

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2013, at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
APRIL 18, 2013**

President Diane Maglione called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 28th day of December, 2012, and sent to the Star-Ledger on the 28th day of December, 2012. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Diane Maglione, Gil Bell, Hal Bomzer, Lloyd Domke, and Tom Essig. Scott Garris, Mercedes Haines, Mary Koegel, Leigh Rivera, Mike Ruiz and Tom Strowbridge were excused. Frank Zaccherio was absent. Kaitlyn Maglione was also present.

The minutes of the March 21, 2013, meeting were approved.

Correspondence: Email from Safety Office regarding cookhouse and if the Board might have any contact info on who runs the cookhouse.

Hearing of Citizens: None Present

Activity reports were as follows:

Bowling – Nothing to report.

Wrestling – Uly Encarnacion was present to answer any questions regarding the season. He previously sent in his end-of-year report.

Refunds will be issued for the tournament that the wrestlers were not able to participate in. There were no coaches available for this tournament and there were too few wrestlers that qualified to enter to justify the cost.

Mary Koegel previously said that some parents have complained to her about not being contacted by Uly. The Board said that since Uly did email parents about the meets, they should have emailed Uly with their concerns and if he didn't respond then they should contact the Board. Next year contact information will be added to the registration form so that concerns/complaints/questions can be directed in writing to the Board directly for a response. Participants should contact Uly first and if the issue is not resolved, then email the Board of Recreation for assistance. Unwritten and unsigned complaints will no longer be heard by the Board of Recreation. The Board will follow the same policies for other activities requiring all complaints to be written and signed by the person with the complaint.

Uly did inform the Board that at the start of each season he sends an introductory letter to the parents and a test email to make sure he has the proper address. If a parent does not respond, he then checks to make sure he has the correct address. No one informed him they didn't receive his emails this year.

Uly said he looked into the price of mats. They are currently approximately \$8,000.00 but none are needed at this time. He is thinking of attempting to do something this summer. Parents do not understand that in order to hold a tournament the fees all need to be paid in advance. Parents do not realize all the costs involved – custodians, referees, etc. An example is the January home match. Uly needed parents to volunteer and had a hard time getting enough volunteers. Luckily he had two very cooperative parents that helped out. Parents are afraid of missing their child participating and don't always volunteer to help out.

The parents need to understand that no money can be made on this activity outside of the concession stand. Under the organization of the Board of Recreation by-laws, the Board is not permitted to make money on any activities. The Board is a not-for-profit organization. The Board needs to make it clear to the parents that it is not a private entity and cannot make any profit from its activities.

It will be made clear to the parents that if they have any complaints, it must be in writing and signed when presented to the Board. Tom Essig is working on reimbursing the parents for the fee for the No. Bergen tournament that the wrestlers were not able to participate in. Six parents attended the meet privately.

Uly thinks he will probably start next year on the Monday after Thanksgiving. Practices will also be closed next year. There will be no parents in the wrestling room. It is very hard to get the kids to focus with parents present. It is also hard to watch both the parents and the kids.

Diane Maglione advised Uly that the Board has no problem with that and, in fact, prefers closed practices for the safety and security of the children. It is already Board policy that practices are closed. It is much safer for the children to have a closed practice. Uly will include this in his introductory letter. The Board also provided Uly with a copy of the starting letter for the basketball program so he sees the written policy of the Board.

Girls' Softball - Funds were encumbered under PO #10942 in the amount of \$2,500.00. The job box has come in and the DPW has already installed the cement base. Lloyd Domke had a conversation with Peggy Schneider as well as Mike Bassano (who runs Farm League) and they will help maintain the field.

Lloyd said that three games have been played so far and the season has started well. There are still a few parents who don't understand how the Cinderella batting works and that only 10 players can field at a time. They also need to understand that skill level can also determine where a girl might be able to play safely.

Lloyd Domke spoke to his supplier and he will need the tax ID number for future purchases. This was provided to Lloyd. Lloyd has some funds available from both last year and this year. He would like to purchase new catcher's equipment for the older girls at this time and in the future, new catcher's equipment for the younger girls. The cost is approximately \$135.00 for catching equipment that meets all safety codes.

Lloyd will make sure the coaches all complete the concussion course. An additional \$3,000.00 will be encumbered for expenses for the remainder of the season.

Women's Softball – Frank Zaccherio resigned as chairman of the softball program. He did not want to answer questions regarding the program and repeatedly hung up on Diane Maglione and finally resigned. Although there were complaints by teams at the March 20 meeting as well as emails with complaints received by the Board, Frank feels there were no problems with the way he runs the program. Peggy Schneider had already agreed to be the program liaison.

