

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2006 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
SEPTEMBER 21, 2006**

President Diane Maglione called the meeting to order at 7:10 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 16th day of December, 2005, and to the Star-Ledger on the 16th day of December, 2005. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Gil Bell, Hal Bomzer, Carlos Carames, Lloyd Domke, Tom Essig, Mary Koegel, Diane Maglione, Leigh Rivera and Frank Zaccherio. Rich DePena and Mercedes Haines were excused. Commissioner Hugo Poli also stopped by the meeting.

A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Gil Bell approving the minutes of the June 16, 2006, meeting.

Correspondence: A thank you note was received from Mary Koegel for the expression of sympathy.

Hearing of Citizens: None present.

Activity reports were as follows:

Bowling – The fall league should begin shortly.

Wrestling – Diane Maglione is still trying to get an invoice so that the outstanding bill from a tournament can be paid. Tony Gonzalez is aware that this year the program must be run better. Diane is still waiting for a call from him.

T-Ball – The season is over and went well.

Girls' Softball – Lloyd Domke said that he heard that there might be a law prohibiting aluminum bats so the Board must stay on top of this.

Summer Sandlot Baseball Program – The season went well. There were no injuries.

Women's Softball – There was a special meeting held on August 14 with the teams. Frank Zaccherio was unable to attend. The meeting went well and was very informative for all the teams. (Detailed notes are in the file.) The teams are aware that a registration packet will be distributed and needs to be returned by any team that plans on participating in the league next year. Fees will need to be raised next year to cover increasing costs and all teams are aware of this. The front office needs to trim the budget.

The Board currently pays \$100 per team just to use the umpire association. Frank feels it is better to use this association because they always show up at a game. He feels it is hard to use umpires that are not in an association. There were concerns from the players because they said there was an incident at a game where the player violated a rule and should have been suspended. Frank said she was suspended but the umpire counted the game she was removed from as the first game. Some players are not happy that one of the umpires is a former coach of a team and perceive her actions as favoritism.

Since the Board needs to cut costs, other associations will be looked at for umpiring to see if they might be less expensive. Each team will be charged for their own entrance fee into the association. Frank will call the amateur softball association and ask what other organizations there are available for umpiring.

If Frank wants to continue using this association, registration fees will need to go up next year. Registration packets will be available for each team. There will be a team fee and an individual fee as well. Tom Essig will work out the budget. Frank will have someone from the association come to a meeting to discuss their fees.

The end of season party is scheduled for October 7 at the Elks. Food will cost \$800 and the DJ will cost \$300. The Board will not pay for any alcohol. Since there was no party last year, a team that participated last year but not this year has been invited to the party.

Fourth of July – No activity at this time.

Easter Egg Hunt – No activity at this time.

Holiday Display Contest – No activity at this time.

Wish Tree – No activity at this time.

Tree Lighting – Mercedes Haines advised that she spoke to 8-11 and they will again provide the Slurpees. The girl and boy scouts will perform. Mr. Simeone from the high school will bring some chorus member. Mr. Elmo might bring one or two band members. She will speak to Vorhees Funeral home about the donation. She still needs to speak to Truck 2 about Santa. She will also be in contact with Father Gene. The lighting will be held at 5:30 on December 3.

Rag-A-Muffin – Flyers will go out in the schools next month. Trophies have been ordered. The parade is scheduled for Saturday, October 28 at 11:00 a.m. Diane will be available for the announcing this year.

Adult Trips/Activities – Frank Zaccherio would like to start up some ticket sales again this year. He will look into the Bergen PAC in Englewood to see what they offer. Frank will try one new activity this year to see how it works out.

Basketball – Registration is scheduled for Friday, September 29 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 30 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Roosevelt School. Lloyd Domke, Leigh Rivera and Hal Bomzer are available for Friday night. Carlo Carames, Leigh Rivera and Gil Bell are available for Saturday.

Some coaches questioned if they could keep some players they had last year. All teams must start with new players. Evaluations will take place on November 7 & 8 at Lincoln School.

The certification class will take place on Tuesday, November 14 at the high school library. A list of people taking the class needs to be turned in by November 1.

Tennis – Barry Rubach (568-3946) runs this program. The Board has not received any copies of any flyers.

Treasurer's Report - Beginning balance as of June 2006, was \$9,052.36, total deposits for month was \$5,808.74, total expenses for month of June were as \$1,732.90 leaving a balance of \$13,137.20. A detailed report is attached. Beginning balance as of July 2006 was \$13,137.20, total deposits for the month was \$3,080.00 total expenses for the month of July were \$7,285.89 leaving a balance of \$8,931.31. Beginning balance as of August 2006 was 8,931.31, total deposits for month was \$5,670.00, total expenses for the month were \$85.26 leaving a balance of \$14,516.05. A detailed report is attached.

Tom Essig advised that he has a debit card in his possession so that members do not have to use their own funds to make Board purchases.

Tom also advised that he was approached by Commissioner Poli that Mayor Fosdick had inquired about a request from Lou Artuso of the Football Association for an additional stipend of \$500.00 for the cheerleaders because they were in need of funds. All of the town sporting organizations (baseball, football and soccer) currently receive \$1,500.00 from the Village each year. Originally this stipend was seed money to be used to help the formation of these organizations. It has now become an annual stipend. These funds are taken from the Board of Recreation budget.

The Board had questions on this additional stipend as the Football Association already receives \$1,500.00 annually and cheerleading is a part of football, not a separate organization. The Board had assumed that this money was split evenly between the football players and the cheerleaders.

A motion was made by Tom Essig and seconded by Frank Zaccherio to suspend distribution of stipend for football until this matter is discussed in full and credible information is brought back before the Board. All were in favor of this motion with one vote against the motion.

The Board had invited a member of cheerleading to attend the meeting and explain the request but no one from cheerleading was available. The Board has no problems funding an actual expense for the girls and does not want to withhold something from the girls; however, funds must be disbursed evenly among the organizations. The Board thinks it is a good idea if the Commissioners get a total list of participants and actual expenses from all organizations requesting funds before decisions are made on any disbursements.

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, September 21, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Hugo Poli