

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2011, at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
March 17, 2011**

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 published in The Record on the 29th day of December, 2010, and sent to the Star-Ledger on the 29th day of December, 2010. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Diane Maglione, Gil Bell, Hal Bomzer, Rich DePena, Lloyd Domke, Tom Essig, Mercedes Haines, Mary Koegel, Leigh Rivera, Mike Ruiz and Frank Zaccherio. Carlos Carames was absent. Kaitlyn Maglione was also present.

A motion was made by Mary Koegel and seconded by Tom Essig to accept the minutes of the February 17, 2011, meeting. All were in favor of this motion.

Correspondence: An email was received from Robin DeCicco requesting information for an article she was writing on the egg hunt. Emails were received regarding the basketball program from: Rich DePena, Tom Strowbridge, Maria and Bruce Rehrig, Chris Charas and Barry Boswell. A letter was received from the Megan Kanka Foundation offering free fingerprinting of volunteer coaches to non-profit organizations on a first come, first serve basis while grant money is available. Diane Maglione will speak to Commissioner Poli about this.

Hearing of Citizens: None present

Activity reports were as follows:

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

Wrestling – Uly Encarnacion sent the following end-of-year report, together with a copy of the roster for this season:

The 2010-2011 Ridgefield Park Junior Scarlets Wrestling Program kicked off the season on November 29th, 2010. Our scrimmages/meets were as follows: 1/8 Home against Fort Lee, Northern Valley, and Tenaflly (meet was cancelled due to SNOW). 1/15 @ Glen Rock against Glen Rock, Dumont, Lyndhurst. 1/22 @ Mountain Lakes against Ramsey. 1/27 @ North Bergen against Teaneck (meet was cancelled due to SNOW). 1/29 @ Hawthorne High School against Dumont. 2/5 Home against East Rutherford and Lakeland. 2/6 we took part in the Hasbrouck Heights Tournament @ Hasbrouck Heights High School 2/12 we took part in the North Bergen Tournament @ North Bergen High School. 2/20 was our district Tournament @ Elmwood Park High School. 2/27 was our Regional Tournament which was held at Hackensack High School Overall, there were 48 wrestlers registered but only 39 of them finished the season. The other 9 wrestlers quit the program.

There were no injuries to report this season. The coaching staff was really impressed by the wrestler's improvement throughout the season. The team party was held Tuesday, March 15th. We anticipate a number in the range of 50 registrations next year due to the success that the program had this year. The coaching staff consisted of, Ulysses Encarnacion, Sal Arrigo, Tony Vercelli, Cesar Maschang, Alex Baez, Alfonso Correa, and Jay Sterle.

District 2 Wrestling Results:

This year's districts were held at Elmwood Park High School. In the 8U 60lb division Darius Baez was champion. In the 10U 85lb division Kenneth Taveras placed 3rd. In the 12U 100lb division Jake Gambo placed third, Brandon Rodriguez placed 2nd and Garret Troisi 95lbs was a

champion. In the 14U 126lb division Trent Melone was a champion, Sebastian Ramos 152lbs was also a champion was also a champion.

Tom Essig has not received the invoice for the trophies and pizza party yet. A copy of the program procedures was sent to the new Athletic Director, Joseph Taibi, but the Board has not heard back from him. Mr. Taibi feels if the parents raise the money, it should be used on the kids in a manner determined by the parents.

Girls' Softball - Funds were encumbered for the season under PO #7317. ASA Team Registration Forms were received from Joe Vincenti and will be returned by Lloyd Domke. Tom Essig will mail in the registration fee to the ASA. Registration officially closed on March 13, 2011. Three girls had to be turned away because they registered too late even though the deadline was extended two weeks. Each team will play seven home and seven away games. There are about 11 or 12 girls on the 9 & 10 year old team, 25 girls on the 11 & 12 year old team (2 teams), and 13 girls on the 7 & 8 grade team, for a total of 4 teams.

All teams in the league have agreed that there will be no freshmen allowed on the team this year. Schedules are set. The season opens April 15. Coaches are Al Gaetani and Barry Boswell for the 3 & 4 grade team; Rudy Atkinson on the 5 & 6 grade team; Franklin Gonzalez and Chris Alfieri on the 7 & 8 grade teams. Lloyd will be getting an assistant for the teams.

7 & 8 grade games will start at 6:15 p.m. Lloyd has informed teams not to start an inning after 8:00 p.m. Home games will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lloyd will order the necessary equipment. He might need to replace some of the older equipment. He will be ordering the uniforms shortly. There will be a total of 48 games for the season. Lloyd said the new rule is that pitching must be at 40 feet.

