

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY  
September 21, 2023**

President Diane Maglione called the meeting to order at 7:06 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 and the Star Ledger as well as posted on the Village bulletin board. Roll call was taken. Commission members present: Diane Maglione, Howie Jacobs, Gil Bell, Melina Pope, Barbara Steiner. Excused: Hal Bomzer, Anthony Lopez, Melinda Lugo, Royce Morris, Mike Ruiz. Bella Wagner did call Diane at the end of the meeting. Nate Lopez and Larry Umana were asked to attend to discuss the basketball skills program they run.

The minutes of the June 15, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion made by Gil Bell and seconded by Howie Jacobs. All were in favor of the motion.

**Correspondence:**

- Email dated 8/7/23 from Craig Decker Re: Basic Archery Instructor - Cecilia Echeverri – BAI 119934
- Email dated 8/7/23 from Craig Decker Re: Basic Archery Instructor – Richard Zwebner – BAI 119935
- Email dated 8/7/23 from Craig Decker Re: Basic Archery Instructor – Ivette Garcia – BAI 119936
- Email dated 8/7/23 from Craig Decker Re: Basic Archery Instructor – Edward Minaya – BAI 1119937
- Memo from Clerk's Office Re: Newsletter deadline is 8/18/23.
- Memo dated 9/13/23 from Tara O'Grady Re: Appointment of Anthony Lopez with term ending 4/30/24.

**RP Running Club** – This is a new program led by Anthony Lopez. It takes place at 12:00 p.m. every Sunday. The group meets at the entrance to the nature preserve. It continues to grow weekly.

**Back-to-School Giving Tree** – The schools sent in the info for the students. All students were taken with the exception of a late addition this week that will be handled. Clothing/sneakers were dropped off to the schools for distribution to the families. All schools and families thanked the Board of Recreation for taking on this generous gesture to help the families.

**Wish Tree** – The schools will be contacted next month to start gathering their list of families in need. We will use the same procedures as the back-to-school giving tree and have the gifts dropped off to the welfare dept. and then delivered to the schools to make sure all children receive them for Christmas. Last year, it was very hard to get in touch with some families and gifts could not be delivered in time for Christmas. We will use sign-up genius again for people to sign up for a child. The link for this year will be: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45A5AC23A0F8C07-20231>.

**Tree Lighting** – The tree lighting will take place on December 3, 2023. Mercedes Haines sent a set of procedures for Melinda Lugo, who is taking over this event. She will coordinate with the social media manager for the town. The new Ridgefield Park Chamber is interested in sponsoring some of the contests/prizes.

**Holiday Display Contest** – The prizes were ordered and are in. There will be no citizen's choice award this year as there doesn't seem to be much interest in the prize. Under 10 people voted last year for the winning house. This year judging will be done beginning at dusk on December 20, 21 & 22.

**Basketball:** Regular registration will be held on September 22 September 23. Gil will do it Friday night and Royce will do it Saturday morning. Reminders will go out to those that do not register on time. The fee for late registrations is \$75 (no discounts for siblings). Evaluations will be 10/30 & 11/1 at Lincoln School. All members are needed for evaluations. Bella will handle the schedules. Howie will order supplies.

Basketball Committee: Bella Wagner, Melinda Lugo, Howie Jacobs  
Division Heads:

Clinic – Royce Morris	Boys 3/4 – Melina Pope
Girls 3, 4, 5 – Gil Bell	Boys 5/6 – Melina Pope
Girls 6, 7, 8 – Bella Wagner	Boys 7/8 – Melinda Lugo

Permits were approved for use of the schools. Corby was contacted to have them arrange the annual maintenance to the backboards. We are currently awaiting permission from the schools to do the maintenance inspections.

**Big Mike's League** – There were not enough teams to hold the program this year.

**Saturday Night Hoops** – High school boys and girls, 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, can join the Rec basketball league for Saturday night games at the high school. Tryout date and times: **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M. – LINCOLN SCHOOL.** Season runs from approximately December 9, 2023, - April 6, 2024.

**Girls' 3/4 Travel Basketball Team** – Carlos Alvarez coaches this team. Have not heard from him yet.

**Girls' 7/8 Travel Basketball Team** – Al Ramirez is coaching this team. They will be practicing at Lincoln on Tuesdays and Thursdays until Rec basketball starts.

**Boys' 7/8 Travel Basketball Team** – Deinde Otuyelu is coaching this team. Have not heard from him yet.

**Bowling** – No activity at this time.

**Women's Softball** – There were not enough teams to play this year.

**Fourth of July** – No activity at this time.

**Rag-A-Muffin** – The parade will take place on October 21 this year with a rain date scheduled for October 28 to try to eliminate conflicts with trunks or treats held the same day. Key Club said they can assist with this event. Two popcorn carts with attendants and a DJ were ordered from Parties for Peanuts. This year we are trying something new and hired a silk fan dancer and illusionist juggler. They will perform in three 15 minutes sets – as soon as third division is done and parade continues, as soon as sixth division is done and then when the parade is done. This should keep the crowd entertained during and after the parade as the judges make their decisions. New divisions are: Division Four; 8 years to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Divisions Five – Grades 7-12, Division Six – Groups, Division Seven – Adults only, Division Eight – Floats, Wagons & Anything with Wheels, Division Nine – Out of Town. Division Five will have only a first-place trophy and gift cards for second – fourth place. Division Seven will be only gift cards. The Board will hold off on getting a new sign this year until it sees if the change in divisions works out. Candy and trophies will be ready for October 21. All members are needed to help out at the parade. Howie Jacobs will be away that weekend.

