

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004, AT 7:00 P.M.

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

President Diane Maglione 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, Diane Maglione, Leigh Rivera and Frank Zaccherio. Paula DiMeglio was excused. Andy Scheideler and Carlos Carames were also present at the meeting.

A motion was made by Leigh Rivera and seconded by Catherine Jacob approving the minutes of the October 16, 2003, meeting.

Correspondence: A copy of a letter was received from Mayor Fosdick regarding the Toys For Tots program and their participation at the tree lighting ceremony.

Hearing of Citizens: None present.

Activity reports were as follows:

Bowling – No activity at this time.

Wrestling – Registration was held on November 17, 2003.

T-Ball – No activity at this time.

Girls' Softball – No activity at this time.

Summer Sandlot Baseball Program – Registration forms will be distributed in the schools shortly. Carlos Carames advised that he attended a meeting in Hackensack and they welcome the Ridgefield Park team. The cost of the program is \$45.00 and players are guaranteed 30 games a season. The team will be invited to participate as a Ridgefield Park team for insurance purposes. They have also broadened the age group that they invited to join their program. Carlos already has five coaches lined up for this program. This is a very extensive program and last year's participants were quite pleased with how it went. It is not a competitive program; it is a great environment to play in. All games will be played in Hackensack.

Women's Softball – No activity at this time.

Fourth of July – No activity at this time.

Easter Egg Hunt – No activity at this time.

Holiday Display Contest – The contest will be held on Friday, December 19, 2003. Frank Zaccherio will handle getting the gifts after making sure there are funds to pay for the prizes.

Wish Tree – No activity at this time. Kaitlyn Maglione will run this program again with the assistance of Mary Koegel.

Tree Lighting –Tree lighting is scheduled for December 7, 2003. Loretta Vorhees already gave Mercedes Haines the Toys R Us gift certificate. Mercedes advised that she already made arrangements with Alan O'Grady for Santa as well as blocking the street. 7-11 will provide slurpees again. Father Doyle will offer a blessing. The scout leaders will again follow the same procedure: children enter on Park Street side and only 3 or 4 scout leaders will be in the building to supervise the scouts. The high school chorus was unavailable. Mercedes plans on playing music before the ceremony begins. She will get the candy canes. All Board members should meet at 5:30 p.m. for this activity. Mercedes Haines will have the ballot box ready and invites students needing community service to assist at this event.

Rag-A-Muffin – The parade was held on Saturday, October 25. Everything went well this year. Mercedes Haines was the emcee of this event and will handle the speaking again next year. There were 129 entrants in the parade and about 185 actual participants. Judging went well and the judges said they had a very hard time picking winners this year due to the great costumes at the parade. Next year, the Board will look into lower priced trophies so that more prizes can be available for the children. Next year, fourth place will be added to each division as well as Most Entertaining, Judges Choice 1st and 2nd place and Youngest Entrant, adding 11 additional trophies. Also, next year two people will hand out candy to avoid any congestion at the end of the parade. The extra candy was given to the police department and the clerk's office for Halloween distribution.

A discussion was held on the parade route and members felt that they think the parade went smoother when the judges' stand was on the east on the corner of Euclid and Hobart Streets (facing Catherine's house). Next year, the Board would like entrants to line up on the west side of Euclid Avenue facing north on Euclid and then pass the judges' stand as they are marching south. Mary Koegel also thinks this would help in handing out the candy because many of the entries simply bypassed her as she tried to give out the candy.

Attendance was as follows: **Total Estimated Participants: 185**

Division 1 – 30 entries	Division 4 – 27 entries	Division 7 – 17 entries
Division 2 – 24 entries	Division 5 – 9 entries	
Division 3 – 17 entries	Division 6 – 5 entries	

Adult Trips/Activities – Frank Zaccherio is currently running a trip to the Nets v. Phoenix Suns game on December 6, 2003, at 7:30 p.m. at Continental Arena. Tickets are \$30.00 (\$15 savings). No transportation is provided. Flyers were sent out in the schools with a form at the bottom to be mailed back to the Board enclosing the check and number of tickets ordered. The November 14, 2003, Nets game was sold out and Frank was unable to get tickets. Frank advised that he had issued refunds to those who ordered tickets to this game. Frank is also planning a Disney on Ice trip in January.

Basketball – Diane Maglione picked up the equipment at Modell's and distributed it. She still has to pick up the ball bags and Hal Bomzer will distribute them.

The new date for the referee's clinic will be Monday, December 1 at 8:00 p.m. in Lincoln School gym. A clinic will also be given again this year for scorers/timers/referees. This clinic will be held at Lincoln School on Wednesday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m. Since it worked out so well last year, only students in seventh grade and higher will be used for scorers/timers. A letter was sent to all scorers/timers inviting them to this meeting.

The certification class was held on November 19, 2003, at Lincoln School and 20 out of 29 coaches attended. Coaches were informed that coaches still needing certification could attend a class at either Valley Hospital or St. Joe's Hospital.

"The Hall of Fame committee has purchased a new scoreboard for Lincoln School. We have been advised by Mr. Lella that he does not want us sharing their scoreboard controller. He said it is common practice for organizations, such as football, to share the scoreboard but use their own controller. He was unaware that we were, indeed, using their controller at Lincoln all along.