There were some problems at the start of the season. Apparently Frank Zaccherio was still allowing some teams to set the schedule to accommodate another league in which they played. Some teams still were able to pick what days they preferred to play. He informed certain teams they could turn in their packets after the deadline. A schedule was made by Peggy Schneider and distributed to all teams. Shirts have been ordered.

Frank Zaccherio was supposed to attend tonight's meeting but did not. The Board is trying to learn why Frank ordered enough equipment for 12 teams when there are only 9 teams in the league. Although Diane informed Frank not to hand out all the equipment because equipment could be stored in the new job box, Frank gave each team a case of balls, their own first aid kit (rather than store one kit in the job box as instructed), scorebooks, ice packs, etc. He also ordered four new sets of bases rather than store a set of bases in the job box. Diane will attempt to call Frank again to get answers.

The field request was revised to include use of Field #5 Hobart Street on Monday and Thursday nights from April – August until the high school takes the field; however, Field #5 is not available to the Board of Recreation.

Lloyd Domke thinks it would be a better idea to buy breakaway bases to use after the high school takes up the bases when its season ends. He thinks this would be a safer alternative for the players.

Peggy Schneider has agreed to be the program liaison. She is able to check the condition of the fields in the afternoon and send out an email to the teams so everyone is aware of cancellations. She will let the Board know when games have been rescheduled. This was also a problem last year because not all teams were advised of rescheduled games.

Frank will need to turn in the keys he has for lights, etc.

Fourth of July – There have been three nominations for Grand Marshal: Harold Butler, Joan Gibbs and Dan Greco.

Easter Egg Hunt – The hunt was held on Saturday, March 30. The new lawn signs were very helpful. People seem to arrive after 10:00 a.m. and expect eggs. The flyer will be revised next year to state that line-up will be at 9:45 a.m. and the hunt will start at 10:00 a.m. sharp. The Easter bunny was very gracious and stayed for pictures. Next year the bunny will need to be located off the field for pictures so the baseball games can start on time. The Board wants to look into getting the eggs and candy online or at a wholesale location.

Holiday Display Contest – Mary Koegel advised that all prizes have been delivered. Funds have been encumbered under PO#10946 in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Wish Tree – No activity at this time.

Tree Lighting – No activity at this time. Funds were encumbered under PO#10944 in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Rag-A-Muffin – No activity at this time. Funds were encumbered under PO #10943 in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Adult Trips/Activities – Vanessa Diaz is trying to find a location to host the zumba classes. The schools have no available time to offer her. She tried getting the Civic Center but was advised that it is only available to civic organizations. Diane Maglione will speak to Commissioner MacNeill about using the civic center. Vanessa would also like to offer the classes to children as well.

The NY Nets contacted the Board to see if there was an interest in tickets for any games. Diane Maglione will ask Leigh Rivera if she would be interested in handling this activity.

Adult Craft Classes – No activities at this time.

Basketball – The season is over. Hal Bomzer was able to purchase a ball cart for Lincoln School with three dozen assorted balls, stop watches and nets. The school was very appreciative of the gift.

Diane Maglione turned in the tally sheets for payment. The second half referee fees were \$5,510.00 and scorers/timers were \$1,414.00 (paid by the Board of Recreation).

There wasn't enough time for the photographer to set up a schedule for pictures this year. It was suggested that next year the Board look at quotes from three different photographers before scheduling photographs. There was a question concerning insurance and the photographer. Any photographer used by the Board must provide proof of insurance. The photographer that originally contacted the Board does have his own insurance.

Tennis – Barry Ruback (568-3946) runs this program, which is taught by All Pro Tennis Staff. The program should be starting up shortly.

Treasurer's Report - Beginning balance as of March 2013 was \$32,605.72, total deposits for month were \$4,209.00, total expenses for month were \$6,217.69, leaving a balance of \$30,417.03. A detailed report is attached. There is \$1,300.00 available for the pre-season party for the women's softball program. There is still a returned check from the basketball program.

A motion was made by Gil Bell and seconded by Lloyd Domke approving the Treasurer's Report. All were in favor of this motion.

New Business – Reappointments are done in April. Mary Koegel and Tom Strowbridge need to be reappointed. There is one opening at this time. Kaitlyn Maglione is interested in moving up from an Associate Member to a regular member.

Old Business – An email was received from Capt. Hippe regarding background checks. "I spoke to Commissioner MacNeill this morning, and we both agreed that it would be premature at this time for me to speak to the Board of Recreation regarding this issue. There are many logistics associated with conducting background checks on volunteers, and I believe that there needs to be more discussion and planning. Hopefully this dialogue will occur in the near future. If so, that would allow me to speak more intelligently on what would and would not occur if such an ordinance is passed."

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2013.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Tom Essig and seconded by Lloyd Domke to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Adam MacNeill