

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of December 12, 2011

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:06 P.M.
Present: Councilmember Ingrid Quinn, Chair Sherman Taylor, Vice Chair Catalano, Board Members Janine Borgersen, Michael Griffin, Joan Hluchan, Don Smith, John Toale, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough
Absent: Councilmember Ingrid Quinn, Member Christopher Codner
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of November 14, 2011: Vice Chair Catalano made a Motion to Accept the Minutes as presented; Member Smith seconded the Motion; All in favor, the Motion passed.
3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:
4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:
5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:
 - a. Basketball Update: Director Gary Buchheister reported that Recreation League practices begun and Travel League games have begun. There are currently 21 recreational teams and eight travel teams; Boys Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and Girls Grades 4, 6, 7 & 8. The Clinic Program for 1st and 2nd graders currently has 20 girls and 50 boys registered. The High School Boys Gr. 9-12 registration is getting an unusually slow start. Many have said they're going to register but have not. The Program has a very successful history; the 2010-11 Program had a registration of 50 boys. The 'Open Gym' held the last two Sundays usually spurs registration. Several Board Members stated the boys they know do intend to register.
 - b. End of the Year Report: Tabled.
6. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a. Westvale Park Renovation: Mr. Buchheister reported there have been some delays due to some construction scheduling. The rain has caused some delays but the lack of snow and ice thus far is fortunate. The playground tiles and epoxy tile frames are currently being installed and the project should be completed within the next two weeks. The restrooms are open every day as the park is in full use. When the Fall Programs conclude and the weather turns colder, park use will subside and the restrooms will not be open every day. Bergen County is working to complete the inter-park trail.

Councilmember Quinn arrived at 8:15.

- b. Community Center Use Policy and Park Use Policy:
7. NEW BUSINESS:
 - a. Winter Programs: The Program Flyer will be posted on the Borough website and distributed throughout the school system. The Season includes a new program; 'Glee Kids' for grades 3-6. The

new 'Crafty Kitchen' program may expand to Saturday sessions based on the tremendous success of the first session in the Fall.

Discussion followed including the Teen Center regarding attendance, generally 40-50 7th-10th graders every Friday evening and the program policies.

8. Director's Report: (tabled previously)

b. End of the Year Report: Mr. Buchheister presented the 2011 Report to the Board for review. The Report was discussed in detail, including:

The number of permits issued; The custodial staff alternating schedule which accesses the talents of both, Mr. Buchheister complimented Jack Decker and Ken Weaver for their dedication and diligence; The Usage Fees incurred by private organizations / persons during non-scheduled program hours; The Gym Banner Sponsorship Program; The Trust Account providing surplus to the Pre-School and Playground for equipment/program improvements; The 1st year of use to the renovated Westvale Park which went very well, with all sports organizations fully cooperating; The Pre-School Program is very successful and operating like a "well-oiled machine"; The Special Needs Program is going very well and tennis will be added to the program; The Senior Fitness Program free to Westwood Seniors is a success and continues to expand; The Senior Van Program is working very well and Ms. McDonough does an excellent job coordinating the Program; The annual Special Events, the Egg Hunt, Halloween Parade and Movies in the Park are completely funded by sponsorship; additional sponsors are being sought to make the Summer Concert Series fully sponsored; The Tennis Team Program run by Twp of Washington resident, Ben Alfero, is doing an excellent job with three inter-town matches this year and the only participant cost is \$19. to join the U.S.T.A.; the free, pre-season basketball clinic run by the High School coaches; The new Girls Field Hockey Program had 18 registrants, the program should expand in 2012, The Summer Playground Program expanded by 20%; The On-line Registration expanded by 40-70 %;

Goals for 2012; Director Buchheister requested that the Board bring suggestions and ideas for new programs and/or improvement to existing programs/events and stated that some areas of necessary improvement are tennis courts; continued improvements to Westvale Park including new storage ~~is~~ for the sports organizations, installation of batting cages; paving the 'A' / 'B' field path; The Community Center is an emergency shelter and does not have a back-up generator which must be acquired. Chair Taylor suggested the inclusion of a Bicycle Club.

Member Borgersen questioned the use of Brookside Park Field; Director Buchheister reported that the field reconstruction will be determined by the funds received by F.E.M.A. and the new little-league field at Westvale Park provides an immediate alternative. Until a proper assessment can be determined, the field may be best used as a practice versus a game field.

7. Chair Sherman Taylor announced that he will be resigning from the Recreation Board as of December 31, 2011 after fifteen years on the Board. The Board Members thanked Mr. Taylor for his excellent and dedicated service and unanimously stated their gratitude for his contributions through the years.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:47 P.M. by Chair Taylor seconded by Member Griffin. The next meeting is Monday, January 9, 2012 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.