

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of April 11, 2011

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:05 P.M.
Present: Councilmember Ingrid Quinn, Chair Sherman Taylor, Board Members Janine Borgersen, Christopher Codner, Michael Griffin, Don Smith, Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough
Absent: Vice Chair Heidi Catalano, Member Joan Hluchan
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 14, 2011: Member Griffin made a Motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Chair Taylor seconded the Motion; the Motion passed.
3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:
4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Quinn reported that the governing body is very pleased with the Department's programs and that everything in the Department is running so well. She extends the Council's congratulations to Director Buchheister and Ms. McDonough for their efforts.

Council President Bob Miller will attend the Easter Egg Hunt in her stead on April 16.

The Westvale Park Field Maintenance Bid was awarded to 'Let It Grow'. When the current project schedule is completed, the walkway fences will be removed and the walkway and the Dog Park will be available for use. The Opening Day Ceremony will be sometime in the Fall, 2011.
Discussion followed on specific project schedules.

Chair Taylor questioned the Canada Geese deterrent article in the newspaper regarding dog patrols. Ms. Quinn responded that with Director Buchheister's assistance, a multiple pronged approach includes dog patrols, coyote decoys and the Geese Peace Program. A Dog Patrol Program fashioned after Allendale's successful program has been instituted through Sharon Blehl of the Health Department. The dog patrols used on varying schedules will displace the geese from Westvale Park. The coyote decoys are also an immediate deterrent. Ms. McDonough is coordinating volunteers for the long range Geese Peace Program.

Two residents questioned Councilmember Quinn as to when the Department will offer more Senior programs. Director Buchheister reported that after reviewing a number of exercise programs and instructors for residents over 55 years of age; the Jazzercise Lite program affords the type of program required and accommodates the Center's schedule. The program is designed for persons sitting in chairs up to athletically capable adults. The Program is every Tuesday morning prior to the Senior Fellowship meeting. It is free for Westwood residents; non-residents pay \$15.00 per month. The program has been very well received. Senior residents attending have asked for a second morning per week which will be implemented sometime soon. As more active adults begin to participate, the Center's schedule which is kept open every Tuesday for the Senior Fellowship will accommodate additional programs such as yoga, art classes, etc.

5. DIRECTOR-S REPORT:
 - a. Spring Registration Update: Director Buchheister presented the Spring Program registration numbers for review. On-line registrations account for 75% of the Spring Program registrations. Discussion followed on the various programs offered.
 - b. Banner Sponsorship Update: There are currently eight sponsors participating in the Center's gym banner program. The cost is \$300.00 for the first year, \$250.00 thereafter reflecting the \$50.00 cost of producing the banner. Three more sponsorships are pending.

- c. Easter Egg Hunt – April 16: Preparations have been finalized and it should be a great event for the children and adults. Member Borgersen reported a resident’s letter to the Editor in the local paper requesting that adults stay out of the egg hunt area designated for the children. Discussion followed on this, the landscaping of Veterans Park, etc.
- d. Summer Concert Series: Director Buchheister reported that Atlantic Stewardship Bank’s donation of \$1,500. will be matched by Hackensack University Medical Center. Mr. Buchheister sought the additional sponsorship due to the reduced amount previously provided by TD Bank. Discussion followed on future sponsorships for various programs and events.
- e. Movies in the Park: Member Griffin announced the schedule of Movies and the sponsors that will continue to fund the program. Director Buchheister reported that Huntington Learning Center and Care One will replace the sponsors from last year who are not available to participate.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Westvale Park Renovation: Mr. Buchheister reported that the final stages of the project are being addressed. Street milling projects will provide the material for the DPW to use for leveling and filling in the parking lot.

The initial usage schedule of the new fields has not been determined. Current use of the new fields will compromise the new sod and nullify any contractual guarantees. Field Usage will be approved as soon as possible.

The field lighting system has been installed. The system can be controlled by computer, manually and by cell phone. Westwood is the second city in the country with cell-phone control of a field lighting system. Director Buchheister, Rick Woods, and the Baseball and Softball Commissioners alone have coded access to the system. Codes for the additional zones will be created when the fields are ready for use. There is a scheduled shut-off at 11:15 P.M. which overrides any other setting. The daily usage will be monitored by Director Buchheister.

Vehicular traffic to the ‘A’ and ‘B’ fields along the walkway is prohibited except for emergency vehicles. DPW will post signage and vehicles parking on the walkway or fields may be ticketed thereafter.

- b. Community Center Use Policy: The Policy is under review for possible revision regarding the return of fees, clean-up requirements, etc. Proposed revisions will be presented to the Board for review.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Board of Education Field Renovation: Discussion of the renovation project including interim schedules and the future scheduling of programs.

- 8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:49 P.M. by Member Griffin seconded by Member Borgersen. The next meeting will be Monday, May 9, 2011 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.