**Adult Trips/Activities** – No activity at this time.

**Archery Clinic** – The fall session will run from September 16, 2023 – November 18, 2023 – No archery on October 21 because everyone will be at Rag-A-Muffin Parade @ 11:00 a.m. Clinic will be held on Saturday mornings in three sessions: 9:00 – 9:45 10:00 – 10:45 11:00 – 11:45. The registration fee is \$25.00 (with shirt), \$15 if you registered in the past. Four additional participants qualified to be instructors. The longer range is almost ready to open. Instructors will have badges so they can be easily identified as instructors. They will be sent an invitation for a background check.

**Tennis** – There was no fall session this year as they did not have enough instructors. Classes will resume in the spring.

**T2S Basketball** – The skills program is run by Larry Umana and Nate Lopez. There have been questions as to how this fits in as part of the Board of Recreation programs. Both Nate Lopez and Larry Umana attended the meeting to discuss this matter. Commissioner Olson has been in touch with Diane Maglione on many occasions. The issue is the Board of Education needs to understand the relationship between T2S Basketball and the Board. At the present time, the Board is classifying T2S as a separate entity and not entitled to the use of the facilities at no cost. The quality of the program has never been in question. The Board of Education wants to make sure that T2S is a program under the Board of Recreation.

The relationship between Larry Umana of T2S Basketball and the Board of Recreation will be clarified with the Board of Education. The request for use of the school facilities (gym) by Larry is for a Board of Recreation sponsored activity. As done with some of our other programs, the Board works with people trained in a particular skill to run a program for the Board. Since the Board is made up of volunteers, sometimes there are not enough volunteers or skilled members to run a program and we seek outside help to work with us. All of our professional instruction programs are run the same way. These programs are still sponsored by and considered a part of the Board of Recreation.

By working with the Board, these instructors are able to provide affordable programs for the youth in our village. The mission of the Board of Recreation is to develop and promote the adoption of healthy recreational activities for all even if we do need to hire skilled professionals to accomplish this.

T2S requested to have their fees paid directly to them because the Clerk's office had to wait for all the checks to clear, which delayed their payment. This procedure has changed, and all payments will be through the Board of Recreation.

Larry made a misstep when he requested the school permits himself, instead of forwarding his needs to the Board of Recreation for submissions. We verified that each participant receives a break in their registration, and registration fees pay for his equipment. T2S also presents free clinics to our basketball program, gives a free training program to one participant in each of our basketball divisions, and is known to be generous to our schools hosting fund raisers. From this point, procedures will change. 1) All checks will be made payable to the Board of Recreation. 2) All permits will be requested through the Board of Recreation.

To clear up the question of insurance certificates and what is needed, the Board of Recreation contacted the village insurance carrier. After checking with the Village insurance carrier, we were notified that since the Board of Recreation holds the permit, it provides the necessary proof of insurance.

The Board of Recreation has hired an outside vendor to handle the skills training, who has provided proof of insurance to the Board of Recreation. In the event of injury during the time the Board of Recreation holds the permit, the Village insurance carrier is the primary insurance provider so no further proof is necessary for the Board of Education.

At the end of the discussion, both Larry and Nate said they understood the procedures to be followed in the future concerning payment and requesting to use facilities.

**Ping Pong** – Sue Chak is running the program. The program runs once or twice a week. The fee is \$120.00 per session for once weekly and \$220 for twice weekly. Sue Chak would like to start a pickleball club. She was asked to attend the meeting to explain her plans and where it could be held as there are currently no pickleball courts in the town's parks.

**Easter Egg Hunt** – No activity at this time.

**Summer String Camp** – This was a new activity taught by Amy Beshara. She had one student participate in this session.

**Treasurer's Report** – The beginning balance as of 5/31/23 was \$20,165.53. Total expenses as of 6/30/23 of \$1,664.29 (Rec dinner, scorer/timer Sat Night Hoops). Total deposits are \$814.77 with \$84.77 interest. Net available balance 6/30/23 \$19,316.01. The beginning balance as of 6/30/23 was \$19,316.01. Total expenses as of 7/31/23 (ping pong instructor) \$480.00. Total deposits are only \$84.39 interest. Net available balance as of 7/31/23 \$18,920.40.

A motion was made by Howie Jacobs and seconded by Gil Bell to accept the Treasurer's Report. All were in favor of the motion.

**Old Business:** Nothing at this time.

**New Business:** The annual health fair is scheduled for October 14 at the K of C and the school gym at the Academy of Greatness and Excellence. Anthony Lopez will have a table for the Running Club and info on archery and basketball. If anyone else is available to assist at the table, please let the Board know. There will be approximately 90 vendors. A blood drive will be held in the lower level. Free flu shots are available provided you present your insurance card.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on a motion made by Gil Bell and seconded by Howie Jacobs. All were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Barbara DeLuca*  
 Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Mark Olson