

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2012, at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 15, 2012**

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 30th day of December, 2011, and sent to the Star-Ledger on the 28th day of December, 2011. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Diane Maglione, Gil Bell, Hal Bomzer, Lloyd Domke, Tom Essig, Mercedes Haines, Mary Koegel, Leigh Rivera and Tom Strowbridge were present. Kaitlyn Maglione and Commissioner Poli were also present. Mike Ruiz was excused. Frank Zaccherio and Carlos Carames were absent.

A motion was made by Mary Koegel and seconded by Leigh Rivera to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2012 meeting. All were in favor of this motion.

Correspondence: Field permits came in for softball. Permit came in for use of Roosevelt School for craft class. Information came in from the Nets regarding discounted tickets. An email was received from Mr. Savino, Civics Teacher, after Diane Maglione met with his class. There is a safety meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. Leigh Rivera will attend as the Board's representative. A memo was received from the Clerk's Office regarding mandatory training for work place practices and liability.

Hearing of Citizens: Scott Garris was present to discuss interest in an opening on the Board. Members were given the opportunity to meet Scott Garris. Both the Board and Scott Garris were also able to ask any questions either side had with membership.

Activity reports were as follows:.

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

Wrestling – Mary Koegel advised that she has not heard anything from Uly Encarnacion. Diane Maglione was able to discuss the lack of EMTs at the recent meet with Commissioner Poli and was advised that there are not enough EMTs available but he would advise the RPVAC that in the future, they need to advise the Board if there are no available EMTs prior to a meet. Unfortunately, there was an incident requiring an EMT at the meet and none was present. Tom Essig advised that he did speak to Uly yesterday when he picked up a check for the end-of-season pizza party. Uly said he will get an end-of-season report to the Board, which will include the incidents that took place. The Board ordered the trophies for the party.

Girls' Softball - Registration was held on February 11 at Roosevelt School. Registration fee was \$50.00 and registration closed tonight. There are 12 girls in the 7/8 division. Lloyd now has 21 girls in 5/6 division. There are only 3 third grade girls and 2 fourth grade girls. The two fourth grade girls have enough experience that they should be able to play in the 5/6 division but, unfortunately, there is no place for the inexperienced third grade girls. They will be issued refunds. There will be 13 girls in the older division. Next Saturday is the scheduling meeting. Lloyd Domke will again order his uniforms through Italo Tafur. The season should open around April 16.

Lloyd reached out to the Hackensack contact but he never responded. Teams will be reminded to leave the area clean after games. The DPW has received complaints of trash left after games (although not necessarily the softball program) and is reminding everyone to clean up at the end of games. Mercedes Haines suggested issuing flyers during basketball camps with the younger

girls so they are aware that softball is available to them. Lloyd Domke needs a copy of the field permit.

Women's Softball – Championship trophies were distributed at the meeting held on March 8, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. with all teams. Packets were returnable at the March 8 meeting. All but 3 packets were turned in. The meeting went well. One of their major concerns was that the bathroom is locked when they play and they have no access to water to soften the field once the school season has ended. Commissioner Poli said he would discuss these concerns with Alan O'Grady. A vote will be taken to see if the teams want to continue with an end-of-season party. Frank Zaccherio advised at the meeting that he will no longer run the party if the league decides to continue with the party.

Fourth of July – No activity at this time.

Easter Egg Hunt – Funds were encumbered under PO#09914 for this event. Mary Koegel ordered 4,200 plastic eggs to be used for the egg hunt. She will now purchase candy to fill the eggs with. Mary said she does not need any assistance filling the eggs. She spoke with Rich Brown and he is interested in being the bunny this year. There will be a limit on the number of eggs each child gets since there are no longer any prize eggs. The egg hunt is scheduled for April 7 this year. Flyers will go out in the school. Members should meet at 8:00 a.m. to hide the eggs in the field.

Mary said she will need additional tape from Rick Lutz to separate the divisions. Rick has the signs and Diane will remind him to bring them. Diane also sent a letter to the RPVAC advising that the Board will be using candy-filled plastic eggs and the RPVAC was welcome to assist at the egg hunt. Commissioner Poli will check with the RPVAC about their intentions for the egg hunt. The high school was invited to send community service students to assist at the hunt.

Holiday Display Contest – No activity at this time. The prizes were all delivered to the winners after the contest this year and not at the Commissioner's meeting. Commissioner Poli said the Commissioners enjoy having the prizes distributed at the Commissioners meeting and look forward to it and missed not seeing the awarding of the prizes.

Wish Tree – No activity at this time.

Tree Lighting – No activity at this time. There will be a discussion at a future date as to the length of the program. The Board will need the scouts to reply sooner if they want to participate next year. They will also need to be better prepared. It was suggested that it might be a good idea to have a box available to accept donations for the Toys For Tots program at the tree lighting. Mercedes Haines said that the flood lights will be necessary for better lighting.

