

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2009, at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
SEPTEMBER 17, 2009**

President Diane Maglione called the meeting to order, 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 published in The Record on the 31st day of December, 2008, and sent to the Star-Ledger on the 31st day of December, 2008. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Diane Maglione, Mary Koegel, Tom Essig, Gil Bell, Hal Bomzer, Rich DePena, Lloyd Domke, Mercedes Haines and Mike Ruiz. Carlos Carames, Leigh Rivera and Frank Zaccherio were excused.

A motion was made by Rich DePena and seconded by Mike Ruiz approving the minutes of the June 18, 2009, email meeting.

Correspondence: Various emails regarding women's softball

Hearing of Citizens: none present

Activity reports were as follows:

Bowling – Nothing to report. No one has seen any forms for the program.

Wrestling - The registration form has been distributed in all the schools. Registration will be held on September 29, 2009, from 6-7 p.m. at the high school auxiliary gym. Registration will be \$40.00. Leigh Rivera will be present at the registration. The bill for the uniforms will not be paid until the uniforms have been repaired. An invoice was submitted for the annual wrestling dues. Ulysses Encarnacion has been in contact with the Board throughout the summer and everything is in order for the upcoming season. 7/8 grade students that attend the high school do not have to pay registration fees. 7/8 grade students from St. Francis and Little Ferry do have to pay registration fees. The form has been streamlined for this year.

T-Ball – No activity at this time, the season was wet. Things went well. The kids had a good time.

Girls' Softball - No activity at this time, the season was wet. Lloyd Domke didn't do a clinic due to the weather and vacations. He did have 5 girls that played U-Gals through Little Ferry. Lloyd is requesting one day a week starting in January for softball. The fields are still in terrible condition. Commissioner MacNeill is working on this. He wants to get a professional in to help with the situation.

Lloyd is wondering that if the field situation is not improved then maybe the Board should think about only running a clinic once or twice a week and having the girls play in a U-Gal league instead of running a league that doesn't have a field available several times a week due to poor conditions.

Summer Sandlot Baseball Program – No activity at this time.

Women's Softball – Many teams did not cooperate and send in their line-ups as instructed by the Board. This needs to be straightened out for next year. Jack's never sent in line-ups. There were players listed on the line-ups that are not on rosters and team managers are not responding to emails. Next year, packets will have to be dropped off at the March meeting or turned into the Clerk's Office only. Frank Zaccherio still owes two registration forms plus registration fees for two players on Them.

Many emails were received from various teams concerning softball. Diane Maglione suggested that they attend a meeting to discuss their concerns rather than privately answer emails. It was suggested that a separate meeting be held with a representative from each team and the Executive Board in the fall. To try to summarize the concerns, Diane Maglione gave a brief synopsis of the various complaints from the teams.

Teams had complaints about the enforcement of rules that were put in place. All team members signed a form that they have read and reviewed the rules. A cover letter detailing the specifics of what is expected is distributed as part of the registration packet. Everyone signed this form. Mike Dalton of the Grasshoppers had many complaints, which would not have occurred had he and the other teams followed agreed upon procedures. The Board tried to remove as much of the administrative end as possible from Frank Zaccherio to ease things up for him so he wouldn't feel obligated to please everyone. Frank's responsibility was to run the day-to-day operations. Major decisions were to come back to the Board. The teams still came to Frank rather than follow procedures. The teams then said that why should they come to the Board if Frank already gave them permission. It was then explained to them that they were informed that they had to come back to the Board and they did not follow procedures.

All of the teams complained that Frank was not doing his part. The teams were informed to not go directly to Frank, that they were advised to go to the Board for any questions/problems/concerns. Mike Dalton had a problem with this. Diane explained to him that the Board had stepped in at the request of the teams since no procedures were ever in place or followed and things were getting out of control. Teams were only following rules they liked.

Several of the emails were quite nasty and personally insulting. Things were

getting out of hand. The Board will address this at a separate meeting.

It came down to only three teams out of the nine teams had followed all the rules (non-registered players on teams/sending in their line-ups on a timely basis, in particular). These were the only three teams in the playoffs. The other six teams were repeatedly reminded that they needed to send in their line-ups but disregarded the reminders. Since no line-ups were sent in, several problems could not be discovered until the line-ups were sent in well past the requested date. Other teams did send emails that they were disappointed but understood that rules were not followed and the Board had no choice. Some teams sent an apology for having disregarded the rules and asked the Board to please not eliminate the program. Some teams also sent a thank you to the Board for finally following the rules.