Lloyd did speak to the Commissioners about possibly adding a job box behind each batting cage. This would greatly help in maintaining the fields. He looked into the cost of adding a box and it would probably be approximately \$750 per field. A key would be provided only to an adult.

A motion was made by Lloyd Domke and seconded by Mike Ruiz to approach the Commissioners with a proposal to purchase one unit or splitting the cost of three units to help maintain the fields better. All were in favor of this motion.

Women's Softball – A meeting was held on Monday, February 21, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. with a representative from each team. Packets are to be turned in by all teams at tonight's meeting. ASA Team Registration Forms were received from Joe Vincenti and will be returned by Frank Zaccherio. A summary of the main points at the meeting were:

1. New contact email for the Grasshoppers (GLopreato@gmail.com) & the other teams notified of same.
2. Need to check with the DPW as the women would like to have access to the bathroom. Since we do pay \$1,000.00 field permit, having access to a real bathroom is not asking too much.
3. Flexibility on the "lights out at 10 pm" as sometimes they are in the middle of an inning. They should play to completion of the inning unless the home team is already winning.
4. Since we do allow for late sign-ups (as long as there are 7 games remaining), how quickly can we get a new player a shirt?
5. Can the board reduce the sign-up fee for "2nd half" season sign-ups?
6. Clarification on or change: If a player decides to quit before the season starts, and there is a new player to take her place, can the new player just be inserted into her spot on the roster w/o having to pay? We explained that we are paying insurance costs during the practices prior to the season starting. The suggestion was, in this type of case, pay an "insurance" penalty cost.
7. As far as the extra 5 feet of baseline, the field permit strictly forbids us from altering the field, including any raking and sweeping, and if we are found to violate the permit, then we could lose the field. Mike Dalton said that we are breaking our own rules. He was informed that the Board would revise the rules to make an exception to that rule for when they play on the men's field. He

was told that all the teams would be playing with the same disadvantage but he insisted HIS team was at an even bigger disadvantage.

8. Most teams didn't have a problem about the rain out system. Just to clarify it, Frank knows that he is suppose to schedule the make-up games in the order they occur, and that he can, as a courtesy, check with the teams before he actually schedules the make-up games. If he starts to fall behind because teams are not cooperating, then there will be no courtesy given at all.

There is one packet left to be turned in from Jack's. There will be ten teams in the league and Frank will make out the schedule so that it can be distributed as soon as possible. Shirts will be ordered next week.

Fourth of July – Joseph Fucarino has been nominated for grand marshal.

Easter Egg Hunt – The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 23, 2011, this year. The ambulance is aware of the date. Mary Koegel is looking into purchasing a new bunny costume. Funds have been encumbered for the event under PO #7316. Mary will get in touch with the DPW about setting up the stage. She is still working on ways to ease the congestion and keep the younger kids in their own division. Many times the parents bring the kids to more than one division once the youngest division is completed. Mary is making plans for the candy, which has an increased price this year. An email will be sent to Mr. Taibi, Athletic Director, to make sure he knows not to schedule a game before noon on April 23, 2011.

Holiday Display Contest – No activity at this time.

Wish Tree – No activity at this time.

Tree Lighting – No activity at this time. Mercedes has two chairs reserved for next year. Mrs. Claus will be available and she will speak to Santa about his arrival time. The lights have been located but the Board needs to purchase two 50 ft. and one 100 ft. extension cords as well as two three-way plugs. The ambulance corps. has two elves that they use for pictures. The Board will see if they would like to participate at the tree lighting.

Rag-A-Muffin – No activity at this time.

Adult Trips/Activities – No activities at this time. Frank Zaccherio said the bad weather prevented any winter trips.

Adult Craft Classes – The next craft session will be April 23, May 3 & 10. The cost will be \$65.00 per person. Classes will be held at Roosevelt School from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Registration will close on April 20.

Basketball – Hal Bomzer reported that on the court everything was fine. Off the court, there were a lot of problems with rescheduling games due to weather, schools changing schedules at the last minute, St. Francis had a retreat that caused playoffs to be changed, as well as a problem with a fellow Board member.

Hal wanted to address something mentioned at the last meeting. There was one coach in a lower division that was called "weak" but the problem was not as bad as it was made out to be. The problem is not really with the coach. The coach was inexperienced and his draft was a bit weaker than the other teams but he did have the kids learning. They were not pushing or reaching. His biggest problem was that he was not familiar with the kids when selecting his team. His team played organized but they did not have the talent to compete with some of the other teams. He was coaching alone.

Diane Maglione thinks it would be a better idea to make sure all teams have an assistant, if only to protect the coach from not being in a position where he/she might be alone with a child. Extra

hands help, although it is not always possible. Hal agreed that a secondary person is always a good idea.