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

Adult Trips/Activities – No activities at this time.

Adult Craft Classes – A craft class is scheduled for May 1 and 8 at Roosevelt School from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The cost of the class is \$50.00 per person. Registrations are due by April 20, 2012. Permit came in for use of the school.

Basketball – Payment information for the second half of the season is due. Funds have already been encumbered. A bill should be coming in from Crown Awards for the trophies.

With just a few incidents that were handled, the program went pretty well this year. The clinic seems to be running well. There have been no complaints. The kids seemed to enjoy the changes made this year. The new format seems to work well and the kids all learned. The pizza

party was held for the clinic and went over well. Hal Bomzer has two bags of balls that will be stored by the file cabinet.

Gil Bell said his 3/4/5 girls division was outstanding this year. Everyone had fun – the girls, the parents, the coaches. There was good sportsmanship shown all year.

Mike Ruiz said that the second half of the season for the 6/7/8 girls went without any further incidents. The season came to a splendid end with the Black Team defeating the White Team. It is his intention to run the older girls' division again next year.

Hal Bomzer said that it appears the Chris Charas had no problems with the 3/4 boys division. It seemed to have run smoothly with no complaints.

Matt Lewandowski ran the boys 5/6 division. It was the first time Matt ran a division and it seems to have went well. Matt did have problems with kids not showing up for their scorer/timer jobs and last minute replacements had to be used. He also had some problems with referees not showing up as well.

Tom Strowbridge said that this 7/8 boys division went well. He did contact someone from Hackensack, who was very nice. Some games were played and it seems that both sides enjoyed the games. The Hackensack team seemed to overpower the RP team but there was good sportsmanship all around and the kids enjoyed it. They expressed an interest in playing games again next year.

Tom agreed that it was a good idea to include Hackensack in games next year. He will discuss ways to work them in the schedule next year once it is known how many teams there will be. Hackensack had expressed an interest in playing in RP and Tom did explain to them that RP does not have a rec center and gym space is hard to find during the season. Arrangements will be made next year when available players are known. It was suggested that possibly the Board could use a set of pinneys and then bring over a stronger team that will not be overpowered by a higher skilled team.

There were two incidents that were handled immediately, which will be discussed in closed session.

Tennis – Barry Ruback (568-3946) runs this program, which is taught by All Pro Tennis Staff. 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 February 2012, was \$31,224.40, total deposits for month were \$15.00, total expenses for month were \$534.00, leaving a balance of \$30,705.56. A detailed report is attached. A motion was made by Mercedes Haines and seconded by Tom Strowbridge approving the Treasurer's Report. All were in favor of this motion.

The amount of \$1,000 put aside for the women's softball program was used to pay the field usage fee. Trophies were also paid from these funds.

New Business – The Board of Recreation now has an email address. It is boardofrecreation@ridgefieldpark.org. The webmaster will then forward emails received to Barbara DeLuca.

Diane Maglione met with Mr. Savino's seventh grade civics class to listen to their suggestions and ideas for things they would like to see in Ridgefield Park. Diane had detailed notes on their suggestions such as a "Teen Center" and activities they would like to see for the Village youth.

Lloyd Domke suggested that the Board purchase a job box for one of the softball fields, which would benefit both the ponytail softball program and the women's softball program. It is very difficult to keep the field maintained once the school season is over. Last year Lloyd had suggested the same thing and gave information to Alan O'Grady about the cost of boxes and starting tools. The ground gets too hard and with no access to water or tools they are a safety hazard to the players. The teams need access to a hose to wet the fields as well as tools to maintain the fields. Lloyd also thinks that it would be a good idea for the Board to buy one box to get the project started. Commissioner Poli said he will speak to Alan O'Grady about trying to wet the fields and maintain them once or twice a week once the school season has ended.

Lloyd is also concerned about the metal plugs sticking out of the ground once the high school season has ended and those bases are removed. The recreational teams use throw down bases and he is concerned that one day the base will slip off and someone will slide into the metal plug and get seriously injured. He thinks it a good idea if proper bases were bought and could be stored in the job box. The Board agreed with this idea.

Old Business – The Board spoke to Commissioner Poli about doing background checks on coaches. Commissioner Poli said he will speak to the detective bureau about doing a basic search on names and just advising the Board with a simple yes or no on whether someone would be a good candidate to work with the children or if they needed to provide further information before working in a program. The Board would only need to provide basic information such as name, address, SSN and possibly a driver license number.

Lloyd Domke spoke to Miss Cerniglia and Miss Van Sadlers regarding starting a volleyball clinic or camp. They were definitely interested. He would like to see a clinic run for the younger girls during the season when the volleyball nets were already set up. Lloyd is still working out the details with the coaches. They have several people in mind who have already expressed an interest in working with the program.

At this time, the Board went into a short closed session to discuss some incidents in the basketball program.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2012.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mercedes Haines and seconded by Gil Bell to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Hugo Poli