There was also an incident in which a player was thrown out of the game for cursing at the umpire (unsportsmanlike conduct) and refusing to give her name (the team finally gave a false name to the umpire) and as per the written rules, should have been suspended for the next two following games. The player and coach did participate in the next two games (which were important games that affected the standings). The player then sat out an added game, which would not affect the standings. Teams complained about this and the final result was that the team had to forfeit the two games in which the suspended player participated.

Some emails also complained that they pay a lot of money and should be allowed to do as they wish. Research was done and there are other leagues that charge more, don't have playoffs and don't give a year-end party as part of the normal registration fee so the Board's registration fee is not extreme.

For the record, Frank's team also did not follow the rules and was not permitted to play in the playoffs.

The umpire association advised the Board that one of the biggest problems is that there are too many cancellations in the league. They feel we need to handle rainouts and cancellations differently. In other towns, the schedules are set in stone and if a team has a conflict, they must make a choice and decide which game they will forfeit. It was explained to the umpire association that the schedules were not supposed to be changed. Next year, this will be made very clear that there are absolutely no schedule changes under any circumstances.

Frank Zaccherio does mean well but needs to be firmer. It was suggested that perhaps the division head should also not manage a team to avoid any hints of conflict and to ease up the day-to-day operation.

Fourth of July – No activity at this time.

Easter Egg Hunt – No activity at this time. Due to lack of interest, there will no longer be a poster contest..

Holiday Display Contest – Ornaments have been ordered for the prizes and personalized platters for the six grandprize winners. There will only be one contest, which will include both residential and business entries as there are not enough businesses entering the contest. The contest will be held on Friday, December 18, 2009, this year.

Wish Tree – The Board is requesting that the names be turned in a little earlier this year so that the process can be started. It will be at TD Bank again.

Tree Lighting – The second set of risers have been delivered. A voucher has already been submitted for the sound system. Singers are in place. Everything is in place. Mercedes Haines just needs to find the correct contact for the boy scouts. Mercedes will try to remind the scouts that parents were not supposed to be in front of the building. Logistics will be discussed at a later meeting. The Board will follow last year's agenda as it seemed to work well. The DPW will be asked if they have extension cords for the lights under the tree.

Rag-A-Muffin – The parade is scheduled for Saturday, October 31, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. sharp. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. Members should meet about 9:00 a.m. Trophies have been ordered and will be delivered directly to Mike Ruiz so that he can make sure all trophies are in good condition. Goodie bags will be ready for the parade. The judges will get Dunkin Donuts gift cards. Letters were sent to the police dept. and DPW advising of the Board's needs. The Board will need extra hands if members have kids needing community service hours.

Adult Trips/Activities – Nothing at this time.

Ballroom Dancing – A flyer will be sent out to see if there is any interest in another ballroom dance session. Dance With Me Studios would be interested in doing a children's dance class as long as there are at least 10 students. Classes would run for 4 weeks and cost \$60.

Adult Craft Classes – The next session will run for three weeks and will run on Oct. 6, 13 & 20 at Roosevelt School art/music room. The cost will be \$65.00. Participants have the option of signing up for one session only for \$25.00. There will also be a one night holiday ornament workshop on December 1. The cost of this workshop is \$35.00.

Basketball – Registration will be held at Roosevelt School on Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26. Evaluations will be November 2 (boys grades 3-6) and November 4 (all girls/boys 7& 8) at Lincoln School. Hal Bomzer needs some help with registration. Mercedes Haines, Rich DePena and

Hal will be there Friday. Gil Bell will be there Saturday. He could use some more help for Saturday. Hal will select Division Heads after registration. He'll then set up a meeting with the division leaders.

Roosevelt School's backboard still needs a repair before the season starts.

Tennis – Barry Rubach (568-3946) runs this program.

Treasurer's Report - Beginning balance as of August 2009, was \$22,377.61, total deposits for month were \$1,625.00 total expenses for month were \$26.00, leaving a balance of \$23,976.61. A detailed report is attached. The only expense was for a returned check and the parent has been notified. A motion was made by Hal Bomzer seconded by Gil Bell accepting the Treasurer's report.

New Business – None at this time.

Old Business – The hand-out for Back-to-School night is on Barbara DeLuca's porch and needs to be picked up. Mercedes Haines will handle Grant School and picked up her hand-outs already. Lloyd Domke will handle the other public schools and will pick up the flyers. Mary Koegel will take care of St. Francis. The hand-out is already at St. Francis. It will also be posted on the internet.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2009.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mercedes Haines and seconded by Mike Ruiz to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Hugo Poli