

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011, at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
April 21, 2011**

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 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, Hal Bomzer, Rich DePena, Lloyd Domke, Tom Essig, Mary Koegel, Leigh Rivera were present. Gil Bell and Carlos Carames were excused. Mercedes Haines, Mike Ruiz, and Frank Zaccherio were absent.

A motion was made by Leigh Rivera and seconded by Lloyd Domke to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2011, meeting. All were in favor of this motion.

Correspondence: A memo was received from the Clerk's Office advising that all members needed to fill out and return a Financial Disclosure Statement April 15. Another memo was received advising that the DCA would be issuing \$100 fines individually to those who do not submit the statement on a timely basis. Permits were received for the 2011-2012 basketball season.

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 Board will need to meet with Uly Encarnacion prior to the start of the next season.

Girls' Softball - Funds were encumbered for the season under PO #7317. The season started this week. Everyone was able to play except for one team due to the rain. A field was available for use in Saddle Brook for one of the rain make-ups. Everyone is very happy with the pitching machine. Next year the Board will have to look into possibly increasing the registration fee slightly to cover the costs of the uniform.

Women's Softball – There are ten teams in the league this year. Viper's still needs to turn in their \$100 field fee. Schedules and team contacts are on the internet. Shirts have been distributed. There are a few more players being added to the teams. The Board was notified that there were some unregistered players participating in practices/scrimmages. Frank Zaccherio did not realize this was a problem.

Diane Maglione received a message from Frank Zaccherio about a team who had a player just up and quit, and they wanted to know if they could just replace the girl. Diane left Frank a message that since there wasn't any extenuating circumstances, the team could add another player but she would have to submit a signed form and a full registration fee to either Barbara, Tom or herself (as everyone was advised during the special meeting of January 2010).

Frank figured that the girl quit prior to her having played in a game and they could just substitute the new girl in. Diane again told Frank that the Board made it very clear in the meetings of 2010 and 2011 that once practice started, girls could only be added, not substituted for unless there were extenuating circumstances. He said that it was one of the teams that has a sponsor and he didn't think the sponsor would be willing to pay another fee. Diane told him that's one of the risks sponsors take and that maybe the sponsor should ask the girl who quit for the money. Frank said

he had already told the "new" player that she should bring her registration form to her game tomorrow night and he would turn it over to Barbara. Diane again told him that the proper procedure was for the coach/manger to contact Barbara or herself first as the Board would need the new player's name, registration form and her fee prior to her participation, that he was not to handle any paperwork or money.

Frank was perturbed that someone would even complain to the Board about something that wasn't even their business (non-members practicing and how would they even know they weren't members). Frank felt that:

1. He never knew that a player couldn't practice until she handed in her registration form and money. (He was reminded that this has been made very clear both in writing and verbally to all teams).
2. The Board has no business telling someone that they can't practice with a team, if that non-member gets hurt, they're on their own as far as medical costs go.
3. Many teams don't even practice in RP and in his opinion, if they're not practicing in RP, then they're not covered by our insurance so therefore anyone can practice with a team.
4. Frank also believes that practices held in RP aren't even covered by town insurance so therefore it's no one's business who's practicing with the teams.
5. Frank said that its common practice for teams to have someone not registered as a player or listed as a coach or manager help out at practices. Diane told him listed coaches/managers would be covered. He said he didn't think managers/coaches were covered because they didn't pay a registration fee and therefore anyone could help out with the teams.

The Board did check with GJEM for a clarification on these issues. Next year the rules will clearly spell out again that non-registered players are not covered by Village insurance and that all forms must be in the Board's possession prior to any participation in a game/practice/scrimmage or the player will not be covered for any liability.

There have been several questions concerning liability and players. GJEM informed the Board regarding clarification on these concerns. An email was sent to all teams.

1) Any non-registered player **IS NOT** covered by the Village's insurance. All players must be a registered participant and the registration form must be in the Board's possession prior to any participation in order for any player to be covered. If any claim is filed by a player, the insurance company must already have the registration form on file with the Board **prior** to the injury and participation in the league.

