

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of May 11, 2015

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:08 P.M. by Vice Chair Angelo Pira.

Present: Councilmember Chris Montana, Vice Chair Angelo Pira, Board Members Bobbie Cozic, Jodi Murphy, Ruth Nass, Jason Scheffer, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin Asst Margaret McDonough.

Absent: Chair John Toale, Members Kevin Corcoran, Bermari Roig

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of April 16, 2015: Member Cozic made a Motion to Accept the Minutes as presented; Member Nass seconded the Motion; All in favor, the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Chris Montana reported that the 2015 Municipal Budget has been Approved.

The McKinley Park tennis courts will be renovated, funded by an Open Space Grant and a 30 year Municipal Bond. Director Buchheister will pursue additional grant funding through the U.S.T.A.

The upgrade to the Community Center Gym Lighting will be addressed at the May 19 Mayor and Council meeting. Funding for the project will come from the Recreation Trust Account; Councilmember Montana commended Director Buchheister for his long range vision of facility improvements

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Spring Program Registration Update: Director Buchheister reported that the Spring Programs will conclude by Memorial Day weekend and it has been a very good season. Discussion followed on the on-going adult Fitness in the Park Program.

b. Summer Registration began May 4<sup>th</sup>: A program enrollment summary was distributed for review for the first week of registration. Non-residents may register in the coming week. 75-80% of the registrations are now done on-line.

The Special Needs (S.N.A.P.) Tennis Program is being run by J.J. Krachtus and Nick Thanasides and they report the program is going very well. Councilmember Montana is running the Softball program; he reports the children and youth volunteers are having a great time. Discussion followed on the 450 classified children in the school district and how the schools' staffs can more effectively promote these programs to those families. Discussion followed.

c. New Men's Softball Program started April 28<sup>th</sup>: Director Buchheister reported that the newly revised league has begun. Member Scheffer, a participant, reported that everyone is very happy with the league and they're having a great time. Mr. Buchheister reported that a resident who participates in the Hillsdale Women's Softball League would like to start a womens' league in Westwood. Planning for the 2016 season will begin in late Fall.

d. 2015-16 Pre-School registration started April 27<sup>th</sup>: The 4 Year old Class has a maximum of 24 with 23 children registered, the 3 Year old Class has a maximum of 20, 9 are currently registered. Late registrations are usual in the 3 Year old class as many children are not ready until August/September.

e. Field Update: Director Buchheister reported that the D.P.W. will begin seeding the Westvale fields this week. The Multi Purpose soccer field will be closed until Labor Day weekend. The Dragons Soccer Association will supply top soil to level the field.

Vice Chair Pira requested that the irrigation sprinkler heads on all fields be checked as many do not retract sufficiently. Discussion followed

f. Field Lights Update: Director Buchheister reported that all of the ballasts on the Westvale 'A' field are operational although a few bulbs are burned out. After the Summer, the light bulbs on all of the fields lights will be checked and replaced as needed.

g. Community Center Façade: Bids have been received for the repair and painting of the façade and stucco entrance. The work should be completed by late June.

Director Buchheister invited the Board Members to go see the concrete slabs, picnic tables and reseeded areas at Brookside Park which is a tremendous bonus to the park as well as the Playground Program.

h. Summer Concerts: North Jersey Media has become a media sponsor of the series and will run an Ad four times in the Community Life newspaper. The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the sign posted in Veterans Park since Recreation promotes shopping and dining in Westwood on Thursdays; they will encourage member stores to remain open until 8:00 on the nights of the Concerts.

The Host Schedule is: July 2 Ruth Nass (Soul Groove), July 9 Chris Montana (Real Diamond), July 16 Angela Pira (Danny V), July 23 Jason Scheffer (Reminisce), July 30 Bobbie Cozic (Tramps Like Us).

## 6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Committee Assignments: Tabled

b. Capitol Improvement Plans:

1. Lighting in gym: Previously Discussed.

2. New gym floor: Tabled

## 7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Director Buchheister reported that a resident requested a port-a-john be installed in McKinley Park. Mr. Buchheister stated that we do not have port-a-johns in the various parks where programs are scheduled for one hour, especially for programs running only 1 or 2 days per week. Any park that hosts programs lasting more than one hour has facilities. Discussion followed.

b. Director Buchheister reported that four AEDs (difibrillators) were stolen from parks in Glen Rock. Discussion followed on the AED in the shed at Westvale, the emergency response time of the Police Dept. who have AEDs in the police vehicles, the danger of children playing with accessible, unsupervised AEDs, the cost of stolen/damaged units, liability issues, etc.

c. Movies in the Park: The Host Schedule will be finalized at the June Board Meeting; several Board Members are asked to attend and assist at each event. The Movies are: August 6 Frozen, August 13 Grease (Ruth Nass), August 20 Paddington, August 27 Field of Dreams (Jason Scheffer). Alternatives to the current movie screen are being researched.

d. Facility Field Rental: Director Buchheister reported that several local High School Varsity coaches will be conducting baseball / softball camps at Westvale Park during the summer. He stated this benefits the merchants in Westwood as the parents often patronage the shops and restaurants while they are here.

e. Teen Center: Member Nass asked if the shared services program with the Township of Washington had been resolved. Director Buchheister said it has been resolved and will help to fund a special event for the season's final night of the program.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:45 P.M. by Member Nass and seconded by Member Cozic. The next meeting will be June 8, 2015 at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.

