Haines, Mary Koegel, Tom Strowbridge and Frank Zaccherio. Gil Bell, Lloyd Domke, Scott Garris, Leigh Rivera and Mike Ruiz were excused. Kaitlyn Maglione was also present.

The minutes of the February 21, 2013, meeting were approved.

Correspondence: Email from Capt. Hippe regarding background checks.

Hearing of Citizens: None Present

Activity reports were as follows:

Bowling – Nothing to report.

Wrestling – Uly Encarnacion sent in his end-of-year report. He will try to attend the April 18 meeting. "The Junior Scarlets Wrestling program began practicing on November 26, 2012. Forty-one wrestlers started the season and thirty eight finished. The season began on January 5th with a home meet at Ridgefield Park High School. (Please see attached schedule for the Rest of the season) On February 9th there was a tournament scheduled at North Bergen High School but it was cancelled due to a snow storm. The tournament was rescheduled for March 17th. Coach Encarnacion made the Board aware that the date of rescheduling would conflict with his staff of coaches with other sports. So this tournament is not mandated by Ridgefield Park Junior Scarlets Wrestling. Coach Encarnacion also advised that if any wrestler still wanted to participate in the tournament they could do so for a \$25 entrance fee as Coach Encarnacion advised to the Board that sending \$325 to North Bergen Recreation for 5-7 wrestlers who still wanted to participate in the tournament would not justify the cause.

On February 10th there was a Novice tournament held at the Fort Lee Community Center. Eight out of the eligible eighteen wrestlers placed and won medals. Frankie Shafranko 3rd 63lbs 8U, Andrew Drennen 3rd 87lbs 8U, Brandon Banks CHAMPION 67lbs 10U, Julian Mangal 3rd 126lbs 12U, Juan Mejia CHAMPION 170lbs 14U, and Evan Schroer CHAMPION 201lbs 14U.

On February 17th the District Tournament was held at Elmwood Park High School Consisting of 15 Teams for the Twin County Junior Wrestling League. Five out of the twenty wrestlers who participated advanced to the Regional Tournament the Following Sunday. Andrew Drennen 2nd 87lbs 8U, Chris Harnett 2nd 100lbs 14U Brandon Rodriguez CHAMPION 100lbs 14U, Juan Mejia 2nd 170lbs 14U, Evan Schroer 2nd 203lbs.

The wrestling season concluded with the Regional tournament held at Hackensack High School. Five advanced to this tournament but unfortunately no one placed at this tournament. There were over 55 teams who sent wrestlers to this tournament and it was an exciting experience for the kids, parents and coaches.

The end of year pizza party has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 20th at 6:30pm in the auxiliary gym of the high school where trophies, food and drinks will be distributed."

Refunds will be issued for the tournament that the wrestlers were not able to participate in. There were no coaches available for this tournament and there were too few wrestlers that qualified to enter to justify the cost. Only one girl participated and there didn't seem to be any problems with her participating. Uniforms and trophies have been paid for. Only qualified wrestlers can participate in Invitational Meets and some parents don't understand that. They question why their child was not asked to participate not understanding that you need to qualify for the meets.

Uly also would like to do some type of clinic/training over the summer. Tom Essig advised him to bring specific details to the Board to see if there were any funds available for a summer activity.

Mary Koegel said that some parents have complained to her about not being contacted by Uly. The Board said that since Uly did email parents about the meets, they should have emailed Uly with their concerns and if he didn't respond then they should contact the Board. Next year contact information will be added to the registration form so that concerns/complaints/questions can be directed in writing to the Board directly for a response.

Girls' Softball - Lloyd Domke could not attend the meeting but sent in his report:

Registration is completed for the two older teams. There are 15 players for the 7/8 grade team and 14 players for the 5/6 grade team. At present, there is only 8 total for the 3/4 grade team. Lloyd spoke to a parent who has a daughter on this team and asked her to reach out to some of her daughter's classmates parents. If we don't get enough players, then we will be forced to issue refunds to the girls and they will not be able to participate this year. If this is the case there is one player who has played for the last few years on Little League and could play up on the 5/6 team. Her father has requested this if there is no younger team.

The league meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 20 in Saddle Brook at 7:00 p.m. At this time we will go over the rules as well as schedule games. This year's towns are once again Saddle Brook, Bogota Ridgefield, Ridgefield Park and Cliffs Park will be rejoining us as well as Hackensack will now join us. There are no special equipment needs at this time other than 2 dozen softballs for games and possibly scorebooks. When I have the final schedules I will forward them to Jim Cosgrove at BCASU.

Tom Essig ordered the job box and spoke to Alan O'Grady. The DPW will install a cement base to secure the job box on.

Women's Softball – The pre-season meeting was held on March 20. All teams were represented. One of the problems was games not starting on time because some teams did not have enough players and were allowed to wait until more players arrived while other teams had to forfeit. Peggy Schneider, head of the umpiring association (and new program liaison) will make sure the umpires know to start games on time. It was also agreed upon that games could start with only 8 players and players 9 and 10 could be added as they arrived.

The Board also decided to eliminate the requirement that a player must play in 7 games in order to participate in the playoffs. The teams all agreed that there are no longer any problems with "ringers" so the Board will allow players that are registered at the start of the season to participate as long as they are officially on the team's roster. All players must still be registered at the start of the season and must be on the official roster in order to be eligible to play in a game. The May 1 deadline to add players is still in effect. There will still only be two orders (March 30 & May 1) of shirts this year due to the extra expense of printing shirts one at a time. If a shirt is required after the final deadline of May 1, there will be an extra \$10 charge per shirt to pay for the set-up fee of doing one shirt at a time. The Board will no longer absorb this added expense.

