

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2003, AT 7:30 P.M.

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

Vice President Mary Koegel called the meeting to order at 7:40 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: Hal Bomzer, Rich DePena, Mercedes Haines, Catherine Jacob, Mary Koegel, Leigh Rivera and Frank Zaccherio. Paula DiMeglio, Tom Essig and Diane Maglione were excused. Commissioner Storer was also present at the meeting.

A motion was made by Rich DePena and seconded by Hal Bomzer approving the minutes of the January 16, 2003, meeting.

Correspondence: A letter was received from the RP Fourth of July Committee enclosing a form for submitting nominees for Grand Marshal for this year's parade.

Hearing of Citizens: Michael Alberque was present to discuss a suggestion for future payments of referees/scorers/timers in the basketball program. A new tally sheet has been designed for ease in recordkeeping and to satisfy the Village's auditors. Ken Mattson also stopped by to pick up a check and advised that his 5/6 girls division is running smoothly.

Activity reports were as follows:

Bowling – Registration forms for the next season were distributed in the schools. The season will run from February 27 - May 15. Instructions were given to Bowler City as to how to distribute the forms as there is confusion as to where they should be dropped off.

Wrestling – Diane Maglione asked that a refund be issued to a participant who had quit due to confusion over not getting a schedule or uniform. A motion was made by Frank Zaccherio and seconded by Mercedes Haines that this particular participant receives a \$20 refund due to the confusion. Mike Raimundi was also informed that there are missing registration forms for three participants and that the Board cannot assume liability for any injuries to players that are allowed to participate without first turning in their signed registration form.

T-Ball – Registration was held on Wednesday, February 12 as it snowed on February 7 & 8 and the schools were closed.

Girls' Softball – Registration was held on Wednesday, February 12 as it snowed on February 7 & 8 and the schools were closed. To date, 14 registrations have been received. Leigh Rivera is in the process of contacting all coaches and players who participated last year. She has spoken with Bill White of Hackensack.

Women's Softball – No activity at this time.

Fourth of July – Nominations are being taken for Grand Marshal.

Easter Egg Hunt – Easter egg hunt is scheduled for April 19, 2003 and the poster contest will be conducted on March 20, 2003. Notices will be distributed in the schools shortly. Mary Koegel has ordered the candy from IGA. IGA has agreed to donate the eggs. The ambulance corps. also advised her that they think it might be time to replace the bunny costume and have agreed to pay half the cost. Mary is looking into a replacement but it might be rather costly. Hal Bomzer offered to attempt to repair the costume if a replacement was not possible. The poster contest will be held at the March 20, 2003, meeting.

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 Harlem Globetrotters game was held on February 8. Tickets for the circus on March 9 are going very well. Frank Zaccherio has already ordered 120 tickets. Commissioner Storer was asked if it was possible to put \$1,000.00 in the budget to enable Frank to order the group tickets in advance of receiving money from residents. Usually almost 100% of the tickets are sold, but logistically it is not possible to get money upfront from people before he must order the tickets and this is creating a slight budget problem for the Board. Commissioner Storer said he did not think this would be a problem.

Women's Basketball – Open basketball night for adult women (18 years and older), who reside in Ridgefield Park will be held at Lincoln School gym on Thursday nights from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. beginning on March 27. This is an **ADULT ONLY** program and only players will be admitted into the gym. Participants will again be instructed to make other arrangements for children under 18 as they will not be permitted to enter the gym during this activity. Notice was put in the Village Newsletter. Catherine Jacob said that participants are going to be given the choice of indoor soccer or basketball on Thursday nights and will play whatever the group wants.

Basketball – A formal policy was reached with the Board of Education regarding snow days. If it is a weekday and school is closed, no activities may be held at the school. If it snows on the weekend, the school is open unless the Board of Recreation (Hal or Rich) receives a call from Building & Grounds advising that no one may use the school. If the Board of Recreation will not be using the school on a weekend, they should call Building & Grounds. Members should not hesitate to call Mike if they are unsure of whether the school will be open.

A memo was sent out to division leaders asking them to remind referees and scorers/timers to please make sure they sign in and print their names clearly so that payment can be made. There were problems with some books, which needed to be cleared up before payment could be made. The Village requires the Board to keep accurate lists of who will be paid for each game in order to be reimbursed for expenses. Payments were issued upon receipt of the check from the Village.

A memo was also sent out to division leaders, with a copy to the police department, due to many complaints about illegal parking around the schools and advising that cars will now be ticketed and/or towed without warning from now on. There was an incident involving a coach who was not cooperative with the police when the police tried to issue warnings to parents parked illegally around Grant School and an incident report was filed by the officer involved. The police advised the Board of this behavior and division leaders were asked to remind their parents and coaches to please abide by parking regulations and cooperate with the police.

Hal has ordered trophies for the basketball program. The invoice was submitted to Frank Zaccherio for payment.

Mike Alberque wanted the Board to know that the 3/4 boys division is running fine, with no problems. He feels that gym time on Friday nights and Saturdays is working out fine for the ten teams. The only real problem with this program has been snow days; however, all games with the exception of 5/6 boys have been made up. Since the 5/6 boys practice at Roosevelt there is no gym time available for them to make up their games at Lincoln School.

There was a concern that there might not be enough money left in the basketball budget to cover the costs of playoffs. Commissioner Storer advised that the Board should voucher the amount necessary to finish the remainder of the season, including the playoff games as agreed to prior to the season. He assured the Board that the vouchered money would be available and all games would be played as scheduled.

Hal Bomzer said that everything seems to be running much better than last year. Increasing the fees to referees has really improved this program. The new procedures that were instituted this year are working out fine. With the exception of waiting a few days for some voucher money to be put in the Board's account, the season is running smoothly. Mary Koegel will get more ice packs for the first aid kits.

Commissioner Storer will be putting in the permits for next season. A permit for Lincoln School gym was already applied for to be used by the women's basketball program and the traveling teams from March 30 – June 30.

Treasurer's Report - The balance as of the last deposit is \$5,260.00. There are still three outstanding checks for refunds issued in basketball to participants who quit before the season began.

New Business: Rich DePena received a package from a group of parents who would like to see the Board of Recreation sponsor a summer recreational baseball league. Commissioner Storer advised that this group should attend a Board meeting and give a presentation on this proposed league, complete with how it will be financed and where the money will come from, who will run this program and where the program will be played. He is concerned about lack of fields, program leaders, conflict with Little League and especially finances since the budget will be very tight this year.

Immaculate Conception would like to distribute information about their summer basketball clinic to participants in the basketball program. The entire Board felt there was no harm in giving coaches the information to distribute to players.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Hal Bomzer adjourning the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Joseph Storer