

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, February 18, 2010, at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
January 21, 2010**

President Diane Maglione called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Mary Koegel, Tom Essig, Hal Bomzer, Lloyd Domke, Mercedes Haines and Frank Zaccherio. Gil Bell, Carlos Carames, Rich DePena and Leigh Rivera and Mike Ruiz were excused.

A motion was made by Mary Koegel and seconded by Tom Essig approving the minutes of the November 19, 2009, meeting.

Correspondence: 1) Letter from Mayor Fosdick thanking the Board for running the tree lighting. 2) Permit for use of Grant School Gym for softball practice. 3) Diane Maglione sent a note to Commissioner Poli regarding injury procedures and what the insurance company required. Years ago the insurance representative informed the Board that a police report was necessary for any injury. Commissioner Poli spoke with Matt McArow of GJEM and there are new instructions for reporting an injury as well as a new claim form to be filed. This will be sent to all coaches in Board sponsored activities. 4) A letter was sent to the Ambulance Corps. advising of all dates that the Board required the assistance of the Ambulance Corps.

Hearing of Citizens: Jayne Lewandowski was present to ask questions concerning the basketball program. She said she was present because she had some concerns about the basketball program her son was involved in (3/4 division). It is her opinion that there are unfair practices in this division concerning her son.

1) She said her son tried out for the traveling division last year and did not make the team and she was fine with that. Her problem is that she was told by a parent his son did not attend the tryouts but received a call from the travel coach asking if he wanted to be on the team even though he missed tryouts. She said the flyer stated that it was mandatory that players had to attend the tryouts and she tried to get the flyer off the website but it was removed. She felt rules were not followed. The Board said it would look into her question but explained that the flyer was not removed from the website. Once the event is over, the webmaster puts the flyer into archives but it is not removed. There are sign-ups sheets at the tryouts to make sure that anyone that is placed on the team is present. She was assured that the Board would look into her question and get an answer as to what actually happened.

2) She feels there are personal feelings affecting fouls called on her son and requested that two particular refs not be allowed to officiate games her son is involved in. Hal Bomzer replied that he has known one ref for many years and not once has he known him to allow personal feelings for an adult to come into play when concerning the children and he has always known him to be fair and unbiased when it came to the children. He said he would speak to him but he cannot dictate to the division leader whom will ref particular games. He said he will have a Board member observe some games, if needed, to see if they felt there was any bias toward her son as well as speak to the refs involved to relay her questions. He said it is not uncommon for players in this age division to repeated fouls called on them because they are just learning the game. It also is more apparent to the parent what fouls are being called on their own child and harder for a parent not to see it as one-sided but he would certainly talk to the division leader regarding her concerns. If she felt there were still problems, she was instructed to contact Hal Bomzer. She also feels the ref favors his own child.

She said a lecture was given and parents were told not to yell. She feels her son is being picked on and yelling is part of the game. Hal again told her he has never known the ref to allow personal feelings to get into a game but would see if he could get a board member to witness her game. Diane Maglione explained to her that as far as the lecture, there have been problems in the past and division leaders have been told to nip problems in the bud before they escalate. The lecture was probably not meant for her in particular and maybe at her son's particular games there have been no problems but perhaps in other games there was inappropriate yelling and comments made and it needed to be addressed. Jayne Lewandowski did say she heard there was a commotion at one of the other games.

Diane also advised her that the rules of conduct were supposed to have been signed and returned by every parent prior to the child participating otherwise their child should not have been playing. It was noted that only one team's form was actually returned, and this would be looked into. The Board will check into her concerns and if she does not see an improvement, she should contact Hal Bomzer directly.

Laura DeNesco attended the meeting to present the Board with a proposal for a fitness program she would like to run. The program would be geared toward adults and children in grade 4 – high school. She is hoping to attract teachers and adults to this program. She is looking to run the program after school around 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. She would like to run several sessions such as a boot camp when the weather is nicer and seasonal sessions.

Initially she is thinking of offering 10 sessions for \$40.00 a package, which would entitle that person to 10 sessions. Her goal would be to meet three times a week. Her classes would require no equipment. If the program grew, maybe people could bring their own equipment. She was thinking maybe she could do a weight loss contest as well. Instructors would be paid \$40 per hour from the registration fees. The program would be self-funding and no expense to the Board. Laura will work on the details and get back to the Board.

Activity reports were as follows:

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

Wrestling – Mary Koegel has attended some practices and meets. She has spoken to Ulysses Encarnacion about some concerns. She has requested a copy of the coaches' cards for the Board files to make sure everyone is certified. She said there was an agreed upon date of January 4 to close registration but heard there were participants accepted after that date. There was also a problem because a player was allowed to participate using his grandparents' address. She is looking into this situation. There was also a concern because practice was over and parents were supposed to be watching the children but they were left unsupervised. She explained to Ulysses Encarnacion that the children cannot be left in the hands of parents. There is some confusion about the uniforms. It seems to be that the Board has purchased more uniforms than the amount of participants listed on its rosters. The Board will request an updated roster to make sure the amount of uniforms it purchases matches the amount of registration fees collected by Ridgefield Park. The Board will talk to Mr. Neubert about getting details on the program. The Board needs a roster of all participants no matter what town they live in.

