

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of February 8, 2010

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:20 P.M.
Present: Council President Robert Miller, Chair Sherman Taylor, Vice Chair Heidi Catalano, Board Members Janine Borgersen, Joan Hluchan, Director Gary Buchheister
Absent: Councilmember Quinn, Members John Bonkowski, Chris Codner, Michael Griffin, Don Smith, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of January 11, 2010: Correction to Minutes by Member Hluchan, stating she was not presented. Vice Chair Catalano made a Motion to accept the Minutes as corrected, Member Hluchan seconded the Motion; the Motion passed.
3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:
7. NEW BUSINESS:
 - a. Board Nominations for Chair / Vice Chair: Chair Taylor opened the Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of the Advisory Board. Member Borgersen nominated Sherman Taylor as the Chair and Heidi Catalano as the Vice Chair. Nominations were closed. The Board voted unanimously to retain Sherman Taylor as Chair and Heidi Catalano as Vice Chair for 2010.
4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Council President Miller attended the Board Meeting in Councilmember Quinn's absence. Mr. Miller reported that the Westvale Park Renovation Resolution will be introduced at the Mayor and Council meeting of February 16, 2010. The estimated total cost of the project is \$2,700,000.00; funding of \$850,000.00 has been secured through various Grants with the balance to be procured through Municipal Bonding.

Chair Taylor questioned the project scheduling and the disinclusion of field lighting in the first phase of the project, stating that the vast majority of sporting programs / events occur in the evening.

In response to Vice Chair Catalano's inquiry, Mr. Miller confirmed the approximate cost for Bonding per household would be \$35.00 per annum.

Vice Chair Catalano agreed with Mr. Taylor, stating that the additional cost of \$8.00 per household, per year would make the Park available for sports programs and personal use for the majority of residents who are working and cannot use it during daytime hours; that this has been the position of the Board since the renovation planning began thirty years ago. Discussion followed.

The Board requested that Mr. Miller convey their strong recommendation that field lighting be included in the initial phase of the project. Councilmember Miller reiterated the importance for the Board Members, sports organization members and individuals to attend Council meetings to show support for the project.

The Board expressed their sincere gratitude to the Mayor and Council for their work thus far on the project bringing to fruition in a brief period of time, a viable plan that had been proposed and delayed for many years.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:
 - a. Basketball: Director Buchheister reported that the season is progressing very well.
 - b. Winter Program Update: The Board reviewed the Programs Schedule, participation numbers, budgeting. The total number of Winter Season (January-April) participants is 311, with several persons turned away because classes were filled. A number of programs have dramatically expanded, particularly adult volleyball, which will require a second court next season.
Non-resident participation has also increased, resulting in substantial revenue. The current fee of \$20.00 per person, per program will be increased to \$25.00. The annual non-resident fees will pay for the new registration software program.
Revenues from the programs cover all program costs and will also fund building / equipment upgrades.

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5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: con't

- c. Teen Center Snow Tubing Trip: Jan 29, 2009. Although the weather was one of the coldest of the winter, the attendance exceeded last year's trip numbers. Various trip ideas were discussed, i.e., circus, sporting events, etc.
- d. Inclusive Recreation meeting 7:00 P.M.; February 8, 2010. There is a severe lack of programs in the area for special needs children. Neither Westwood nor the Twp. of Washington offers any special needs programming. Mr. Buchheister reported that 80%-20% grants are available, with the Borough being responsible for the 20%. If Westwood and the Twp. of Washington run a combined program the cost to Westwood would be 10%. The Dance Program Coordinator will offer a free dance program on Wednesday, March 10 for any special needs child. Vice Chair Catalano, in her capacity as a School Nurse, addressed the lack of area programs which often causes children and their parents to become isolated, as well as the needs for professional who are able to provide a consistent curriculum for the children. Member Hluchan, also a teacher, confirmed Ms. Catalano's assessment.
Discussion followed on the importance of creating a special needs program within the Summer Playground Program.
Westwood Regional School System's Supervisor of Special Services, Jim Cooney, was scheduled to attend but needed to cancel. The meeting information was distributed to the school system's special services community through various sources.

Summer Playground Program discussion followed on the renovation/changes of the schools and the effect on the Playground Program. Director Buchheister reported that he has discussed this with the Board of Education. He also reported that a crossing guard will be available at the Berkeley School during drop-off and pick-up times; the Berkeley Program (Gr. K-3) will offer a program to supplement the hours of the School's Enrichment Program students; for a lesser rate.

Specific Program discussion followed.

- e. On-line Registration: Since January, 2010 data has been input into the new software program and the on-line registration should launch May 4, 2010 with the Spring Program.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Westvale Park Renovation: Previously addressed under Item 4.
Chair Taylor questioned whether there would be permanent / removable fencing for the proposed softball / little league fields. Discussion followed that if it is removable fencing, those fields could be used for Lacrosse, various sports' scrimmages and the school systems Field Hockey team.
Discussion followed, regarding concession stands, playgrounds and the County's proposed soccer field at Pascack Brook.
- b. New Irrigation System for Veterans Park, Train Station and Library: No report.

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- 8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:45 by Chair Taylor, seconded by Vice Chair Catalano. The next meeting will be Monday, March 8, 2010 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.