2) The Village's insurance is secondary. Any player that has health insurance must go through their own insurance first and then the Village's insurance, which will pay the balance (usually deductibles and/or co-pays).

3) Only registered players/coaches/managers are covered by the Village's insurance. If a non-registered player is participating in a practice/game/scrimmage, they are not covered by Village insurance. Players are only covered through Village insurance if the practice is an organized practice by the coach. Only coaches/managers listed on the original registration packet will be considered official coaches/managers for the team.

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. Funds have been encumbered for the event under PO #7316. Mary will get in touch with the DPW about setting up the stage. An email was sent to Mr. Taibi, Athletic Director, to make sure he knows not to schedule a game before noon on April 23, 2011. Members should meet about 8:00 a.m. at Veteran's Park. There are new costumes this year for the Easter Bunny and Mrs. Easter Bunny. An open tent will be set up to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Bunny. Eggs will be dyed tomorrow night at the Ambulance Corps. Members should meet at

8:30 a.m. at Veteran's Park for the hunt. Mary has all the candy ready and all divisions will begin the hunt at the same time this year to avoid children hunting eggs in more than one division.

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.

Adult Craft Classes – The next craft session would have been April 26, 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. There is only one registration so the class has been cancelled.

Basketball – Permits came in for next season. The Board has received some inquiries as to when basketball checks will be issued. The Board will check with the front office on this. The Board of Commissioners has accepted Rich DePena's February 21, 2011, resignation from the basketball program effective next season. (copy attached to closed portion of minutes).

Earlier this year there were some questions regarding certification that needed to be cleared up. After consulting with the Village's insurance carrier, here are the answers:

1. If a coach has not been certified and has been coaching, the Board will not be able to provide any protection for that coach. The coach will be on his own as far as liability.
2. The liability will not shift to the division leader if a coach is not certified. The coach will be responsible for himself. Insurance will not cover an uncertified coach even if another certified coach is present.
3. If a referee is aware that the coach is not certified, the referee will have 100% liability exposure; if they are unaware if a coach is certified, they **may** have less exposure but they are obligated to check the coaches' certifications (a list will be provided next year of all coaches that are certified). Referees have no liability if the coach is certified. Village insurance will defend the coach and the referee will be free of liability unless the liabilities are caused by direct action of the referee in which case both the referee's and Village's insurance will pick up the liability.
4. All coaches should be certified. Coaches that are certified will be defended by Village insurance, uncertified coaches will not.
5. Everyone that works with the kids must be certified. It is no longer enough to have just one certified coach present at an activity. Any **uncertified** person that works with the kids will **not** be protected by Village insurance.
6. A referee does not have to be certified. They are covered under Village insurance.

This is more important for the coach's protection than for the Board of Recreation. It is very important that beginning next year, the Board closely monitors certifications of all coaches involved in any program. It is also very important that up-to-date information is received immediately by the Board whenever a coach or assistant is added or deleted from all programs. Next year coaches must be certified by December 31 in order to continue coaching.

At this time, the Board went into a short Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Tennis – Barry Ruback (568-3946) runs this program, which is taught by All Pro Tennis Staff. He faxed over the information on the program. Registration will be held at Fellowship Park on Thursday, May 26, 2011, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Lessons at Fellowship Park will be on Fridays June 10, 17, 24, July 1 & 8. Classes will be divided into 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. for 6-8 years old; 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. for 9 – 11 years old; 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. for 12 years old and up. Fee is \$70.00 for entire five week session. For more information call Barry Ruback at 201-568-3946 or go to www.allprotennis.net or email: barrys10s@gmail.com.

Treasurer's Report - Beginning balance as of March 2011, was \$25,514.61, total deposits for month were \$13,090.00, total expenses for month were \$1,493.00, leaving a balance of \$37,111.61. A detailed report is attached. A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Lloyd Domke accepting the report.

New Business – None at this time.

Old Business – Carlos Carames still needs to sign the Oath of Office. Commissioner Poli needs to look into getting information on the offer from the Megan Kanka Foundation to do background checks on volunteer coaches. The money is offered on a limited basis until funds run out.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2011.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Leigh Rivera and seconded by Lloyd Domke to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Hugo Poli