

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2003, AT 7:30 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 20, 2003**

President Diane Maglione called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 19th day of December, 2002, and to the Star-Ledger on the 19th day of December, 2002. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Diane Maglione, Hal Bomzer, Rich DePena, Tom Essig, Mercedes Haines, Catherine Jacob, Mary Koegel, Leigh Rivera. Paula DiMeglio and Frank Zaccherio were excused.

A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Rich DePena approving the minutes of the February 20, 2003, meeting.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Rebecca DeRobertis, which was signed by 19 eighth grade girls asking the Board of Recreation to provide them with a basketball program for next year. A response advising that the Board will look into the feasibility of running this program next year will be sent to Rebecca. A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Katherine Jacob to investigate putting in a special program for the girls that have come through the program and requested this. All were in favor of this motion.

Hearing of Citizens: None present.

Activity reports were as follows:

Bowling - The season ends May 15.

Wrestling – There have been some problems with the lack of organization with this program. There was supposed to have been a meet, which was cancelled by Mike Raimundi due to the threat of snow. Al Brooks was supposed to have been the referee for this meet. Al Brooks and several other players from out of town went down to the meet because Mike Raimundi never called to cancel.

Al Brooks wants to get paid for coming to the meet otherwise he said he will never referee again. Diane Maglione informed him that he would have to take this up with Mr. Raimundi because the Board cannot pay for a meet that was not held. All members were in agreement on this.

There is another problem with unapproved expenses for this program. Mr. Raimundi said he needed three unitards for this season. The Board received a bill for three singlets amounting to \$104.97. Along with this bill came an invoice

for 29 hooded sweatshirts and 29 sweatpants for a total of \$1,015.00. The Board never authorized this purchase and the treasurer went through his records and could not find any trace that this was an expense ever covered by the Board in the past. First of all, only 20 registrations were turned in by Mr. Raimundi. Mr. Raimundi is still missing registration forms for players he allowed to play in this program with their signed permission slip.

There was \$290 put aside for the meet, which was never used. The Board will use this money to pay for the unitards, which was an approved expense. As far as the other invoice, Mr. Raimundi will be informed that this is an expense that must be absorbed by the players as has been done in the past as the expense was never approved by the Board and, therefore, cannot pay for this invoice.

Mr. Gonzalez from the high school will be contacted to inform him that the program cannot run unorganized like this next year if the Board is asked to be involved. All registration forms must be submitted before the player participates and all expenses must be approved before any purchases are made. Information must be given to players on a timely basis.

T-Ball – Only 8 registrations have been received to date. Rich DePena will call the players from last year to see if they plan on registering.

Girls' Softball – Registration is significantly down this year for several reasons. Unfortunately, there seems to be a big push from another organization to recruit recreation players. Problems caused last year by unknown sources seem to have damaged this league this year. Leigh Rivera has made calls to girls registered last year and has heard various excuses as to why they cannot register this year.

Leigh has been in contact with other towns to arrange games with them. Bob Becker, a parent of a registered player, was present at the meeting to offer his assistance to the program. He is involved with Bogota softball as well and will contact some teams he knows to try to arrange some games. Catherine Jacob explained to him that this is a basic recreational league not designed to be fierce in competition.

The Board of Recreation submitted their list of requested fields on January 16 to Commissioner D'Auria. No permit has been received to date.

The Board will make up teams and run with a smaller program this year. Outside games will be scheduled. There are plenty of coaches and umpires for the teams. The date for the picnic has not been scheduled this year.

Women's Softball – Frank Zaccherio has 10 teams right now. He might possibly be adding more teams to the league. On April 2, he will be holding registration in the D.A.R.E. room.

Fourth of July – No activity at this time. One nomination has been received for Grand Marshal so far.

Easter Egg Hunt – Easter egg hunt is scheduled for April 19, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. Mary Koegel will give Hal Bomzer the bunny costume so that the tail may be repaired. All members should meet at Veteran's Park at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 19. Students needing community service will be used to help. Mary will dye the eggs at the ambulance corps. building on Friday, April 18 with the assistance of the youth squad. Mary also handled the poster contest and will hang the posters and distribute the prizes to the winners.

