

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of January 13, 2014

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:04 P.M.

Present: Councilmembers Robert Miller, Robert Biccocchi, Board Members Jeanine Borgersen, Heidi Catalano, Kevin Corcoran, Joan Hluchan, Ruth Nass, Angelo Pira, John Toale, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough

Absent: Member Jodi Murphy

2. OATHS OF OFFICE: Prior to the Election of a Board Chair, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister welcomed the new Council Liaisons and Members of the Board. He then administered the Oaths of Office to new Members Kevin Corcoran and Ruth Nass and to continuing Member Angelo Pira.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of January 13, 2014: Member Toale made a Motion to Accept the Minutes as presented; Member Catalano seconded the Motion; All in favor; the Motion passed.

4. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

5. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Robert Miller expressed his pleasure at being named as the Liaison to the Recreation Advisory Board

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Welcome new Members: Director Buchheister requested that each Board Member introduce themselves with a brief summary of their involvement with Borough / recreation / sports activities and events.

a. A Fall Program Summary was distributed for review including a program registration summary and a financial summary. Mr. Buchheister provided an overview of the basketball program philosophy and a breakdown of the thirty-nine, various Travel and Recreation leagues including; the substantial expansion of the girls leagues, the average nine games played each Saturday in the Community Center; the night use of the Community Center and the regional school system gyms.

b. Winter Program Update:

Director Buchheister has hired a Site Supervisor for the Community Center on weekends for the current basketball season. He opens the building, maintains the basketball score clock, supervises the activities and cleans the building before locking the building. The Bergen Travel Basketball League website posts all of the travel team results.

Winter Program Registration began January 2 and Director Buchheister presented an overview of the Department's programs Third Party Program providers and a summary of registrations to date. Westwood and Township of Washington residents are permitted to register the first week. There are generally a few spaces in any given program available and anyone other than Westwood / Township residents may register

beginning the second week. Continuing and new programs were reviewed including the Teen Center's schedule and special events and the Over 55 Exercise program with a regular attendance of 50 participants. Letters of appreciation received from the 'Over 55' participants were distributed for review.

7. Pre-School Update: An overview of the program, the financial structure and the current registration summary was presented.

d. Basketball Program Update: Addressed under item 5 A.

e. Director Buchheister thanked Member Angelo Pira for his suggestion and implementation of a special event during the Winter School Break to show the Movie "Hoosiers" to the Grade 3 and 4 children in the Community Center. Member Pira reported that with the Library's projection system and the Baseball Association's sound system, approximately 40 children attended and it was a very successful event. The event will be expanded for next year.

Director Buchheister thanked Margaret McDonough and the Home for the Holidays Committee for their work in organizing this very special event which is a tremendous asset to Westwood.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Committee Assignments: Director Buchheister requested that each Board Member consider the various Committees and how each area of the Department can be improved and expanded for 2014 and future years including programming, facilities, sponsorships, etc. Through conversation, travel and mass media, there are many sources of ideas for expansion and improvement. Westwood enjoys many advantages that other communities do not have including several areas for year-round fishing, etc. He asked for continual advisement from the Board Members.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair: Director Buchheister requested Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Member Catalano nominated John Toale for Chair, Member Pira seconded, all in favor; the Nomination passed unanimously. Member Catalano Nominated Angelo Pira as Vice Chair, Member Nass seconded the Nomination, all in favor, the Nomination passed unanimously.

b. Goals for 2014:

1. Community Center façade repair (Jefferson Avenue). The façade of the building is deteriorating. At Director Buchheister's request, Ms. McDonough provided a brief history of the building over the last eighty years. Areas in need of renovation are the crumbling façade, the insufficient gym lighting and the gym floor which is in need of upgrades. There are a number of areas in the building that leaks during heavy storms and snow melt due to the original, flat roof. Director Buchheister stated that despite the inherent difficulties of an older building, the Community Center is a source of great pride for the Borough and a source of envy for most of the municipalities of Northern New Jersey.

10. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:59 P.M. by Member Heidi Catalano, seconded by Vice Chair Pira. The next meeting will be February 10, 2014 at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.