

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2003, AT 7:30 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 16, 2003**

President Diane Maglione called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 19th day of December, 2002, and to the Star-Ledger on the 19th day of December, 2002. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Hal Bomzer, Rich DePena, Mercedes Haines, Catherine Jacob, Mary Koegel, Diane Maglione, Leigh Rivera and Frank Zaccherio. Paula DiMeglio and Tom Essig were excused. Commissioner Storer was also present at the meeting.

A motion was made by Rich DePena and seconded by Hal Bomzer approving the minutes of the November 21, 2002, meeting.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Mayor Fosdick thanking the Board for the Tree Lighting. A letter dated November 27 was received from Principal Thomas Kraljic regarding locking doors at Lincoln School. Notice of newsletter deadlines was received and are as follows:

February 14	Delivery March 22 - 30
May 16	Delivery June 7 - June 15
August 22	Delivery September 20 - 28
October 24	Delivery November 22 – 30

Questions were also received concerning a lawsuit filed against the Village from an injury several years ago in a softball game. Diane Maglione informed Commissioner Storer that she did not feel it was the Board's place to answer these questions and the Village and/or its attorney would have to handle these questions.

Hearing of Citizens: None present.

Activity reports were as follows:

Bowling – The program should be just about over.

Wrestling – Diane Maglione has finally received the registration forms and checks from Coach Raimundi. There are calls being received on the Board voicemail regarding this program and they are being referred to either Coach Raimundi at the high school or his e-mail address of mraimundi@rpps.net. Diane Maglione advised that she receives no information from Coach Raimundi on this program. Registration forms for 20 participants were turned in. Cash in the amount of \$160 and checks in the amount of \$300 were turned in. There

seem to be some missing registration forms as there is more money than forms received by the Board. Three more registration forms are needed from Mike Raimundi.

T-Ball – No activity at this time. Rich DePena will be running this program again. Registration will be held at Roosevelt School on February 7 and 8. The request for Hobart Street was sent to Commissioner D'Auria. This year players in the third grade who are skilled enough will be allowed to move up to team playing. This will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Girls' Softball – Registration will be held on February 7 and 8 at Roosevelt School. Catherine Jacob and Leigh Rivera will now be chairing this program. Rich DePena and Frank Zaccherio said they also could help out with the program. Tom Essig usually handles field and umpire assignments. The request for fields was sent to Commissioner D'Auria. Registration forms will be mailed to all those players registered last season. Bill White from Hackensack will have to be called to make arrangements for the upcoming season. One reminder regarding this program is last year the Board agreed to play some games in Hackensack as well as Ridgefield Park. Paula DiMeglio will be asked if she wants to get involved in this program as well.

Women's Softball – No activity at this time. Frank Zaccherio did say that the umpire association he uses will be raising its prices this year from \$42.00 to \$45.00 per game.

Fourth of July – No activity at this time.

Easter Egg Hunt – Easter egg hunt is scheduled for April 19, 2003 and the poster contest will be conducted on March 20, 2003. Mary Koegel will be talking to IGA about the candy order and eggs. A letter was sent to Ralph Lella to remind him of the Easter egg hunt and Commissioner D'Auria was also asked to list this activity on the permit schedule so that everyone knows of the activity when making their schedules.

Holiday Display Contest – The contest was held on December 20, 2002. The grand prizewinners were 114 Grand Avenue and 24 Hudson Street. Winners were: 94 Union Place, 383 Main Street, 366 Teaneck Road, 206 Christie Street, 281 Teaneck Road, 164 Hudson Avenue, 68 Seventh Street, 24 Maple Street, 55 Chestnut Street, 47 Edison Street, 17 Main Street, 62 Brinkerhoff Street, 31 Central Avenue, 136 Main Street, 11 Brinkerhoff Street, 89 Highland Place. A letter was placed in mailboxes immediately following the contest notifying homes they were selected as winners and asking them to leave their name on the Board voicemail and advise if they were attending the Commissioner's meeting. Awards were given out at the January 14, 2003, Commissioner's meeting by Mercedes Haines as Frank could not be present. Frank Zaccherio will drop off the prizes to those winners who did not attend the meeting.

Commissioner Storer said that the Mayor received a complaint from someone who said that “a board member was seen driving the judges around and then their house was picked a winner and this is not fair”. It was explained to Commissioner Storer that this is totally inaccurate. Frank Zaccherio runs this activity and took the judges around and his house was not selected as a winner. The judges are from out of town and do not know whose house they select. A member of the Board of Recreation did get a prize but even Frank was unaware whose house it was until after the contest was over. It was also pointed out to Commissioner Storer that just because someone is willing to volunteer does not mean that they or members of their family should be excluded from any activities or contests run by the Board of Recreation. For instance, a Board member’s child should not be told that can **never** participate in the Rag-A-Muffin contest just because their parent has volunteered their time to help the Village. These judges are also from out of town so it does not matter who enters the contest.

Wish Tree – Kaitlyn Maglione ran this program under the guidance of Mary Koegel. All names were selected from the tree and the program seems to have went well.

