

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010, at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
April 15, 2010**

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 published in The Record on the 28th day of December, 2009, and sent to the Star-Ledger on the 28th day of December, 2009. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Diane Maglione, Tom Essig, Hal Bomzer, Rich DePena, Lloyd Domke, Mercedes Haines and Mike Ruiz. Mary Koegel, Gil Bell, Carlos Carames, Leigh Rivera and Frank Zaccherio were excused. Commissioner Poli also was in attendance.

The minutes of the March 18, 2010, meeting was approved.

Correspondence: Letter from Mayor Fosdick and Commissioner MacNeill regarding Veteran's Park multi-purpose field; letter from Mayor Fosdick regarding egg hunt; permits for Roosevelt School for softball practice and crafts class.

Hearing of Citizens: None present

Activity reports were as follows:

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

Wrestling – Ulysses Encarnacion and Tony Gonzalez were present at the meeting to give a year- end report on the wrestling program. The Board has a few questions regarding the program. It appears that two participants did not reside in Ridgefield Park or attend school in Ridgefield Park. Tony Gonzalez explained that he did not think it was a problem because the grandparents lived in town and the father was an integral part of the coaching team for the program. No spot was taken away from any resident participant in the program. One boy was an elite wrestler that started in the Ridgefield Park program and the town he now lives in does not offer a wrestling program so he is allowed to participate with Ridgefield Park according to league rules. Tony felt he actually spared a Ridgefield Park wrestler from having to compete at a level he was not qualified to participate in. Ridgefield Park did not have an "A" wrestler in that division. The family volunteered and he was allowed to wrestle by the rules of the organization. The family is considering moving back to Ridgefield Park. Commissioner Poli advised that this would not be a problem as long as the Board approved it since it was acceptable to the wrestling organization.

Next year there will be many cuts in program and the school will heavily rely on the recreation program even more than in past years. The Board explained to Ulysses Encarnacion and Tony Gonzalez that as per by-laws the Board is not allowed to make money off any program and will not be able to sponsor a meet. This must be done through the high school or another outside organization. Tony Gonzalez said he will try to get the Hall of Fame to sponsor a wrestling match. Tony Gonzalez said that money was used to buy hats, shorts, etc., for the kids. This year they bought white shorts, t-shirts and hats with the money. The Board thinks it would be best if next year that part of the registration includes the cost of the singlet and the wrestler gets to keep the singlet and replace it when necessary. 47 singlets were bought last year and 19 were purchased this year. The cost was \$1,392.00, they cost \$37.00 each. Parents can then reuse the singlet if it fits the following year or purchase a new one. Registration forms will reflect this choice.

Ridgefield will not have a program next year. Tony Gonzalez wants to know what the Board wants to do next year about this. Near year the Ridgefield players cannot participate because their school will no longer offer a program. The Board will look into the possibilities of allowing

Ridgefield to participate. In the past two years, their fees have gone to the Ridgefield Recreation Commission for the 10 players they have sent over. They have never sent the money to the Board. If Ridgefield does participate next year, they will have to produce proof of insurance for their players before they can participate. The Board would prefer the Ridgefield players to be insured under Ridgefield insurance. They will also need to pay the Board upfront for any expenses incurred by their players as well as purchase their own singlets.

A motion was made by Mike Ruiz and seconded by Rich DePena to allow a coach and his son who are former residents of Ridgefield Park and are an integral part of the program, whose grandmother still resides in Ridgefield Park, and might be moving back to Ridgefield Park, to participate in the recreation program as his current town does not have a wrestling program. This decision is for these particular circumstances only and any other exception to residency and participation will be decided on a case by case basis and must be brought before the Board. This decision is based on the significant experience and integral involvement of the coach in the program. All were in favor of this motion.

All coaches must provide proof of certification to the Board. If coaches are replaced, the Board also needs to be advised. A meeting should be set up with the Board before and after each season in order to address any questions and concerns. Registration forms should be given to the Board for copying and distribution to the school.

T-Ball – Registration – The program will start this weekend. There are five participants. It will be 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays at Hobart Street field.

Girls' Softball - The season started tonight with the 3/4 girls playing. There was a letter in the Patriot from a Little Ferry parents. Several towns previously played in an informal league. Little Ferry is a more competitive team. They are very good. Little Ferry ran into a problem with Bogota last year and there was a falling out. There was also a problem with Ridgefield as well. An email went out that Saddle Brook was starting a league. It is a very good league. Saddle Brook, Bogota, Ridgefield and Maywood had an organizational meeting. Lloyd Domke was not invited to the meeting through an oversight. He went to a scheduling meeting and was informed that Little Ferry was not invited to join the league. Lloyd Domke advised the others that he did not think this was the right thing to do and also told the others they should schedule games with Little Ferry, which was his intention. No one else agreed with Lloyd. When Lloyd got home from the meeting he got a call from Little Ferry saying that they were upset and that Lloyd should have pulled out of the meeting. Little Ferry parents felt it was not right to continue in a new league but Lloyd felt his first obligation was to his own girls first. He has offered to schedule games with Little Ferry. This new league is very good and it is a good thing to be involved with the inception of this new league. It is the best fit for the Ridgefield Park girls. Each home team pays for their own umpires.

Lloyd spoke to Commissioner Poli about the safety of the lights at the park. Some are not working or are facing the wrong way on field no. 4 (varsity softball field). It is a safety issue for the girls to play with the lights in these conditions. Commissioner Poli said he will speak to Alan O'Grady about this.

Summer Sandlot Baseball Program – The program is run by Jamie Canal of Hackensack and participants should contact Hackensack directly.

Women's Softball – The season has begun. Frank Zaccherio asked a team if they would reschedule a game because one team could not field a team for that particular night. Diane Maglione left a message for Frank that it was made clear at the January meeting that there was no rescheduling of games and that he should even have entertained the request. The game was forfeited by the team that did not have enough players. Shirts are in and the invoice has been paid.

Fourth of July – There are two nominations for Grand Marshal.

Easter Egg Hunt – The weather was very good resulting in a record number of participants at the egg hunt.

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 activities at this time.

Ballroom Dancing – No activity at this time.

Adult Craft Classes – The next session will start on April 27 and consist of three sessions (May 4 & 11). The cost will be \$65.00 per person and will include a Mother's Day project. Registration will end on April 20.

Basketball – Vouchers were turned in for final payment for the program. Diane Maglione advised that next year the fees for refs/scorers/timers might have to be adjusted due to a reduced budget. Hal Bomzer is looking into getting something for Lincoln School with the leftover registration fees. This is the only school that the Board has not yet gotten something for.

Tennis – Barry Rubach (568-3946) runs this program. Barry Rubach said he will contact the DPW for his permit as well as send a registration form to the Board.

Treasurer's Report - Beginning balance as of March 2010, was \$21,774.33, total deposits for month were \$12,428.00, total expenses for month were \$3,035.80, leaving a balance of \$31,166.53. A detailed report is attached. A motion was made by Mercedes Haines and seconded by Lloyd Domke accepting the Treasurer's report. There was a returned check for circus tickets in the amount of \$42.00, which has now been recouped.

New Business – Tom Essig mentioned that there will be a Relay for Life walk-a-thon as well as sub-events at the Elks sponsored by the American Cancer Society. There will be a Zumba Day at St. Francis on April 24 if anyone is interested in participating.

Old Business – None at this time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2010.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Tom Essig and seconded by Lloyd Domke to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Hugo Poli