

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2003, AT 7:30 P.M.**

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY  
MAY 15, 2003**

Vice President Mary Koegel called the meeting to order at 7:05 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, Tom Essig, Mercedes Haines, Catherine Jacob, Mary Koegel, Leigh Rivera. Paula DiMeglio was excused. Diane Maglione arrived after roll call.

A motion was made by Catherine Jacob and seconded by Mercedes Haines approving the minutes of the April 17, 2003, meeting.

**Correspondence:** A call was received from Janine Berman advising that her car window was broken by the Hobart Street Park while watching a softball game. She wanted to know how to go about getting reimbursed for the damage. Upon further questioning, it was discovered that the game she was present at was not a Board of Recreation activity so, therefore, the Board of Recreation would have no liability as far as damage. The game was played on April 6 and was a men's game (Fairview Jackals vs. Essex Knights).

**Hearing of Citizens:** John Toomey and Carlos Carrames were present to discuss the proposed summer "sandlot" baseball program they would like to start. They and a group of about 10 other parents would like to start a summer recreational baseball program, which would run after the end of the baseball organization program and finish before the football program begins on August 1.

They would like to start an affordable baseball program for the children that focuses on non-competitive baseball and improvement of skills. They feel that once school and the other programs in town are done, there is nothing for the children to do. There are parents that could not afford to join other organized programs so they would like to allow these children the opportunity to play at a price their parents can afford.

They already have ten certified coaches interested in helping out with the program and at least 30 children. The only thing they need is a field, some basic equipment and shirts and hats for the players. They would like to throw a small party at the end of the season, which parents have already offered to sponsor if need be. Their current plans for this year would be to just run with one age group – 9, 10 and 11 and see how it goes. They will charge \$25.00 registration fee. They want this program to be totally non-competitive, with no playoff

pressure. The goal is pure fun and recreation. They would like to play on the weekdays at 5:00 or 6:00 and possibly a Saturday game as well. They also do not want to compete against Little League so they plan on starting after Little League finishes.

They feel that some type of organized activity for the children after Little League and other programs end would give the children something to do in the summer. This would be a chance for the children to play with no pressure.

The program must be open to all children who live in Ridgefield Park or attend school in Ridgefield Park. The Board offered to do the fliers for this program and get the shirts if needed. Carlos said that he had someone who was willing to do the shirts for them. The Board would be able to supply the equipment needed to begin this program. There will be no umpire costs involved as they plan to use coaches since this is strictly recreational.

The major problem in starting this program would be field availability. The DPW will be contacted tomorrow to see what field would be available for use during this time period. If the field is available and the program is able to begin this year, the Board did agree to sponsor it.

A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Rich DePena that the summer recreational "sandlot" baseball program to be run entirely by Carlos Carrames and John Toomey, which would include: registration, equipment, scheduling and coaches (all coaches must be certified) be approved and sponsored by the Board of Recreation. All were in favor of this motion.

Activity reports were as follows:

**Bowling** - The season ends May 15.

**Wrestling** – No activity at this time.

**T-Ball** – The season has begun and is running fine. There were some rainouts, which will be made up.

**Girls' Softball** – The season has started and things seem to be working out well with Hackensack. There is a problem on Thursday nights trying to field teams because of other activities that players are in. The problem has been solved by rearranging the schedule to allow borrowing of players on this night. There has also been a problem the past few weeks with teams from the baseball organization using field no. 4, which softball has the permit for. Diane Maglione has spoken to the same coach on more than one occasion advising that he is using the wrong field. She spoke to John O'Grady from baseball, who apologized and said that they have the copy of the schedule and know which field they should be playing on.

The picnic will be held at Veteran's Park on June 5 at 6:00 p.m. All available members should meet at the park at 5:00 p.m. Catherine Jacob will get the permit for the picnic as well as order and pick up the food. Hackensack will again be invited to the picnic.

It was suggested that perhaps the season be lengthened next year to make it easier for the participants to play. Maybe only one game will be played a week until school ends and then the season could be extended so that more girls would be able to participate with scheduling conflicts. Parents and players will be polled at the picnic to see if they are interested in this change. It was also discussed that perhaps next year, third grade students be allowed to play in the junior division.

**Women's Softball** – The season has begun and is running well.

**Fourth of July** – Voting for Grand Marshal will take place on Monday, May 19.

**Easter Egg Hunt** – The Easter egg hunt went well. Thank you letters were sent to the IGA for their egg donation and the Ambulance Corps. for their assistance. Mary Koegel never received posters from the Girl Scout leader that collected them from her troop and failed to turn them in to the Board of Recreation.

**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** – No activity at this time.

**Women's Basketball** – Open basketball night for adult women (18 years and older), who reside in Ridgefield Park will be at Lincoln School gym on Thursday nights from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. until June 26.

**Basketball** – The traveling season is running well. Rich DePena turned in money and registration forms for the traveling team and a check was issued to Hoop Zone in payment of registration fees. Rich is still missing one registration form and fee from a player. She was informed that she would not be allowed to play until these were turned in. As this spot must be filled or the current players will have to pay an additional fee, Rich DePena will use his younger daughter to fill the spot and pay the registration fee if necessary.

Next year, registration will be held on October 3 and 4 at Roosevelt School. Forms will be mailed to all participants registered in the 2002-2003 season and distributed to current first grade students in all schools. Due to increasing costs and possible purchase of height adjusters for Roosevelt School, the registration fee will be increased to \$30.00 next year.

A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Leigh Rivera, increasing the basketball registration fee to: \$30.00 first child, \$20, second child, and early registration \$25.00. All were in favor of this motion.

A special registration form will also be sent to all eighth grade girls that were registered players in the 2002-2003 season, with a special note that this is an experimental program only, and will only be held if gym time is available, inviting them to register for a recreational league. A registration fee of \$30.00 will also be charged for this program.

**Tennis** – Barry Rubach (568-3946) attended the meeting. He is the person who previously ran the tennis program. He would like the Board to again sponsor this activity. He originally wanted to run the program on Friday afternoons at Fellowship Park but due to poor conditions of this park, there would be too much liability to hold lessons at this location. Barry Rubach will check out Hunter Park to see if this program would work at this location. He will be handling all aspects of the program and will turn in a list of instructors that he works with. The Board had no problem with starting this program up again.

**Treasurer's Report** - The balance as of the last deposit is \$3,654.00

**New Business:** None at this time.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Joseph Storer