

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of May 10, 2010

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:05 P.M.
Present: Councilmember Ingrid Quinn, Chair Sherman Taylor, Vice Chair Heidi Catalano, Board Members John Bonkowski, Janine Borgersen, Chris Codner, Michael Griffin, Joan Hluchan, Don Smith, Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of April 12, 2010: Correction to Minutes; Member Codner was present at the April 12 Meeting. Member Hluchan made a Motion to accept the Minutes as corrected, Member Codner seconded the Motion; the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

Westvale Park: Councilmember Quinn reported that the Renovation Project Bid was awarded to the Let it Grow Company. The Bid includes the lighting of all fields. The playground and bleachers were exempted from this Bid and will be addressed after this phase of the Project. Ms. Quinn reported that the Mayor is confident of receiving additional grants for the future phases of the project.

Veterans Park: Hodges & Sons is continuing with the preparation work for the Irrigation Project. The project schedule is yet to be determined. The new waste/recycling receptacles have been put in the Park. Councilmember Grefrath and Recreation Director Buchheister are developing a Memorial Bench Project / brochure.

Special Needs Program: Ms. Quinn congratulated Director Buchheister and the Staff on this wonderful new program and is confident that it will be very successful.

Member Borgersen joined the meeting.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Spring Program Update: Director Buchheister presented the registration / financial reports to the Board. After review and discussion, the Board congratulated Mr. Buchheister on the program improvements and new program offerings.

b. Special Needs Program Update: A year-round program with several areas of interest is being developed and will launch in September, 2010. A brochure is being created and will be distributed throughout the special-needs community and the regular public resources. A nominal fee will be instituted to fund costs. A U.S.T.A Grant has been applied for to fund the tennis portion of the Program. The Westwood and Twp. of Washington Baseball Associations have begun planning for a 'Challenger Baseball League'.

c. Summer Programs: Registration for the Summer Programs began one week ago. Mr. Buchheister anticipates a high enrollment in the Playground Program based on resident's comments of improvements to the 2009 Program.

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- d. On-Line Registration: The new system launched exceptionally well, experiencing only a few, very minor adjustments. The first few days showed 38% of summer program registrations were done on-line. There are 138 children enrolled in the Playground Program the first week of registration.
- e. Facility Clean-Up Day: Director Buchheister announced that as of Spring, 2011 he will institute a day designated for volunteers to refurbish the landscaping in all of the Borough's parks for the Spring / Summer use. The Recreation Department will coordinate the project.
- f. Pre-School 2010-2011: Registration began on May 4 with 25 students already registered. A full registration of 24 four-year olds and 20 three-year olds is anticipated for September.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Westvale Park Renovation: Previously addressed under Item 4. Discussion continued with the suggestion of memorial pavers into the park and in the areas of the playground and concession stand. Member John Bonkowski volunteered to coordinate the project. Councilmember Quinn and Director Buchheister will present the concept for approval.
- b. New Irrigation System for Veterans Park, Train Station and Library: Previously addressed.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Summer Concert Series: Ms. McDonough has confirmed the Series, with many of the very successful artists of last year. A new band featuring Westwood resident Joan Gardner will perform. The program is funded by T.D. Bank and the Borough.
- b. Movies in the Park: Member Mike Griffin has confirmed the August Program. The Program is funded by many of the same sponsors with the addition of the Huntington Learning Center.
- c. Councilmember Quinn inquired about the Recreation Department's participation in Westwood Pride Day. Director Buchheister will determine the day's schedule with the Board Members.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:48 by Member Griffin, seconded by Member Borgersen. The next meeting will be Monday, June 14, 2010 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.