T-Ball – Registration will be scheduled for February 6 at Roosevelt School. Registration fees will remain the same.

Girls' Softball - Registration will be scheduled for February 6 at Roosevelt School. Registration fees will remain the same. Although a permit was issued for the use of the Grant School gym for softball practice, Principal Angela Bender contacted Lloyd Domke and said she is uncomfortable allowing the gym to be used for softball and does not want practice held there any longer.

Lloyd Domke got an email from Saddle Brook inquiring if Ridgefield Park would like to form a

league similar to the So. Bergen league. He will look into this possibility. A note will be put on the registration forms advising that a meeting will be held at a future date to discuss details of the league. Lloyd is requesting the same fields as last year.

Lloyd also thinks it would be a great help if a job box was installed behind the backdrop of the fields to help with maintenance of the fields.

Summer Sandlot Baseball Program – No activity at this time.

Women's Softball – A meeting is set up with the Executive Board and a representative from each team on Wednesday, January 27, at 7:15 p.m. in the courtroom. Board members will meet at 7:00 p.m. Any member that wants to attend is also invited. A discussion will be held on how to handle rain-outs and the rules will then incorporate these changes. Frank Zaccherio was reminded that all teams must follow rules and that all paperwork and contact should be through the Board secretary to avoid the confusion that occurred last year with different people accepting messages, registrations, changes, etc. Frank said he is not sure if the Bogota field will be available this year. He is requesting the same fields as last year.

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 – The prizes were handed out at the January 12 Commissioner's meeting. Only six prizes were picked up. Frank Zaccherio will deliver the rest of the prizes.

Wish Tree – Everything worked out well for the wish tree this year.

Tree Lighting – The tree lighting was held on December 6 and went well. Next year, Mercedes Haines might have a chair available for Santa to sit on so he can interact with the children more. Mercedes will stay updated on the status of the high school chorus for next year.

Rag-A-Muffin – No activity at this time

Adult Trips/Activities – Tickets are available for the Harlem Globetrotters on February 13 and 14th as well as the circus on March 10. Frank Zaccherio is looking into tickets for Medieval Times

Ballroom Dancing – Thirteen people had expressed interest in taking lessons; however, none of them returned the registration form.

Adult Craft Classes – The holiday ornament class went well and another session will probably be set up in the spring.

Basketball – Rich DePena could not attend the meeting but sent in his report as follows:

Rich had to give his division a speech on Saturday due to parents' behavior. There were a couple of parents that were getting on the referees and how the kids played. He spoke to all the parents and said it was a sad day for him when he had to talk to 3rd & 4th grade parents on behavior and if they really read the rules, you would have known you had to sign and return it before your child could participate. Only 1 team's form was returned and he told them he had to make sure all were collected and signed as instructed. Rich wanted to stop it before it turned into a bigger problem. There were some comments starting from parents and Rich wanted to end it ASAP. He did get a lot of thank yous after the speech and told them that he didn't want to offend anyone but felt he needed to make sure everyone understood the purpose of a rec league. He told the parents that if they didn't have nice comments to make, they shouldn't make any comments. He said he was sorry that he had to have this talk but the problem is not with players

or coaches, it is with comments that parents are making about players and he didn't want to get anymore calls or emails with comments about the kids.

Rich said this was not a big problem but he did not want it to escalate, especially at this level. He wanted to make sure that this was a recreation league and wanted the parents to stop questioning the refs and making comments. Having a good time so far and kids are playing well.

Hal Bomzer said the season is going well so far. He said that crowd control has been better this year. They are using coaches from the next game on Friday nights in Lincoln to watch the door and monitor who enters and leaves the gym and it seems to control the kids much better. Pictures are scheduled again.

Tennis – Barry Rubach (568-3946) runs this program. Barry Rubach will be told to contact the DPW for his permit.

Treasurer's Report - Beginning balance as of November 2009, was \$27,268.61, total deposits for month were \$240.00, total expenses for month were \$5,474.56, leaving a balance of \$22,034.05. A detailed report is attached. There was one returned check, and the Board is making arrangements for repayment. Beginning balance as of December 2009, was \$26,216.61, total deposits for month were \$1,961.00, total expenses for month were \$909.00, leaving a balance of \$27,268.61. A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Frank Zaccherio accepting the Treasurer's report.

New Business – A parent approached the Board to see if there was any possibility of installing a small bicycle path at Second Street park. She has a handicapped child who likes to ride his bike on the tennis courts but has been stopped by police in the past since bicycle riding is not allowed in the park. She understands that but there is no other safe place for her son to ride his bike. She wanted to know if there was anyway a small path could be put in the park so that children can ride their bikes. The Board has nothing in its budget for this type or project but will pass along her request to the Park Commissioner.

Old Business – None at this time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2010.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Hugo Poli