Mike Ruiz said that next year the Division Heads should also stress (as Hal does prior to the draft) that when they leave the room on draft night, they must be sure that all team's talent level is equal at the end of the night.

It was suggested that when an injury occurs and a player will be off the team, all coaches should be informed of the absent player since it can greatly change the makeup of the team. If an injury occurs early in the season and it greatly affects the make-up of the team, changes are made to even the teams out. This year changes had to be made in one of the boys division to even the talent level out. Although not everyone was happy about the changes at the time, it was the right thing to do for the kids. Most of the rules were followed this year but some things need to be followed up on a little more next year. Although the timers/scorers receive a list of duties at a pre-season meeting, not all followed through and kept the books properly. Even though the names are in the books to make it easier for the scorers, names were not always entered in the books. This is an easy fix for next year.

There were questions regarding certification that were forwarded to Commissioner Anlian and Matt McArow of GJEM that still remain unanswered. Commissioner Poli will be asked to get the answers to these questions. Next year, a deadline will be set for all coaches to be certified if they want to continue to coach.

Division reports were as follows:

3/4/5 Girls report was given by Gil Bell. The level of playing was great this season. Coaches did a good job. The kids were passing and playing really well. There were many games that were decided by one point with plenty of scoring in the games. There were one or two complaints about scorers but on the whole, everything went well. The kids had a great time this year.

6/7/8 Girls report was given by Mike Ruiz. The draft went very well. Teams were very balanced this year except for one team, which couldn't be helped due to the girl's height. This year Mike said he learned to text the scorers/timers/refs so he had time to get replacements if they were unavailable. He ended up with very good refs that he also texted to check on availability. There were six teams this year. Mike still plans to run the division next year even though his daughters will not be playing. He will also coach if necessary. The only challenge he had this year was watching the doors. There never seems to be enough people available to watch all the doors and what the kids are doing on Friday nights, which is really the only night that has problems. Friday nights at Lincoln were much better than last year. Due to problems with parking and the snow, the doors on Hackensack Avenue were open this year so that people coming in didn't have to walk past the bench during games.

5/6 Boys report was given by Rich DePena. Rich said the season was spectacular this year. He heard no complaints. Everything was well balanced. All games were competitive. One team lost eight games in a row and ended up making it to the second game in the playoffs. In the finals there was music played by one of the kids and everyone seemed to love it. It was a great addition. It did not interrupt anything and everyone really enjoyed it.

7/8 Boys was run by Tom Strowbridge, who was not present. The report was given by Hal Bomzer. There were four really even teams and four teams that were a step below in talent than the top four teams. The last four games were incredible. Every game was decided in the last 20 seconds. The season went well.

3 /4 Boys was run by Chris Charas, who was not present. Hal is not aware of any problems in this division other than the question regarding certification of some coaches, which has been cleared up. Next year the certification requirements will be cleared up in writing so that all coaches are

aware that they must be certified by a certain date in order to continue coaching. This will be spelled out clearly in the start-up memo to all division heads as well as the instructions for the certification class.

Clinic was run by Rich DePena and his daughter, Karissa. Rich took the liberty of having a little survey done on the last day of clinic and about half the parents responded. He will pass along the info to the Board. Everything went well and the kids seemed to really enjoy themselves.

As far as scorers/timers, there were a few complaints about kids not having their full concentration on their job. Although advised not to use cellphones or computers/games while performing the duties of a scorer/timer, some kids still did. Lloyd Domke questioned why some kids were never called to be a scorer/timer even though they were on the list. Next year there will be discussion on a method of more fairly and equitably assigning games.

The Board would like to hold a post-season meeting with Division Heads and then have some form of communication with coaches asking for positive and negative feedback on the program, even if only done by paper to make it easier. Suggestions and ideas will be gathered for next year.

Hal Bomzer had other business that he wished to discuss but Commissioner Poli advised the Executive Board that since it pertained to personnel, it would be improper to discuss at a public meeting or read any emails publicly concerning personnel. The situation needs to be discussed at a private meeting.

Tennis – Barry Rubach (568-3946) runs this program. The program usually starts the last week in May and he will send a flier next week for the program.

Treasurer's Report - Beginning balance as of February 2011, was \$26,046.61, total deposits for month were \$0, total expenses for month were \$532.00, leaving a balance of \$25,514.61. A detailed report is attached.

New Business – None at this time.

Old Business – Carlos Carames and Frank Zaccherio still need to sign the Oath of Office. Frank Zaccherio has the form but has not returned it. Diane will check with Carlos about his intentions.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2011.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Rich DePena and seconded by Frank Zaccherio to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Hugo Poli