

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
February 18, 2021**

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 and sent to the Star Ledger as well as posted on the Village bulletin board. Roll call was taken. Commission members present: Diane Maglione, Gil Bell, Hal Bomzer, Mercedes Haines, Howie Jacobs. Excused: Jimmy Coloma, Scott Garris, Kaitlyn Maglione, Mike Ruiz.

The minutes of the November 19, 2020, and January 21, 2021, meetings were approved on a motion made by Howie Jacobs and seconded by Gil Bell. All were in favor of the motion.

Correspondence: None received.

Hearing of Citizens – None present.

Bowling – No activity at this time.

Women's Softball – Peggy Schneider agreed to run the program again this year. Packets went out to the teams and are due by May 1. No field permit fee will be collected at this time.

4th of July – No activity at this time.

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. The parade will take place on Saturday, October 30 with the rain date on October 31. During the last Rag-A-Muffin parade, Roosevelt School PTA ran a Halloween function that decreased attendance at the parade since it started before the parade was over. The Board had gotten food carts, a DJ and magician to entertain the kids but many left due to the other function. The principal of the school will be notified of the duplication of activities so it can be avoided this year.

Adult Trips/Activities – No activity at this time but Rec will be speaking with the Commissioner about future programs it would like to see added.

Basketball – Due to the covid situation, the basketball program will not be able to take place this year. Hal Bomzer has a suggestion to be brought up under new business.

Saturday Night Hoops – Until the school is available for use, no plans can begin for this program.

Girls' 5/6 Travel Basketball Team – The girls are making plans to play in the spring if the covid situation improves. Roster will be limited to RP, LF and possibly Bogota if other members are needed.

Tennis – Tennis was a big hit this year. All sessions were full, and adults even enjoyed the clinics this year. The Board put in the permit for the tennis courts with the DPW for this year.

T2S Basketball – The program is continuing under Larry Umana and Nate Lopez. They have written to Father Larry to see if it would be possible to use the gym at St. Francis.

Easter Egg Hunt – The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 3. Commissioner Olson said that Rec can use the Civic Center to fill the eggs and store them there as well. Diane Maglione will get the supplies for this event and let members know when they can fill the eggs.

Treasurer's Report - The starting balance was \$18,804.95 with deposit of \$1.32 in interest leaving an ending balance as of January 31, 2021, of \$18,806.27. A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Gil Bell to accept the Treasurer's Report. All were in favor of the motion.

Archery Clinic: The program has been very popular and running well. Gil Bell will be taking training. The schools might be interested in having an archery program as well. Gil will reach out to the boy and girl scouts. Rules need to be made up for this program as it grows.

Old Business:

Commissioner Olson mentioned to Diane that the car decorating parade was cancelled because someone in the group tested positive for covid so plans were shut down.

New Business:

Diane Maglione met with Commissioner Olson to discuss the Board of Recreation. They had the printout from the Board of Recreation account for the past two years. Commissioner Olson loved all the suggestions of programs the Board would like to have. He appreciated the variety of activities the Board would like to add.

There are several activities where registration fees are collected and deposited into the town and payment is then deducted from the Rec budget making Rec appear over-budget. He explained that is the way the funds must be deposited but he is aware Rec is not over-budget.

Stipends are unfair. There are no criteria for how they are given and Rec has no say in funds given to private organizations. Commissioner Olson wants to have a cost per RP participant and wants accountability from the organizations. He plans to have a meeting and invite everyone in charge of various sports groups in town to discuss stipends. Rec would be included in this meeting. He would like Rec to track the money that comes in from the various registrations for programs that are not team sports – T2S Basketball, All-Pro Tennis.

As far as permits from schools, he agrees that Rec should be number 2 on the priority list for the schools ahead of private organizations. The Village works cooperatively with the Board of Education to help each other save on their budgets. For instance, the DPW cleans the grounds because the BOE no longer has the equipment to do the job. The fields are owned by the Village and the schools use them. These are just some of the ways the Village and BOE work together. BOE buses can be used for Village activities.

The Board needs more members and needs to look for someone with younger children involved in programs, especially the basketball program, which is the largest and biggest undertaking for the Board. The Board needs people involved with their children so they can reach out to get volunteers to assist throughout the season. Members should think about suggestions for the next meeting.

Basketball – Hal Bomzer feels the Board needs to improve the experiences in the gyms. Some incidents from last year made it a horror for the Board as well as the participants. It is not realistic to have the referees be responsible for spectators and players as well as parents walking across the floor. He is proposing adding a site manager to the program next season. People need to be kept off the stages at Lincoln and Grant and it is too much to expect from the referees to also monitor the people in the gym as well.

The site manager could be a parent, coach, Board member or even the Division Head. It could be a responsible team parents as long as their team is not playing.

Hal listed the duties of the site manager so members could think about this before the next meeting.

Responsibilities will include making sure:

1. All spectators stay under control and exhibit good sportsmanship.
2. Children (especially young children) are watched by their parent/guardian and do not interfere with games and become a danger to the game or themselves.
3. Spectators stay off the stage in both Lincoln and Grant school gyms.
4. Any person who has been suspended does not come into the gym.
5. Keeping spectators (including parents) from entering the floor during a game in case of injury or other incident until beckoned on the court by a referee.
6. To inform division head of any player, coach, or spectator that gets ejected.

The division head of each division will select and schedule a site manager (SM) for each game. This person will be responsible for making sure Board of Rec basketball rules are being followed in the gyms during games. The SM would have the ability to eject any person that is warned and still behaves poorly. Should the person not cooperate, the site manager would be permitted to call the police.

If there is any incident, the SM must fill out an incident report and deliver it to the division head as soon as possible. The division head must then submit the report to the Board of Rec within 24 hours.

The SM for each game can be the division head, coach, Board of Rec member, or responsible team parent; but the SM cannot be scheduled when his/her team is playing in the game. The SM will be paid a fee of \$25.00. This fee will be covered under safety. The fact that we are paying the SM makes them under our jurisdiction. The SM will wear a visible vest signifying who they are.

Hal also mentioned that he has no problem running the program and getting it up and going but he may not be around for the season next year. The Board needs to find someone who can take the reins of schedule changes and incidents. The Board needs someone from the school to work with as well. There are many instances where the Board finds out about events and cancellations second hand. Members need to think of how to handle this next season.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2021. All meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.

A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Howie Jacobs that the Board purchase a Zoom contract for the year in order to hold uninterrupted meetings and will also permit the secretary to share with the other commissions where she is also secretary. All were in favor of the motion.

This link will be used for the monthly meeting until further notice:

Join Zoom Meeting: [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71636345842?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71636345842?pwd=RDZEVE9LaXFxeWoxbmxJSGdQVDhWZz09)
pwd=RDZEVE9LaXFxeWoxbmxJSGdQVDhWZz09 Meeting ID: 716 3634 5842 Passcode: Y4rtpt

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. on a motion made by Gil Bell and seconded by Hal Bomzer. All were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

cc: Commissioner Olson

Barbara DeLuca