

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2011, at 7:00 P.M.**

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY  
February 17, 2011**

President Diane Maglione called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 29th day of December, 2010, and sent to the Star-Ledger on the 29th day of December, 2010. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Diane Maglione, Tom Essig, Mercedes Haines (gave her report and then had to leave) and Mary Koegel. Hal Bomzer, Gil Bell, Carlos Carames, Rich DePena, Leigh Rivera and Mike Ruiz were excused. Frank Zaccherio was absent.

A motion was made by Mary Koegel and seconded by Tom Essig to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2011, meeting. All were in favor of this motion.

**Correspondence:** An email was received from Robin DeCicco requesting information for an article she was writing on raising children in Ridgefield Park. Diane Maglione responded to the email.

**Hearing of Citizens:** None present

Activity reports were as follows:

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

**Wrestling** – Uly Encarnacion advised that three wrestlers had left the program and did not return. They did not pay a registration fee because they never wrestled. There have been some problems with the program and lack of communication between the parties involved.

Uly Encarnacion sent an email that the gyms were closed for practice but never emailed Mary Koegel of this information. He informed parents that the gyms were closed due to extreme circumstances so the parents were concerned what the extreme circumstances were. Tony Gonzalez called Mary Koegel and said that parents should not have called her. Uly and Tony don't want the parents to go to the Board of Recreation with any problems or concerns at all. This will have to be addressed AGAIN. Some parents feel that they cannot bring problems to the attention of Uly Encarnacion because then their children will suffer.

Sandy Cuzio is holding the money raised by the parents and has a question as to how it should be used. The parents wanted to buy duffle bags for the kids. Uly Encarnacion said those wrestlers not continuing on to the last tournament, were to turn in their singlets or they would be charged \$50.00.

The new Athletic Director, Mr. Taibi, does not want the money raised by the parents to go through the school. He would like the parents to buy something for the children. Mary Koegel suggested to the parent that they get an account with two signatures on it for their own protection. Parents are still upset with what the money was used for last year. Mr. Taibi has no problem with the parents raising money but wants them to use it on the kids.

Uly Encarnacion would like registration to be in November and not September. He would like it to be from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Mary Koegel told Uly Encarnacion registration will be two nights next year at a date to be determined later on. Uly did not mention anything about a party or trophies yet. There are matches scheduled for February 20 and 27. The form will be changed next year to include exactly what is included in the registration fees so there is no more confusion for the parents as to what is included.

Last year the following expenses were covered by the Board:

Check No. 1503 in the amount of \$120.00 dated March 10, 2010, to Uly Encarnacion for reimbursement for the pizza party

Check no. 1516 in the amount of \$370.00 dated May 3, 2010, to Trophy King for trophies

Parents feel the program is not organized well. Diane Maglione met with Mr. Taibi to go over the wrestling program and copies of procedures as well as the minutes from March 2010, April 2010 and May 2010 were emailed to Mr. Taibi so that he could familiarize himself with the program. Mr. Taibi was also given a copy of the year end report submitted by Uly Encarnacion, which did not include any itemized list of expenses.

The main area of disagreement between Uly and the parents is money that the parents raised at a concession stand during a REC meet at the HS (@ \$700.00). To back track a little, last year the parents raised \$1,101.00 at the concession stand. They handed the money over to Uly as they believed he was going to put the money aside for a tournament he wanted to host THIS YEAR. The money went to many things but not a tournament.

The Board had Tony Gonzalez and Uly Encarnacion come to a meeting (after wrestling was over and the matter came to light) and they explained where the money went: hats for rec wrestlers, 24 coaches' shirts for 10 coaches, 6 dinners at the Twin County Wrestling Coaches Dinner, cover a small monetary shortfall for the sweats the parents ordered and were told would cost them \$50 but really cost them \$110, water bottles for the high school wrestling team. Shirts given to our wrestlers were donated by C. Maschang. Uly had also told the parents that he needed money to pay for the singlets, first aid kit for away meets, and etc.

The parents approached Mary and told her that they were not going to turn over the \$700.00 plus money they raised this year to Uly. They want to turn it over to the Board, which of course would not be permissible by law.

Diane Maglione gave AD Taibi a history run down of the program, what the Board's legal parameters are, what we cover cost wise and the procedures in place to do so.

AD Taibi stated that it is his position that the parents who fundraised the money, should use it on their wrestlers. They can use it to purchase sweats, tee shirts, hats, host a party, as long as its spent on the recreation wrestlers.

Taibi would like to be kept abreast of any wrestling activities and will also speak to Uly. Diane told him that the Board really wanted this joint effort program to work and didn't want the parents to turn on Uly.