A member of the ambulance corps. was upset that there was mention of the Easter egg hunt in The Record, which did not also list the ambulance corps. as a sponsor. For clarification, the actual notice, which listed both the Board of Recreation and the RP Ambulance Corps. as sponsors, was sent to both The Record and The Sun Bulletin. The Board of Recreation has no control over how the papers print their announcement.

Holiday Display Contest – No activity at this time.

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 – The last trip was to the circus. Frank Zaccherio sold over 120 tickets and a good time was had by all. Frank has no immediate plans for his next activity.

Women's Basketball – Open basketball night for adult women (18 years and older), who reside in Ridgefield Park will begin at Lincoln School gym on Thursday nights from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. beginning on March 27.

Basketball – The season has ended with the exception of a final game scheduled on March 28 between the coaches and 8th grade girls. A small party will be held on this night as well.

As far as final payment, notice will be sent to all division leaders that if tally sheets are not turned in immediately, then payment will not be available on March 28 and will have to wait until the next meeting date of April 17. Tax forms will be distributed to people who have received payment over \$600 from the Village of Ridgefield Park. This is a requirement of the Village and no payment can be distributed by the Board of Recreation until this tax form is filled out.

Forms and an explanation letter will be mailed to the people affected by this requirement.

The program went very well this year with only some minor problems. Some questions were asked to the Board and answers were discussed at the meeting.

One question was if a playoff schedule was distributed for 3/4 boys, because a parent felt that seeding was changed by the division leader. The Board was informed that a schedule was made by Hal Bomzer giving the system of which seeded team played the other. In this particular division, the division leader distributed the schedule; however, another game was played after the original schedule was handed out. This last game slightly changed the playoff schedule of the middle teams.

There was also a question about the rotation used during the playoffs. It was explained that in the first round of playoffs, the rotation started at number 1 and in the second round of playoffs, the rotation started at number 6. For those teams that played three games in the playoffs, the two teams had to agree upon which number would start the rotation for that particular game.

There was one incident at a 3/4 boy's game where a parent standing on the sidelines arrived drunk and was unruly. The parent was loud and abusive and would not listen to anyone until an off-duty police officer from another town (who was coaching at the time) informed him that if he did not return to his seat, he would have him removed as a police officer. The coach was informed that in the future, the Board holds the permit to the gym and he should not hesitate to call the police department to have them officially removed from the building.

There was another complaint of one coach switching player's shirts so that his team would benefit from the rotation. During the season, the coach who complained was informed to follow the chain of command and inform the division leader of these actions. Rich DePena refereed the next game involving the accused coach but the team only had 5 players, so there was really no rotation. This situation will be investigated by the Board to find out if the complaining coach actually did go to the division leader with this, and what action was taken if he did.

Another question was raised about coaches not posting their rotation as required in the rules. It was mentioned that a few coaches felt they were ridiculed by other coaches when they tried to have this rule enforced. Some coaches don't bother posting their rotation, nor do they care if the other team posts theirs. They were informed at games that if rotations aren't posted then they couldn't complain about problems.

The Board agreed that since this is a written rule the coaches have no choice but to comply if they wish to coach. If the Board allows coaches to choose not to

follow certain rules, then future problems could result because coaches will not know which rules will be strictly enforced. In the future, the rotation posting will be better enforced.

Rich DePena said he plans on having three travel teams again for the spring. There will be a 5/6 girls and boys and 7/8 girls teams. They might be entering a league and it is understood that all expenses must be funded 100% by the parents. The players for these traveling teams must be players that were previously registered during the recreational season. The permit for the use of Lincoln School gym from March 30 – June 30 on weekdays from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 – 12 noon are in. Rich must inform the school when he wants to use the gym for the travel teams, to make sure there is no conflict and to secure a janitor if he wants it open on a Saturday.

Treasurer's Report - The balance as of the last deposit is \$4,927.00.

New Business: There is some controversy brewing over the proposed summer recreational baseball league that some parents have asked the Board of Recreation to consider sponsoring. This group went to the Mayor first to gain permission to run this "sandlot" type summer baseball program. The Board has not heard anything further from this group and the possibility of this summer program.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Joseph Storer