

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2004, AT 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 18, 2004**

President Diane Maglione called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 sent to The Record on the 29th day of December, 2003, and to the Star-Ledger on the 29th day of December, 2003. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Hal Bomzer, Rich DePena, Tom Essig, Mercedes Haines, Catherine Jacob, Leigh Rivera and Frank Zaccherio. Mary Koegel and Paula DiMeglio were excused. Andy Scheideler and Carlos Carames were also present for the meeting. Commissioner D'Auria stopped by for a moment.

A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Mercedes Haines approving the minutes of the February 19, 2004, meeting.

Correspondence: None received.

Hearing of Citizens: None present.

Activity reports were as follows:

Bowling – No new information at this time.

Wrestling – The Board of Recreation found out accidentally that registration was held and the program had begun. St. Francis School never received registration forms. The Board of Recreation will again contact Tony Gonzalez to discuss the organization of this program and its displeasure at not being kept informed about this activity. There were only expenses for two meets, which cost \$85 for referees. Scorers/timers do not receive payment. Diane Maglione will see if this program remembers to ask for the return of the clothing issued to the participants.

T-Ball – Registration was held at Roosevelt School on February 27 and 28. Currently, there are 15 players registered for this program. Rich DePena will run this program.

Girls' Softball – Registration was held at Roosevelt School on February 27 and 28. Commissioner D'Auria stopped in and said she received the field request. As of today, registration is 3/4 grade – 21, 5/6 grade – 6, 7-11 grade – 16. There was some concern with having inexperienced third graders with a sixth grader. One suggestion was to move the capable 6 grade girls up to the older division.

The teams might end up playing in the Hackensack division. Final decisions will be made when total registration numbers are in.

Mercedes Haines requested that her second grade daughter be allowed to move up to softball (grades 3-6) due to her size and ability. The Board explained to Mercedes that as long as she had the proper skill level to move up without unnecessary risks to herself and if Mercedes added a line to her registration form advising that she requested her daughter to move up and assumes all liability, the Board would have no problem with this. This has been done in the past in other programs when a child's skill level was better suited to the next division. A motion was made by Tom Essig and seconded by Leigh Rivera to allow Katherine Haines to play in the softball program, grades 3-6 division. All were in favor of this motion.

Summer Sandlot Baseball Program – Carlos Carames said that April 17 is opening day for this program. Five players in the 10, 11, 12 bracket were picked up for the traveling team and 4 players in the 7, 8, 9 bracket were picked up for the traveling team. They will play about 27 games in the season. Games will be played in Hackensack only. The program needs no equipment. Hackensack wanted Ridgefield Park to keep their town colors so the team will be red. Only two senior age players signed up so they will play with a Hackensack team. There are five coaches from Ridgefield Park. After this season ends, the players have the option of playing in the summer and fall leagues as well.

Women's Softball – Frank Zaccherio gave the total of the last umpire bill (\$635.00) so the Village can reimburse the Board for this expense. Commissioner D'Auria stopped in and asked what fields this program needed as she already had the request for the t-ball and softball programs. She said this would be no problem. Frank would like to have one less team this year and try not to play on the weekends. Bella Wagner will assist Frank with this program this year.

Fourth of July – No activity at this time.

Easter Egg Hunt – Members will meet at 8:00 a.m. on April 10, 2004. Diane Maglione will get coffee/tea and donuts for the Board members. The poster contest was conducted tonight and Mary Koegel will take care of the prizes and hanging of posters. Since IGA is unable to get the candy, Mary will take care of this job. The eggs will be dyed at the Ambulance Corps. on Friday, April 9. Members who want to help are invited to join in otherwise the youth squad takes care of this job. Leigh Rivera and Frank Zaccherio advised that they will be working on April 10 and will be unable to assist at this event. A letter will be sent to the Ambulance Corps. reminding them that they need to be at Veterans Park at 8:00 a.m. Notice was sent to the Community Message Board, Channel 10 and newspapers.

Holiday Display Contest – No activity at this time. Frank Zaccherio submitted bills for the prizes and mileage (\$483.00). This will be turned in so the Board can be reimbursed.

Wish Tree – No activity at this time. There were some complaints from people who wanted a name from the tree and none were left. It was discussed that perhaps next year, each participant will have two name tags on the tree.

Tree Lighting – No activity at this time.

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

Adult Trips/Activities – No activity at this time.

Basketball – The season is just about over. The first payment was sent out, however, some people have called to say they did not receive their checks. The Board must wait until next month to see if the checks arrive before any action can be taken on these checks.

The playoffs that were held so far have been great with one division going into overtime. Despite the loss of Lincoln School gym, the season went very well. There was much shuffling of schedules due to the loss of this gym and also because younger players cannot use Roosevelt gym because the baskets are too high. The Board received much cooperation from the schools and the season went by relatively smoothly despite the obstacles.

The Board is desperately trying to get the funds necessary to purchase new adjustable backboards for Roosevelt School. It has put aside a little over half the funds needed and should expect to receive the remainder of the money after next year's registration. Hal Bomzer will again speak with Commissioner Storer about getting an advance in funding so the backboards can be installed during the summer before the season starts. This would greatly ease gym congestion for this growing program.

An inventory needs to be completed before the summer so the Board can take advantage of online ordering to reduce costs of equipment. Any equipment that needs to be stored can be stored at the DPW. Deliveries can also be made to the DPW as long as the DPW is aware that equipment will be arriving.

Andy Scheideler was present to say that this division ran well this year. There were some teams that thought the skill level was a little mismatched nearer the end of the season, however, the Board cannot control teams that are picked by the coaches. It was pointed out that some coaches pick friends over skill level and some players show great improvement, for example, which cannot be determined early in the season. Just about every player had the opportunity to

score during the season. Andy turned in his list for payment for the second half of the season. Andy Scheideler said he would run this division again next year.

Mercedes Haines said that the clinic went well this year and that she would return to run it again with assistance from Janine Vorhees and Coach Ken. Coach Ken was a former coach that has no children in the program and has agreed to assist in this program. Mercedes presented a plaque to him at the last session. A bill was turned into the Board for payment of this plaque.

Tennis – Barry Rubach (568-3946). Registration was held on March 17. Some registration forms were left with the Clerk's Office so Barry Rubach will be called to see where to send them.

Treasurer's Report - The current balance is \$8,153.00. Some outstanding bills were paid at the meeting. A motion was made by Leigh Rivera and seconded by Tom Essig approving the treasurer's report. All were in favor of this motion.

New Business: The Board will contact Commissioner Storer to see about getting a charge card in the Board's name so that it can take advantage of lower prices found on the internet where payment is expected up front. It is unfair to ask members to use personal funds to pay for these items and then wait for reimbursement from the Village.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Storer