**Girls' Softball** - Registration was held on February 5. The Board is sponsoring an open gym for girls aged 14-18 on Monday and Fridays (when gym is available) for softball drills. Program is open to all girls. No registration fee will be charged but forms must be signed prior to participation. Funds were encumbered for the season under PO #7317.

**Women's Softball** – A meeting will be held on Monday, February 21, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at the courthouse with a representative from each team. All Board members are invited to attend. Packets were emailed to all teams and are due at the March 17, 2011, meeting.

**Fourth of July** – Nominations are being accepted for grand marshal.

**Easter Egg Hunt** – The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 23, 2011, this year. The ambulance is aware of the date. Mary Koegel is looking into purchasing a new bunny costume. Funds have been encumbered for the event under PO #7316.

**Holiday Display Contest** – Mary Koegel said the contest went very well this year. She took

pictures of each winner. The houses that entered were decorated very well. Only one winner showed up at the meeting. The first prize winner was the only winner present. Everyone liked the prizes. There are still lots of houses that don't enter the contest despite advertising the contest in the schools and the Patriot. Mary Koegel delivered the remaining prizes. Mary is thinking about what date to hold the contest next year and possibly switching it to Saturday or Sunday night instead.

**Wish Tree** – Kaitlyn Maglione handled the wish tree this year. Next year more advertising will be done to remind people to take the ornaments.

**Tree Lighting** – Everything went well even though the lighting was not available. Lights were located but not the extension cords. Mercedes is storing the red Santa chair at the school where she works. The white Mrs. Claus chair is still in the home of its owner for now until she is ready to give it away to Mercedes. Mercedes would like to change the arrival time of Santa so he can participate in the event more. The scouts need to work on their program and get better organized. The ambulance corps. has an elf costume that might be available for the event. Mercedes already has singers in mind for next year.

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

**Adult Trips/Activities** – No activities at this time. Frank Zaccherio said he is not planning any Nets games for this year.

**Adult Craft Classes** – The next craft session will be April 23, May 3 & 10. The cost will be \$65.00 per person. Classes will be held at Roosevelt School from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Registration will close on April 20.

**Basketball** – Hal Bomzer could not attend the meeting but sent a report as follows:

There was a parent who sent a friend to help out his son's coach who he thought needed help in teaching the players. He did so without informing coach, division head, or Hal and the coach rejected his help because he did not know who he was or who sent him. Hal explained to the parent that the procedure was wrong even though his intentions were good.

A board member approached a coach during a game over a certification issue. This was done without checking with division head and Hal. Because of the timing of this approach, it caused a rift between the member and coach and div head. Hal brought the two of them together and smoothed things out between them. This is why Hal asked all board members to follow protocol.

Payments were sent out last Friday by the town to refs/scorers.

Hal wanted to especially mention the quality of play in the 3-4-5 girls this season. In the past we have had reach-ins, jump balls, bad shots, and better players just going full length of court without involving teammates. Over the past couple of seasons, we have approached coaches with proper way to teach. This season there is passing, good shot selection and all the girls being involved in play. Games have been super competitive and the gym is loud as ever with enthusiasm. It is the best play seen in this division in a while.

In general, the season has been trouble free. No problems with players, coaches or parents during games. Conduct seems to get better every year as the "difficult ones" from the past move on and the new volunteers follow our guidelines from the start.

Playoffs run from 3/2-3/12. Hal will forward schedule if anyone would like to attend.

One of the division leaders asked some questions regarding certification, which were passed onto Matt McArow of GJEM Insurance and Commissioner John Anlian (as attorney for legal clarification). The Board is awaiting their response to the following questions:

-If a coach has not been certified and has been coaching, as stated the Board may not be able to back them up in the event of a liability issue. What if the division leader has attended all of the practices and games, does the liability shift to that person?

-What liability exposure do the referees have, if they are involved in a game where a coach is not certified? Also if all coaches are certified, what liability exposure do the referees have?

Next year, certification requirements will be set more clearly in the start-up letter to all division leaders. Coaches will need to be certified by a certain date in order to continue coaching. Matt McArow did advise the Board that all coaches need to be certified in order to be covered by the Village's insurance.

At this time, the Board went into an Executive Session to discuss emails received regarding the program. A meeting will be set with the appropriate parties to settle any concerns. After the season is over, another meeting will be set with all members involved in the program to further discuss the basketball program so they can give their input as well.

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

**Treasurer's Report** - Beginning balance as of January 2011, was \$26,486.61, total deposits for month were \$0, total expenses for month were \$440.00, leaving a balance of \$26,046.61. A detailed report is attached.

**New Business** – None at this time.

**Old Business** – Carlos Carames and Frank Zaccherio still need to sign the Oath of Office. Frank Zaccherio has the form but has not returned it. Diane will check with Carlos about his intentions.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2011.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Tom Essig and seconded by Mary Koegel to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Hugo Poli