Tree Lighting – The tree lighting went very well. The new positioning of barricades and having the scouts enter through Park Street really improved congestion. The bicycle was won by Jonathan Nunez of Roosevelt School. Thank you letters were sent to: Thomas Williams, Dana McGrath, Denise Seitter, 7-Eleven, Father Gene, Vorhees Funeral Home, Rescue Squad, Truck One, DPW and the Police Dept. The new, larger Lenny Hatton ornament was placed on the tree. The only problem was that the public address system did not work but the DPW has ordered a new system.

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

Adult Trips/Activities – Frank Zaccherio has ordered tickets for a Harlem Globetrotters game on February 8 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets will cost \$27.00 each (\$3.00 savings) and are located in Section 111. He also will be ordering tickets for the circus at Continental Arena on March 9 at 7:30 p.m. These tickets will cost \$15.00 each (\$8.50 savings) A notice will be sent through the schools regarding the circus tickets. He will also probably run another Nets game. He has already ran three Nets games this year.

Women’s Basketball – Open basketball night for adult women (18 years and older), who reside in Ridgefield Park will be held at Lincoln School gym on Thursday nights from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. beginning on March 27. This is an **ADULT ONLY** program and only players will be admitted into the gym. Participants will again be instructed to make other arrangements for children under 18 as they will not be permitted to enter the gym during this activity.

Basketball – There was an incident of vandalism at Lincoln School regarding a water fountain during a 7/8 boys game one Saturday by an unknown vandal. A letter was sent to Principal Thomas Kraljic regarding action taken by the Board and he was satisfied. A memo was sent to Division Leaders regarding the incident and players at Lincoln School were all spoken to regarding the zero tolerance policy of the Board. It is important the doors of Lincoln are properly locked to allow proper supervision of players. All coaches have been instructed to advise the janitors to lock the doors if they are open during games and practices.

Ken Quimby and Dennis Margiotta approached Rich DePena because their private team had fallen apart and asked if they could run a team through the Board of Recreation. There will now be a 5/6 girls traveling team playing at Hoop Zone. This team will be coached by Ken Quimby and Dennis Margiotta. Shirts for this team were ordered from our supplier as Hoop Zone went up \$5.00 a shirt. These girls paid \$55.00 registration (\$35 registration, \$20 shirt) and a total of \$605.00 was collected for this team.

Rich DePena thanked everyone for their help and cooperation with the basketball program. He said the traveling teams were up and running and everything was going well this year.

Several additional registrations were received bringing the current number of players to 411. Hal Bomzer still has twelve basketballs, which were purchased for the clinic and are not needed this year. They will be put at the DPW to be used next year. Diane Maglione also has extra ball bags, whistles, first aid supplies, which will be kept in the Board of Recreation cabinet in the D.A.R.E. room for access to those who need it. Diane did receive a credit from Modell's, which she has been using to purchase needed equipment for the program. The pinneys are in and will be brought to each school.

Hal Bomzer said the program has been going quite well this year. One of the biggest improvements has been in referees and scorekeepers/timers. Increasing the pay to referees has resulted in better quality refereeing and more people anxious to help out. This has greatly helped in keeping the coaches under control. Increasing the age of scorekeepers/timers has also increased the quality of this aspect as well.

Another good thing that happened is that John Toomey is an assistant coach. John has a lot of knowledge on basketball and has been helping a lesser-experienced coach. Mike Alberque and Joe Borkowski saw that he was helping out and agreed that John would be an aid as an assistant coach.

Everything seems to be under control this year. Now that everyone has realized that rules are in place and there are proper procedures to be followed, the season seems to be running much smoother. There are no last minute calls for

referees, scorers/timers, etc., procedures are now followed and set up in place before something happens. There actually have been very few complaints and many compliments from parents and people involved in the program. The 3 and 4 boys division seems to have better skilled players this year probably due to good coaching and a good clinic sending up players with more skills. There have been many compliments on how well the league is put together this year. Mary Kane, in particular, made a point of telling Rich DePena how much better the program is knowing there is a written set of rules and procedures are followed and she was pleased with how the program was running this year.

Treasurer's Report - The balance as of the last deposit is \$5,530.00. There are still several checks that were not cashed from people who were issued refunds because their child had quit before the season began. As a matter of policy, no refunds are issued once the shirt has been ordered.

New Business: Hal Bomzer questioned the policy regarding participating in a Board activity while suspended from school. A situation has come to his attention where a student, who participates in a Board activity, has been suspended from school. He would like to know if the Board should keep that student away from the activity. Dr. Richardson will be called in the morning to discuss this situation.

NOTE AFTER MEETING: Dr. Richardson, Supt. of Schools, has informed the Board that if a student is suspended from school they are not permitted on school property for any reason (practice, participate or even watch a game). The student is made aware of this and Dr. Richardson requests that he be advised if there are any problems with a student not following these instructions. Hal Bomzer did send a memo to all division leaders advising them of this Board of Education policy and request from Dr. Richardson to be notified of any violation by a student. In the future, Dr. Richardson will notify the Board of Recreation of any student who should not be on school grounds.

Commissioner Storer requested that the minutes from the meetings be posted on the Internet. This will begin next month after the January minutes are approved.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Hal Bomzer adjourning the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Joseph Storer