Teams are also concerned about maintenance of the field. Once the schools are finished playing, there is no maintenance on the fields. The teams feel they are paying a permit to use the fields so the town should maintain the fields. Diane Maglione will speak with Commissioner MacNeill regarding maintenance of the fields.

The field request will be revised to include use of Field #5 Hobart Street on Monday and Thursday nights from April – August until the high school takes the field.

Bella Wagner will run the end-of-season party using funds from 2012 (party money never used) as well as the extra \$300 leftover from field money for this year (total of \$1,600). The 2013 party money will be used for the \$1,000 field usage fee. No alcohol may be purchased with Board of Recreation funds.

Peggy Schneider has agreed to be the program liaison. She is able to check the condition of the fields in the afternoon and send out an email to the teams so everyone is aware of cancellations. She will let the Board know when games have been rescheduled. This was also a problem last year because not all teams were advised of rescheduled games.

All teams were also advised that they could not use nicknames in the book. The names in the book have to match the names on the roster.

The teams were advised about the job box and told that one key will be given to each team. A team representative is responsible for signing for the key and assuring that it is returned at the end of the season. Game balls will be kept in the box. The teams were all clearly advised that if any equipment disappears it will not be replaced and no additional new equipment will be purchased. Tom Essig will look into the proper lock for the box. Full notes regarding the meeting are attached.

Fourth of July – There have been three nominations for Grand Marshal: Harold Butler, Joan Gibbs and Dan Greco.

Easter Egg Hunt – The hunt will be held on Saturday, March 30. Mary Koegel had some lawn signs made for the hunt. She has the eggs and candy and is presently filling and sealing the eggs. Flyers will be distributed in the schools next week. Mary will make contact with the Ambulance Corps. this week. A note will be sent to the high school and Han Al School requesting community service students. Diane will work on getting a receptacle for anyone wanting to return the plastic eggs. Members should meet at 8:30 a.m.

Holiday Display Contest – Mary Koegel still has three prizes that she has been unable to deliver. She will make sure they are delivered in the next week.

Wish Tree – No activity at this time.

Tree Lighting – No activity at this time. Mercedes Haines will speak to 7-11 about the Slurpees and is making early contact with both the boy and girl scouts so they have plenty of time to prepare.

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

Adult Trips/Activities – Vanessa Diaz is trying to find a location to host the zumba classes.

Adult Craft Classes – No activities at this time.

Basketball – Hal Bomzer advised that the season went pretty well with only one incident that needed handling. There was an attitude problem with the 7/8 boys division that seemed to be corrected early on with stronger enforcing of the rules during playoffs in order to maintain control.

The scoreboard at Roosevelt School may need to be repaired. Hal will contact Corby to come in and do general maintenance and repairs. Lincoln School has a broken cage for the balls. The Board would like to replace the cage and balls.

A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Frank Zaccherio to replace the ball and cage at a cost not to exceed \$500. All were in favor of this motion.

Scott Garriss ran the clinic and it seemed to have gone well. Scott took over 3/4/5 girls after Gil Bell had a

conflict with job obligations. There were no problems in this division. Next year it might be hard to run this division due to lower levels of participants.

6/7/8 girls also went well. There was one serious non-contact injury requiring surgery. The division was fairly competitive. There seems to be two extremes in this division, either a purely recreational and fun skill level of play or a higher, very skilled level of talent.

3 /4 boys went very well this year. It was probably the best group of players in a long time. The coaches were very good this year and it is hoped they will return next year.

5/6 boys also went well this year with an average level of skill in this group.

7/8 boys were very strong on attitude this year but there were some great games played. Next year enforcement will have to be tough from the start to maintain control of this division.

There were not many girls in clinic this year so it may be tough organizing the lower division next year. It was suggested that perhaps a table could be set up at the summer camp run by the high school to promote girls' basketball. Perhaps seeing some of the high school girls and talking to them might interest some of the younger girls to join basketball. A flyer will be made up to distribute to the younger girls.

Tom Essig will make up an income/expenses list for Hal Bomzer to help him budget for next season.

There wasn't enough time for the photographer to set up a schedule for pictures this year. It was suggested that next year the Board look at quotes from three different photographers before scheduling photographs.

Tom Strowbridge turned in the certificates for the concussion course for the girls' 6/7/8 division.

Tennis – Barry Ruback (568-3946) runs this program, which is taught by All Pro Tennis Staff.

Treasurer's Report - Beginning balance as of February 2013 was \$33,263.72, total deposits for month were \$200.00, total expenses for month were \$858.00, leaving a balance of \$32,605.72. A detailed report is attached. There is \$1,300.00 available for the pre-season party for the women's softball program. There is still a returned check from the basketball program.

A motion was made by Frank Zaccherio and seconded by Tom Strowbridge approving the Treasurer's Report. All were in favor of this motion.

New Business – None at this time.

Old Business – An email was received from Capt. Hippe regarding background checks. "I spoke to Commissioner MacNeill this morning, and we both agreed that it would be premature at this time for me to speak to the Board of Recreation regarding this issue. There are many logistics associated with conducting background checks on volunteers, and I believe that there needs to be more discussion and planning. Hopefully this dialogue will occur in the near future. If so, that would allow me to speak more intelligently on what would and would not occur if such an ordinance is passed."

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2013.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mercedes Haines and seconded by Tom Strowbridge to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Adam MacNeill