

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
Minutes of January 14, 2008

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:03 P.M.

Present: Councilwoman Ingrid Quinn, Board Members Janine Borgersen, Heidi Catalano, Michael Griffin, Joan Hluchan, Richard Poggi, Sherman Taylor, Director Jim Gwynne, Margaret McDonough.

Also: Residents Christopher Codner, Gail Frasco, Randy Hull, Kathy Hull, Michael McLaughlin

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

Mr. and Mrs. Randy Hull addressed the Board regarding a complaint Mrs. Hull left on the Recreation Department's message machine in December. Ms. McDonough invited the Hulls to address the issue in private session. Mrs. Hull declined stating it was already a public issue.

Mr. Hull questioned how a telephone message left on the Department machine had become a public matter.

The persons named in the complaint are aware of the message and have initiated legal action against Mrs. Hull. Ms. McDonough stated that Mrs. Hull's complaint regarding the travel basketball program and several basketball coaches had been presented to the Recreation Board, as is standard procedure with any serious complaint. Once presented and accepted, Board Meeting Correspondence becomes a matter of public record. A discussion of public records followed. No one other than the Recreation Board and Mayor-Elect John Birkner were present at the time of discussion and the information was not distributed.

Ms. McDonough stated that Todd Green had come to the Recreation Department having heard in schoolyard conversation that Kathy Hull had left a very disparaging phone message. Mrs. Hull admitted that she had discussed the matter with other persons.

Board Member Sherman Taylor requested a closed session after the Public Forum to discuss this issue.

Michael McLaughlin of the Westwood Softball Association attended the meeting to request permission to conduct several softball pitching clinics in the Community Center, as had been done in previous years. Pitching clinics conducted in the past were attended by 50-60 participants. Since the large attendance diminishes the clinic's productivity, he proposes several age-specific clinics with a maximum of 10-15 players. Specific discussion followed regarding equipment, safety issues, scheduling, etc.

The Board unanimously approved the pitching clinics to be scheduled after the current basketball season.

Mr. McLaughlin departed the meeting.

Member Heidi Catalano made a Motion to enter into Closed Session, seconded by Member Taylor, Motion was approved unanimously. The purpose of the closed session is to discuss the basketball program and coaching staff.

Member Taylor made a Motion to reopen the Meeting, seconded by Member Catalano, the Motion was approved unanimously.

Member Taylor on behalf of the Board, stated that a meeting will be held in May for all interested persons to review the current basketball season, both Travel and Recreation Programs, to plan for the 2008-2009 season.

Mr. Kevin Rooney, attended the meeting to propose a Youth Golf Program. The program would be held in the Community Center and could be offered four seasons of the year. It is age specific, involves all age and

skill levels. It is optimally a one-hour class, eight-week program, with a maximum of twenty-four children per session, costing \$160.00 per child. Program skills and etiquette are emphasized.

After extensive discussion, the Board agreed to host the program, dependent upon the approval of the Borough Attorney as this program is conducted by a private enterprise.

Mr. Michael Riccardi attended the meeting to propose a Youth Bowling Program. The program would be held in local bowling alleys. Extensive discussion followed.

Mr. Riccardi is primarily requesting assistance in offering the program to our residents.

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Mr. and Mrs. Hull departed the meeting.

2. APPROVAL of MINUTES: Member Hluchan made a Motion to Accept the Minutes of December 10 as presented, Member Taylor seconded the Motion.

3. ELECTION of CHAIR and VICE CHAIR:

Member Joan Hluchan nominated Member Sherman Taylor as Chair, Member Heidi Catalano seconded the Motion, all in favor.

Member Joan Hluchan nominated Member Heidi Catalano as Vice Chair, Member Taylor seconded the Motion, all in favor.

Director Gwynne welcomed the new Council Liaison Ingrid Quinn and new Recreation Board Members Janine Borgersen and Rich Poggi and asked them to introduce themselves to the Board.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

Item 1: Director Gwynne reported on a Notice of Landfill Closure Modifications from Administrator Hoffmann to the Mayor and Council dated January 2.

