

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009, at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 15, 2009**

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 21st day of December, 2007, and sent to the Star-Ledger on the 21st day of December, 2007. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Diane Maglione, Gil Bell, Carlos Carames, Tom Essig, Mercedes Haines, Mary Koegel and Frank Zaccherio. Hal Bomzer, Rich DePena, Lloyd Domke, Leigh Rivera and Mike Ruiz were excused.

A motion was made by Frank Zaccherio and seconded by Gil Bell approving the minutes of the November 20, 2008, meeting.

Correspondence: Letter from the Fourth of July Citizens Committee regarding grand marshal nomination. Certificates of insurance from GJEM re: wrestling.

Hearing of Citizens: None present.

Activity reports were as follows:

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

Wrestling - Ulysses Encarnacion is the coordinator this year. One of the problems is that he was not left a written set of procedures to follow this year and received no training on running the program. The Board will work on writing up procedures so that next year the program will run smoother. Mary Koegel attended the one home meet. She said the EMTs need to do a better job of walking around and attending to the wrestlers. Carlos Carames advised that he has wrestling experience and knowledge and would like to assist with the program next year.

Diane Maglione spoke to Joseph Neubert, the athletic director, to fill him in on some procedures. This year registration forms were not distributed to all the schools. Little Ferry knew about registration but St. Francis never received flyers. Registration forms need to be two pages so that parents can keep one page of information and return the signed portion. Uniforms were only handed out just before the first meet and there were not enough. They had to rush out and purchase some uniforms. New parents were not informed in writing of what they needed to purchase and where to purchase it.

There was not enough supervision and not enough qualified supervisors helping

out. There were not separate practices for the younger and older kids. There were only three helpers. Mary Koegel had asked Mr. Encarnacion to write down and post the necessary equipment and where to purchase it so parents would be prepared but this was never done. Mary Koegel arranged for the EMTs and Mr. Encarnacion got the referees.

The first meet ended up starting late because Saddle River opted out due to the weather. The schedule had to be reorganized and the meet didn't start until close to 11:00 a.m.

The Board needs to make a list of procedures that need to be followed in the future. A list needs to be made of who and how much people get paid such as EMT/Referee/Scorers/Timers. The registration form needs to be clearer. It should be two pages so that one page lists all necessary information such as time/place/equipment needed and where to purchase it. Registration will be done in September next year. Supervision needs to be addressed. More uniforms are needed. There needs to be more kids helping out and older kids to assist. In the past, older wrestlers assisted this program and received community service hours for assisting. Registration forms need to be distributed to all public schools and St. Francis. Registration forms and fees need to be turned into the Board immediately. The Board needs to be notified of when registration will be held. Registration needs to be announced in the Patriot, the internet and the Community Message Board as well.

T-Ball – Nothing to report. Registration fee is \$25.00.

Girls' Softball - Nothing to report. Registration fee is \$45.00.

Summer Sandlot Baseball Program – No activity at this time.

Women's Softball – Packets were sent out to team representatives and are due back by March 2. This year there will be a registrar, Carol Burek, to keep track of players eligible to participate in the playoffs. Frank Zaccherio asked if he would be able to use a Bogota field this year. He was instructed that as long as all teams played the same amount of games in both Ridgefield Park and Bogota then he would be able to use a Bogota field. Field distribution must be equitable amongst all teams. Frank was reminded that there will be no schedule changes once the schedules are distributed unless there were extenuating circumstances.

Fourth of July – The Fourth of July Committee is requiring organizations to designate three representatives to attend meetings and vote for Grand Marshal. The Board's representatives will be Barbara DeLuca, Tom Essig and Diane Maglione.

Easter Egg Hunt – Hal Bomzer will be looking into a new Easter Bunny costume.

Holiday Display Contest – The contest ended up being delayed one day due to the weather. All entrants were called and notified to put their lights on for the new judging night. Two new judges were used for judging this year. A list of winners is attached. Next year there will be only one registration for both business and residential entries as there were only two business entries. Prizes were distributed on January 13 at the Commissioner's meeting. Two of the grand prize winners showed up and four residential prize winners came to the meeting. The unclaimed prizes were left in the Clerk's Office and winners have been instructed to pick their prizes up by January 20.

Wish Tree – The only problem with the wish tree was that the list was given out late. Mary Puleio used the DPW to pick up the prizes this year and it worked out well.

Tree Lighting – The bicycle was won by Denise Gonzalez, a sixth grade student from Roosevelt School. Entries were as follows: Roosevelt - 38, Lincoln -37, Grant - 13, St. Francis - 23. The lighting went well. The extra lights, sound system and risers really worked well. Dismissing the scouts by troop helped to eliminate the chaos at the end of the night. It was suggested that a male be added to the singers next year and Mercedes Haines already has a volunteer. Next year the Board will see if it is able to obtain another set of risers. Side safety rails will be ordered so no one falls. 7-11 provided Slurpees.

Rag-A-Muffin – Halloween is on a Saturday this year so the parade should be well attended.

Adult Trips/Activities – Frank Zaccherio is getting information on a Globetrotter's game as well as the circus.

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

Basketball – Hal Bomzer has officiated in all divisions and has seen almost every team and coach in action. From what he's seen and heard, the basketball season has gone well so far. There have been no problems with players, coaches, or fans (he has only assessed one "T" all year)--except for one incident on 1/14 where two parents expressed complaints that their daughter was being treated unfairly. Because this is an annual event with this family, Hal will not going to focus on it nor let it spoil what has been a successful season to this point.

Mercedes has heard of young children (under 8 yrs old) unattended in the Lincoln entrance area. If we witness this ourselves, we need to get the parent to stay with the child or leave the gym with the child. Diane Maglione instructed members to call the police department, if necessary, to have unattended minors removed from the building.

The first half of the season will end on 1/24 and payment info will be submitted before the end of the month in hope of receiving payments in February.

So far, there has been interest in two travel teams:

1) 3/4 boys to be run by Rich

2) 5/6 boys to be run by Jim Donohue

Barbara has contacted Julio about a possible 7/8 boys team for this year.

Rich DePena will be in charge of all travel teams, including payments, scheduling, and reporting to the board. The travel teams will be self-sufficient. There will be no cost to the Board.

Rich – 3 /4 boys going fabulous this year.

As far as traveling teams, all info will be announced as soon as he gets it. Flyers will probably go out in about 1 week. Hasn't heard back from Julio if he's doing 7/8 grade traveling team or not.

Tennis – Barry Rubach (568-3946) runs this program.

Treasurer's Report - Beginning balance as November 2008, was \$22,253.74, total deposits for month were \$1,325.00, total expenses for month were \$3,011.02 leaving a balance of \$20,567.72. A detailed report is attached. Tom Essig has not received the December bank statement yet so he could not give a report for the month of December.

New Business – Commissioner Poli asked for a budget for 2009.

Old Business – None at this time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2009.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Carlos Carames and seconded by Mary Koegel to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Hugo Poli