

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of April 18, 2016

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:04 P.M. by Vice Chair John Toale

Present: Councilmember Robert Bicchichi, Councilmember Beth Dell, Chair Angelo Pira, Board Members Kevin Corcoran, Bobbie Cozic, Amy McDevitt, Jodi Murphy, Angelo Pira, Bermari Roig, Jennifer Scardino, Jason Scheffer, John Toale, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister
Absent: Member Kevin Corcoran, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Scheffer made a Motion to Accept the Minutes as presented; Member Roig seconded the Motion; All in favor, the Motion passed

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

Chair Angelo Pira joined the meeting.

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Bicchichi reported that the Council has introduced the Budget. The process of Adopting and Approving the budget will proceed. During the Council meeting of April 5, Mr. Bicchichi stated that the Annual Easter Egg Hunt was a great success and he thanked the Board Members who assisted, particularly the Easter Bunny who attended.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Spring Programs: Director Buchheister presented a season summary to the Board for review and discussion. He reported that the registration numbers are excellent. The programming includes ceramics, art classes, several sports programs for Pre-school children, adult programs and more. The programs will begin this week, excepting the Toddler & Parent Yoga which begins in May.

Summer: Councilmember Bicchichi inquired on the Summer Playground program employment status. Mr. Buchheister reported that many applications have been received which provides an excellent choice of candidates including many college students. Interviews are being scheduled and he anticipates 16 new staff members. He reported on a few comments from Township of Washington parents regarding the fee increase which they understood when it was explained. Registration begins May 2 for residents and May 9 for non-residents. The Summer Program Flyer including the Playground Program information, the one-week camps in August, the Summer Concert Series, the Movies in the Park, the Community Band schedule, the adult programming and the Playground's Parent Handbook are posted on the website.

b. Women's and Men's Softball League: Director Buchheister reported that the second year Men's League and the new Women's Softball League began this week. The Men have 8 teams and the Women 4 teams both playing in Westvale Park. Member Scheffer and League player reported on the Men's league with over 90% Westwood residents; Board Member and League player Roig reported on the Women's league with 90% Westwood and Township residents. Both Leagues anticipate a good season.

c. Egg Hunt Re-cap: Director Buchheister thanked the Board Members who assisted at the event which was very successful and reported that the event next year may be embellished with one or two additional activities. Discussion followed.

d. Capital Improvements:

1. C.C. Gym Floor: Director Buchheister anticipates the Council to authorize the bid process for the project within the month. He will keep the board apprised of the project status.

2. New signs for Brookside Park and Berkeley School Field: The signs have been received and will be installed by the D.P.W. as soon as possible.
5. d. 3. New lights over the C.C. words: The lights over the Community Center wording will be installed as soon as possible and the 'Borough of Westwood' lettering, now over 55 years old, on the Jefferson Avenue side of the building, will be painted black to refurbish it.
4. Scoreboards: The electrical preparations have been completed for the Community Center scoreboard and should be installed by the first week of May or earlier.
5. Park Bulletin Boards: A new bulletin board for Recreation Department, Borough and Westwood organizational notices has been installed at Westvale Park.
- e. Start Up Stroller Walking Club and Over 55 Walking Club at Westvale: Director Buchheister has consulted with Member Murphy on these two new programs, schedule to begin the first week of May. A Coordinator is still being sought for the Stroller Club which will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 at Westvale Park. The Board was asked for recommendations.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Committee Assignments: Tabled
Over 55 Programs:
Teen Center:
Youth / Pre-School Programs:
Facility Improvement (Parks/CC):
Sponsorship:
- b. Capital Improvement Plans: Previously discussed.
 1. Lighting in gym
 2. New Gym Floor

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Vote for Chair and Vice Chair: Tabled.
 - b. It has been reported that people have been parking at Westvale Park on the grass behind the new field backstops rather than walking the distance to the parking lot. The DPW and all Westwood sports organizations have been asked to monitor the situation.
 - c. Shared Services: Director Buchheister reported that Park Ridge's part-time Recreation Director has suggested sharing services with Westwood's existing Special Needs Program (S.N.A.P.) and the joint advertisement of the two municipal Summer Concert Series. Discussion followed on shared services and these specific programs. Councilmember Bicocchi reported on the Borough's Shared Services Committee and requested that Mr. Buchheister ascertain the feasibility of shared services with Park Ridge.
8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 9:00 P.M. by Member Roig, seconded by Member Scheffer. The next meeting will be Monday, May 9, at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.