

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of January 9, 2012

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:08 P.M.

Prior to the 2012 Board Elections and in the absence of the former Chair and Vice Chair, Director Buchheister presided.

Present: Councilmember Peter Grefrath, Board Members Janine Borgersen, Michael Griffin, Joan Hluchan, Don Smith, John Toale, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough  
Tardy: Member Heidi Catalano, Member Codner  
Absent: Member Janine Borgersen

Director Buchheister introduced Councilmember Peter Grefrath as the new Liaison to the Board. Mr. Grefrath stated that considering his sports background as a youth and having served as Council Liaison to every other Department he is very pleased to be assigned as the Council Liaison to Recreation.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of December 12, 2011: Member Hluchan made a correction to reflect that Councilmember Quinn was not absent, she was Tardy. Member Hluchan made a Motion to Accept the Minutes as corrected; Member Smith seconded the Motion; All in favor, the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Grefrath stated that as he is newly appointed as Liaison, he will make his first report at the February Board Meeting.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Basketball Update: Director Gary Buchheister reported that the Basketball Program began on Saturday, January 7 and the day went very well. The Recreational League Program includes boys and girls from Grade One through Grade 12. There are eight Travel League Teams for Boys and Girls, Grades 4 through 8. Director Buchheister presented a summary of facility usage by the various leagues.

He reported that an Attendant has been hired to monitor the Community Center basketball season on weekends to prevent difficulties with the keys from the Police Desk, to monitor the game schedule, run the score clock, supervise activities, conduct maintenance between games, etc. The first day on the job went exceedingly well.

Use of the Berkeley School; there was an issue of unsupervised, younger siblings in the hallways during games. This problem will be addressed with coaches and parents.

Member Heidi Catalano joined the meeting at 8:12

Discussion of the Berkeley School issue followed.

Member Chris Codner joined the meeting at 8:16

The Boys Grade 9-12 Program had a very low registration. The program has an excellent history and dozens of boys expressed their intent to register. Despite efforts to spur registrations, the program had to be cancelled for this season. The program is expected to resume successfully next year.

- b. Winter 2012 Registration Update: Director Buchheister presented the Registration Summary for Winter Programs. Registration has been open one week and there are already 140 registrations. Discussion of specific programs followed.

The Teen Center Snow Tubing trip may be cancelled due to the non-inclement weather and/or a low registration. Member Codner offered to send an e-mail to all soccer participants, Director Buchheister will send more reminders to register in case the weather is favorable.

#### 6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Westvale Park Renovation: Mr. Buchheister reported that the playground structure is complete. The project will be completed under-budget which will allow for some contingency items to be readdressed including playground additions, benches and fencing. The snow fencing protecting the new grass will be removed in April.  
A Commemorative Memorial plaque will be delivered and installed this week. Director Buchheister encouraged the Board Members to walk the park to review the renovation project.

#### 7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Advisory Board Vote for Chair and Vice Chair: The Election of Chair and Vice Chair has been tabled to the February 13 meeting when all Members will be in attendance. Mayor Birkner is expected to appoint a Board Member soon to fill the vacancy of former Chair Sherman Taylor.
- b. Memorial Bench Program: Director Buchheister reported that the first memorial bench in honor of Luke Foley has been installed in the southwest area of Voorhis Park, near Lafayette Avenue. Councilmember Grefrath reported that one person has reserved a bench for Veterans Park, two more have expressed interest. He is working with Ed Sneickus of Burgis Associates on the reconfiguration of Veteran's Park pathways as part of the renovation project. The reconfiguration will determine the location of memorial benches. Mr. Grefrath noted that Mr. Sneickus is doing this work Pro Bono. The renovation will improve and increase the event / pastoral use of the park. Discussion followed including Member Griffin's question of the historic well on the southern end of the park. Mr. Grefrath responded that it will be restored. The reconfiguration of Madison, Park and Third Avenues and the resignalization of the perimeter traffic lights was also discussed.
- c. Goals for 2012: Director Buchheister reported that he is formulating goals for 2012. In response to Member Catalano's questions, he stated that the rebuilding of Brookside Park from Hurricane Irene is dependent upon the anticipated funds from F.E.M.A. Any improvements to the Berkeley Field are yet to be determined; the Board of Education will assist with field clay. Discussion of field use continued.  
In response to the December request for Board Members suggestions for 2012, Member Codner proposed a youth, ice hockey program. Extensive discussion followed regarding the logistics of such a program. Director Buchheister and Member Codner will pursue the viability of this program.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:53 P.M. by Member Catalano seconded by Member Griffin. The next meeting is Monday, February 13, 2012 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.