

Ridgewood Fields Committee Minutes

May 6, 2025 – 8:00 am Schedler Residence/ ZOOM

Attendees: IN PERSON –K. Frey, K. Cook, D. Wilde, D. Smith, T. Trubac, P. Holmes, S. Muller, R. Brooks, R. Lasky, C. Holt, P. Coopersmith, R. Hache, C. Fisher, D. Loren, R. Lynch, M. Handy, S. Winograd

Guests-P. Perron, R. Matthews, K. Kazmark,

Public-H. Bidol-Lee, C. O’Keefe, A. McCambridge, M. Steppe, D. Lima

ZOOM -M. Hefferan, M. Andreula, E. Sudol, P. Thomas, A. Finston, A. Loving, B. Loving, S. Moran

I. Roll Call

RECOGNIZED GROUPS IN ATTENDANCE- Ridgewood Baseball and Softball Assoc., Ridgewood Adult Soccer Association, Ridgewood Soccer, Ridgewood Lacrosse Assoc., Ridgewood Jr. Football, Hoops Club Basketball, Maroons Soccer Club, Ridgewood Parks and Recreation Department, Ridgewood Community School, Member at Large, Village Council Liaison, Board of Ed Liaison

ABSENT-Ridgewood Jr. Wrestling, Rebels Basketball, Biddy Basketball, Ridgewood Roller Hockey, N. Bigos

Approval of Minutes-April 1, 2025

1st – R. Brooks, 2nd – R. Lynch, Minutes approved by all.

II. Public Comment

A. McCambridge-Stated that there has been no accountability for the contaminated soil at Schedler. She does not support turf for many reasons and will continue to fight it every step of the way.

C. O’Keefe- Is concerned about PFAS in the private wells and has safety/traffic concerns along W. Saddle River Road.

S. Muller-The berm was installed by the previous administration and they did not check the soil for contaminants. This property was purchased in 2009, the neighbors at that time begged the mayor to purchase the property to put in a sports field.

B. Lasky- Originally both a 60 and 90 baseball diamond were planned and in consideration of the neighbors only one field would be planned.

R. Hache-The berm was put into place to lessen the sound from the highway. The question was asked at the time about the quality of the soil and the council was told it was good.

M. Steph-Does not believe the field is necessary and the house should be turned into an American Legion.

D. Lima-Suggested sports teams’ growth be curtailed so additional fields are not necessary.

A. Finston-Suggested that BF Field should be turned into a turf field and asked that reasonable creative solutions be brought forward to solve the field problems. He does not desire turf but does desire more play space.

S. Winograd-The property was purchased with Open Space money as an asset for the Village, this historic building will have more visitors with the field asset next to it.

K. Kazmark-The intent of the house was a community gathering place and that is what the Village is trying to honor.

S. Moran-Does not agree with a turf field she believes that Citizens, BF and Hawes fields need to be reexamined.

III. Schedler Property/update

K. Kazmark- The application was resubmitted to SHPO with the only change being the removal of the berm. Waiting for the review if they deem the application complete and satisfactory. Then the Village will be assigned a date to make the presentation. Capital funding is available for soil removal and the Village will be filing an insurance claim through both the Bergen JIF and Environmental JIF to see if there is any possibility of recovering any funds for soil remediation.

S. Winograd-The development of the house needs to be discussed and this was the reason that this meeting was held at this residence.

IV. Water Main Replacement/E. Glen Ave./update

K. Kazmark- The project will be complete in the next two to four weeks. All major street interruptions are complete and the project is ahead of schedule.

V. Fields Policy/Rewrite Progress

R. Brooks-The committee will be meeting next Thursday. Progress is being made to make the policy comprehensible. One of the challenges is adding Master Library to the policy. Progress will continue at the next meeting.

R. Matthews-The preliminary fee schedule will follow the NJSIAA in season /out of season sports designation and will be adding a premium cost to all sports using facilities/fields out of season.

S. Winograd-Removing the fees from the policy will simplify adjustments in the future.

* The policy is first approved by the Fields Committee then the PRC Board then adopted by the Board of Education/Village Council.

