

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009, at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 19, 2009**

Vice President Mary Koegel called the meeting to order at 7:15 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 31st day of December, 2008, and sent to the Star-Ledger on the 31st day of December, 2008. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Gil Bell, Hal Bomzer, Rich DePena, Lloyd Domke, Tom Essig, Mercedes Haines and Mary Koegel. Carlos Carames, Diane Maglione, Leigh Rivera, Mike Ruiz and Frank Zaccherio were excused.

A motion was made by Rich DePena and seconded by Hal Bomzer approving the minutes of the February 19, 2009, meeting.

Correspondence: Letter from Kat Kotzias regarding American Heart Association Go Red. (Letter will be sent to her advising that the Board is not permitted to make donations.)

Hearing of Citizens: Scott Garris will speak during basketball report.

Activity reports were as follows:

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

Wrestling - Ulysses Encarnacion sent an end-of-year report and an accident report for an injured wrestler. He is looking into getting trophies for the participants. His report was as follows:

“The 2009 recreation wrestling season began 12/10/08 and concluded 3/1/09. Scrimmages did not begin until 1/10/09 and there were a total of 38 participants from Little Ferry, Ridgefield, and Ridgefield Park. We attended a total of 5 scrimmages 1) at RPHS, 2) Mountain Lakes High School 3) New Milford High School 4) Ramapo High School 5) Garfield High School, One Tournament at North Bergen High School, The District Wrestling Tournament at Elmwood Park High School and The Regional Tournament at Hackensack High School. As a team we had 14 Medal winners in the District tournament and 12 of which were eligible to wrestle in the Regional Tournament. Of the 12 eligible wrestlers we had 3 wrestlers place, to conclude the season.”

A set of procedures will be available for next season to make things run smoother.

T-Ball – Registration was held on February 21. The program needs some parents to help out since Lloyd Domke is unable to run it this year. Gil Bell said he can offer some assistance. A letter will be sent to all participants advising that there is a coaching crisis and that if parents do not offer assistance, the Board will not be able to run the program this year.

Girls' Softball - Registration was held on February 21. Lloyd Domke had a meeting last week with Ridgefield. There will be one team for 9/10 year olds, two teams for 11/12 year olds and one team for 7/8 grade. Lloyd had proposed to some of the older girls that maybe they could participate in a U-Gal team which is held in either April and May or June and July. This league is more competitive. Last year there was a problem with the older girls not showing up for games.

Another email will be sent to Matt McArow of GJEM Insurance to get information on insuring umpires that are used in the league. Lloyd is not sure if he is using the umpiring association or not, it will all depend on the insurance.

The program will start after Easter. He will order the uniforms. Permits were applied for and the Board was advised that the requested dates are fine. Lloyd will also order the necessary equipment.

Summer Sandlot Baseball Program – No activity at this time.

Women's Softball – All packets were returned except for Back in Black as they are looking for a few more players. There will be one new team this year, Lanigans Ladies. Frank Zaccherio is attending the umpire meeting tonight.

Fourth of July – Bob Carlson and Charles Quigley were nominated for grand marshal.

Easter Egg Hunt – Hal Bomzer brought the new Easter Bunny costume to the meeting. Mary Koegel advised that she ordered the eggs, got the candy and has spoken to the Ambulance Corps. Eggs will be dyed at the Ambulance Corps. on Friday, April 10, 2009. Members should meet at Veteran's Park at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 11. A memo will be sent to the DPW asking them to clean up all debris and trash in the hills where the eggs will be hidden. Mr. Neubert has advised that he has moved the varsity baseball game to 12:00 p.m. to allow enough time for the Easter Egg Hunt.

The poster contest was held tonight and 26 posters were dropped off. New certificates will be ordered for the participants.

Holiday Display Contest – Frank Zaccherio was delivering the remaining two prizes that were not picked up.

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 – Frank Zaccherio will be getting tickets for another Nets game.

Ballroom Dancing – Due to lack of interest, lessons are not currently being held.

Adult Craft Classes – The first session is running now. It seems to be going well and the participants are enjoying themselves. Louise DeCicco would like to run another session but plans on having 4 classes in this session. She is also looking into possibly running a children's craft class.

Basketball – Hal Bomzer said the season went well this year considering the size of the program. There were a few minor problems that were handled. The one major problem will be discussed later at the meeting but on the whole, the season went quite well.

This year the Board adopted a zero tolerance policy on poor behavior and spectators were sent home if they were disruptive. This seemed to curtail poor behavior for the most part. For the first time, pictures were taken this year and everyone seemed pleased with them.

Second grade clinic: The clinic went very well this year. It was very small as there were only nine girls this year. Mercedes Haines thanked everyone for their help.

Lloyd Domke said the girls were good. There were some exciting games. Next year the teams will be supervised more closely to make sure there is a better match up of talent.

Gil Bell said that his division ran pretty smoothly this year. The girls had fun and he had no major problems.

Rich DePena said the 3/4 boys went great this year. Talent was matched up pretty well except for one weak team.

AT THIS TIME MEMBERS WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR PERSONNEL DISCUSSION

AT THIS TIME CLOSED SESSION ENDED.

Travel teams: Scott Garris was present to see if the Board would allow him to coach a 16 and under girls traveling team. He would play in the same league as the boys are playing in. It was explained to Mr. Garris that he must hold an open

tryout for this team and must send out flyers and have it announced in the school. He will check with Mr. Donohue to see when he can use Lincoln School for tryouts and also check with Mr. Neubert to see if there is any gym time available at the high school. The Board will order reversible jerseys for this team. The team would be self-funding like the boys team. He is looking to have a team made up of freshman and sophomore girls. Matt McArow will be contacted to see if there is anything that needs to be done to add this girls' team.

A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Rich DePena that Scott Garris be allowed to coach an under 16 girls traveling basketball team. All girls that live or attend school in Ridgefield Park are eligible to try out for this team. All were in favor of this motion.

There will be four boys traveling teams: 3/4 grade team coached by Jenisse and Rich DePena, 5 grade coached by Tom Strowbridge, 6 grade by Jim Donohue and 7/8 grade by Julio Cardenas. They will be splitting their time between Wayne PAL and Immaculate Conception in Mahwah. Cost is \$900 per team (they received a \$100 discount). The season will be 10 games plus playoffs. It will be a competitive league. Season begins first week in April and ends in middle of June. Cost came to approximately \$110.00 per player. A parent will be ordering the uniforms for the boys' teams.

The permits for Grant and Lincoln were turned in for the traveling teams. Mr. Donohue requests that Rich DePena contact him weekly for gym availability. Rich DePena said that he has discussed expected behavior with both the parents and players and there will be a zero tolerance on this issue. Rich will turn in all forms and checks when teams are completed with the paperwork.

The repair to the adjustor at Grant School was taken care of.

Tennis – Barry Rubach (568-3946) runs this program. Barry Rubach will be instructed to contact the DPW to see about reserving courts.

Treasurer's Report - Tom Essig sent in the required paperwork for the fraudulent charges. Beginning balance as February 2009, was \$18,741.47, total deposits for month were \$3,128.80, total expenses for month were \$2,397.00 leaving a balance of \$19,473.27. A detailed report is attached.

New Business – Lloyd Domke thinks it would be a good idea for Board members to have an informational table at back-to-school nights next year. It would be a good way to explain to new residents what the Board offers and when different registrations are held.

Old Business – None at this time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2009.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Hugo Poli