Member Taylor expressed the dismay and concern of the Recreation Board, as it had been reported by Mayor Wanner and Malcolm Pirnie that the Disruption Permit being applied for would be comprehensive, and would specifically include items such as increased electrical service, potable water sources, field irrigation, inclusion of bleachers, scoreboards and many other items essential to the facility.

The Board was advised of this in July and has not been given any further communication from Malcolm Pirnie regarding changes to the Disruption Permit Applications or any renovation updates.

Councilwoman Quinn will pursue any updates to the renovation.

Item 2: Director Gwynne received a proposal from a Flag Football Program. The Program would conflict with Westwood's existing program and there is not adequate field availability for a second program. The offer will be declined.

Items 4,5,6: Director Gwynne reported that the Municipal Contract requested by A.S.C.A.P. has been reviewed by the Borough Attorney and deemed unnecessary.

Item 7: Director Gwynne reported on a letter to Westwood Regional School Superintendent, Geoffrey Zoeller from Borough Administrator Robert Hoffmann of December 18, 2007, regarding the impending renovations to the school buildings this summer. The Recreation Department's Summer Playground Program for pre-school aged and Kindergarten through Grade 3 children are held at the Ketler School. The renovations could severely restrict or eliminate these Programs. A response has not yet been received regarding usage of the Ketler School for the July Program.

Possible alternatives to the Ketler School site and to the program were discussed.  
Councilwoman Quinn will pursue the matter with Administrator Hoffmann.

Item 11: The No-Further Action Letter from T.E.R.M.S. regarding the environmental impact study of the Community Center for the Pre-School Program has been further delayed by N.J. State Legislation. T.E.R.M.S. will notify all of the clients applying for pre-school licensing as soon as possible.

## 5. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: No report

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## 6. DIRECTOR=S REPORT:

- a. Basketball Program for Girls Gr. 3 / 4: The Program Coordinator has again requested referees for this program stating that all of the surrounding towns provide officials for the games. As previously discussed, the item was not budgeted for the current season.  
This will be reviewed at the proposed May meeting.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Travel Basketball Program: Previously addressed.
- b. Westvale Park Renovation Update: No Report. Addressed under Item 4. The Recreation Department and the W.A.Y.S. Committee 'Assumptions' was based on the facility having electricity, field irrigation and potable water. The planning of the facility requires someone with professional knowledge. Since the firm of Malcolm Pirnie does not have experience in creating this type of facility, a Clerk of the Works was requested. Obtaining someone in this regard should be the priority.
- c. Teen Night: The Program has merged with the Township of Washington's Program. The Township will provide their program's equipment including Dance, Dance Revolution; Guitar Hero; Rock Star; a large screen TV; a playstation game system, many large bean bag chairs, etc.  
A meeting was held with representatives of Westwood, the Township, and Program Staff Members. The Township will provide a paid Staff Member for each session, to supplement the Westwood Staff.  
The average attendance is currently 60 teens. There is great optimism for the success of the program.
- e. Park Use; Hours of Operation: As discussed at the December Board Meeting, the Board recommends to the Council that general park use should end at 10:00 P.M. Any regularly scheduled organizational event or Permit event may exceed these hours. The matter has been referred to the Council for consideration as a Borough Ordinance. Councilwoman Quinn will determine the status of the matter.

- f. Update on non-smoking: Item determined at the December 10, 2007 Board Meeting.
  - g. A League of Our Own: The Facility Use Application is Tabled to the February 11 meeting.
  - h. Senior Van: Ms. McDonough reported that the Westwood service has been overburdened since the Pascack Valley Hospital Van Program ended. The program is strained trying to accommodate getting Seniors to area medical appointments. The Bergen County Program has shifted drivers North to help cover our area covering rides to Valley Hospital and other facilities outside of Westwood. The County provided a van that has been parked at the Westwood House, but there are no funds to hire a driver.
8. NEW BUSINESS:
- a. Michael Riccardi: Youth Bowling. Previously addressed.
  - b. Kevin Rooney: Golf at School. Previously addressed.
  - c. Summer Rec. Schools Impact. Previously addressed.
9. MOTION TO ADJOURN was made at 10:22 P.M. by Member Griffin, seconded by Vice Chair Catalano; all in favor. The next meeting will be February 11, 2008 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.