VI. Lightning Detection System – Infograph

K. Frey-Shared the infographic describing the lightning detection system. She discussed safe structures for shelter, how to obtain text alerts through the Office of Emergency Management. Will be including the information on the Parks and Recreation website under “Fields and Facilities” and eventually putting this information on a sign in all parks.

S. Winograd-Recommend that all sports groups share this with all participants.

VII. 2025 Summer Special Events

K. Frey- All events/camps/clinics must be included in Master Library to ensure fields are reserved and requests for needed services are included to prevent scheduling conflicts.

*A reminder was stated that all camps must be approved by a sponsor.

VIII. Sports Committee Member Reports

RBSA –S. Muller- 72nd RBSA Parade April 26, 120 teams represented. Wished to thank Pam and the Mayor for the “RBSA Day” proclamation. The event included food, games and activities for all. Varsity game was cancelled due to weather.

RASA – P. Holmes- The competitive spring season has begun for the over age 50 and 60 teams. Were unable to secure field time for their recreational teams this spring. A website is being created to better communicate with the community and expand the programs.

RSA – T. Trubac-Adult programs began in April with over 40 participants. Scheduling adult programs late at night as to not interfere with youth programs. Recommends that Master Library reflects the reality of who is using the fields.

RLA – no report

RJFA – no report

Maroons – C. Fisher-Preparing for the upcoming Father’s Day Tournament. Tryouts have been completed. Fall registrations continue to grow.

BOE – R. Matthews-Per NJSIAA soccer is a fall sport. BOE is looking to hire in house to maintain the BOE fields.

VOR – S. Winograd- All changes to field schedules must be made only through Master Library. Suggested adding a fee for reserving field space and then not using should be considered. Applied to BCOS for a matching grant for the Citizens Park improvements in the amount of \$99,352.24.

Other

IX. Master Library Schedules

K. Frey- The field allocation schedule needs to be updated to the reality of usage today and include special events.

X. Field Project Updates

Veterans Field Lighting – K. Kazmark- Next week the poles will be erected on the softball field. The lights that have already been installed are functional. We are anticipating by the end of the month all lights will be functional. The current policy for field lighting will remain in effect.

BF Field Renovation – R. Matthews- Met with architects about upgrading BF infield to a full-size field. Funding has not been allocated in the budget. A point was made that if the HS turf field is flooded a grass field at BF will not be a viable option. A request was made that a presentation of the design be shared with the Fields Committee.

Pleasant Park/Hawes – K. Kazmark-Lower Hawes renovation is completed and the field is open.

T. Trubac- Clay on the baseball field must be hosed down before grooming to prevent the clay from spreading and killing the grass field.

M. Andreula-The repair has been made to the irrigation and water is now available for grooming.
Shelter Pavilion/Habernickel – K. Kazmark- The pavilion is in the last phase of construction and the facility should be open by early/mid June.

XI. Facility Maintenance

K. Kazmark- The new backstop for Hawes will be purchased with capital funds. This purchase will complete the upgrade to this facility.

XII. New Program Request 2025/2026

K. Frey- Fall requests need to be submitted to Master Library by June 20, 2025.

K. Cook- All practice and game field requests must be submitted by June 20. In addition, all the matrixes you have for every grade level and field dimensions be submitted. Inform all coaches about start and curfew times for all fields. July 27 to August 3 all fields not previously scheduled will be closed for maintenance.

P. Holmes- Stated that he is glad that he is able to request BOE fields in addition to the municipal fields.

XIII. New Business

XIV. Second Public Comment

D. Lima-Asked about the long-term plan for the fields, and is concerned about how the BOE and municipality work together.

S. Winograd- The Fields Committee is made up of both BOE, Village employees and sport group volunteers. The long-term plans for the BOE and Village fields is to upgrade the fields as needed and develop land as it becomes available.

K. Kazmark- Communication between the BOE and the Village is impressive. The BOE has 12 fields with 23 play areas. The Village has 5 fields and 22 play areas.

XV. Adjournment 10:09 am

XVI. Next Meeting Date-June 3, 2025; 8:00 am, In person, Ed Center- Conference Room