If we want to have use of the new scoreboard, we need to buy our own controller at a cost of \$550. A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Leigh Rivera to purchase the new controller. Since the board had already decided at the last meeting to invest in repairing the controller for the old scoreboard, all were in favor. A voucher will be submitted for this expense.

Last year, the Board of Recreation asked if the Mayor and Board of Commissioners could purchase height adjusters for Roosevelt School. The backboards are too close to the walls and this is a safety concern. The backboards really need to be upgraded for more flexibility and a safer environment. The Board of Education has already incurred a large expense in

padding the walls to make them safer. This would greatly aid the program because then the younger divisions could use this school as well and ease the congestion in the gyms. The Board also felt this one time expense was a small token to thank the Board of Education for the cooperation in using their gyms and janitors at no cost. The Mayor and Board of Commissioners felt at that time that this was a Board of Education expense and asked the Board of Education to pick up the expense. This purchase was not approved last year.

This year the Board of Recreation is planning on purchasing the height adjusters. The Board of Education approved the purchase by the Board of Recreation of height adjusters for Roosevelt School. The Board of Education will arrange for the installation of the adjusters. Hal Bomzer had two suggestions for height adjusters, which will be forwarded to Mike Dagzlet for his review. Since the Board is not familiar with installation procedures, Mike Dagzlet will be informed of the approximate \$1,600.00 available for this purchase and allowed to decide on which adjuster would be best for the backboards. Dr. Richardson will be informed of the status of this purchase.

A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Rich DePena that height adjusters be purchased for Roosevelt School with a budget of approximately \$1,600.00 with installation to be arranged by the Board of Education. All were in favor of this motion.

A short discussion was held on use of alcohol during Board of Recreation functions. All division leaders will make their coaches and/or officials aware that if anyone is found using alcohol before or during a Board of Recreation function, they will be asked to leave. There have been complaints about alcohol use and the Board of Recreation wants to make it clear to all involved with the program that use of alcohol before or during an activity will not be permitted.

Commissioner Storer is pursuing the background check on coaches with Board of Recreation programs and will give an update when he has more information.

Everything is ready to go for the basketball season. All teams have been picked. A list of coaches, team colors and numbers as well as schedules has been forwarded to Leo McGuire for posting on the internet. Shirts have been ordered and numbers are due from the coaches on November 25. Those teams that have not turned in their numbers by 9:00 a.m. on November 25 will have their numbers assigned for them.

Mary Koegel will take care of restocking the first aid kits. Injury report forms will be added to all first aid kits. The following persons are in charge of first aid kits:
Catherine Jacob – Lincoln School
Leigh Rivera – Grant School
Rich DePena – Roosevelt School.

Leigh Rivera reported that she had a slight problem with her division because all teams were set up with ten players and then an additional player, who was listed on the master list, showed up at a practice to find out which team she was on. Somehow this player was not assigned a team, so one team will now have 11 players. Leigh also felt the Board needed to take a stronger position or wording on the registration forms regarding team requests by a player. She had some problems with requests for teams only because a child wanted to play with another child. The Board informed Leigh that only legitimate requests should be honored for team selection to make the teams fairer.

Andy Scheideler reported that the boys 3/4 division seems to be running fine right now. There are 78 players with 8 teams, six teams have 10 players and two teams have 9 players.

Registration is closed and late registrations are being put on a waiting list. A letter is being sent to all late registrants informing them that they are on a waiting list and will be used if someone gets injured or leaves a team. No checks will be cashed unless a player is assigned a team.

Refunds were given to the five ninth grade girls that had registered for the girl's team. Since only five registrations were received, there were not enough players for this experimental division so the program was cancelled.

Rich DePena advised that he had issued a refund of \$50.00 to Joan Goral since her daughter received an injury and could not complete the traveling season last year. Normally, refunds are not given; however, due to special circumstances Rich felt that a refund was due in this instance.

Mercedes Haines will be running the clinic at Grant School. The clinic begins at 8:00 a.m. on December 6. On Saturday, November 22, Mercedes and Rich DePena will meet with some new coaches to discuss plans for the program.

Tennis – Barry Rubach (568-3946) ran this program during the summer, however, no current information is available.

Treasurer's Report - The balance as of the last deposit is \$12,984.00.

New Business: The Board of Recreation needs to approach the Commissioners about getting line items on its budget. Although the Board of Recreation followed procedures and had all expenses encumbered at the beginning of the year, when funds were needed they were taken from the Board of Recreation budget, even on encumbered items. It has created problems in trying to fund Board of Recreation programs and purchase necessary items for these programs. Funds that are listed in the Board of Recreation budget are being given to outside organizations and the Board of Recreation needs to find out exactly what its budget is.

The Board of Recreation will also ask the Board of Commissioners to get a credit card for the Board of Recreation, which can be kept in the Clerk's Office and only used for approved purchases. It is unfair to ask volunteers to use their personal funds to purchase equipment and supplies for Board of Recreation programs and then have to wait one month for reimbursement. A credit card could be used and then the Village would be billed directly for purchases. For instance, it is much cheaper to purchase supplies from Modell's but when this is done personal funds must be used for the purchase. A credit card would take this burden off of the volunteer.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Storer