

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of February 13, 2012

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:05 P.M.

Prior to the 2012 Board Elections former Vice Chair Catalano presided.

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

Absent: Member Michael Griffin

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of January 9, 2012: Member Smith made a Motion to Accept the Minutes as presented; Member Hluchan the Motion; All in favor, the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Grefrath reported that he and Director Buchheister have reviewed the Trust Account and the proposed 2012 Budget. He thanked Mr. Buchheister for his assistance and stated that he looks forward to representing Recreation to the Mayor and Council.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Basketball Update: Director Buchheister reported that at the mid-point of the season things are going very well, with the exception of two separate incidents when coaches were disrespectful to game officials. One coach was suspended for one game; the second was given a technical foul. Director Buchheister has addressed the situation, has restated the Department's policies to coaches and parents and does not anticipate any further difficulty.

The Travel Teams are doing well and all participants are enjoying the season.

In response to Ms. Catalano's question regarding the use of the Berkeley School; Mr. Buchheister responded there has not been any further difficulty with unattended children in the hallways during games. Discussion followed on the snow cancellation policy of Board of Education facilities.

b. Winter 2012 Registration Update: Director Buchheister distributed the Season Summary Report to the Board for review. He reported that all of the programs are running very well. The Summary was discussed in detail.

Member Borgersen joined the meeting at 8:13 P.M.

c. Ice Hockey Clinic: Member Chris Codner thanked Director Buchheister for his quick action to coordinate the event proposed at the January Board Meeting. This was an initial event to test the viability of such a program. Mr. Codner coordinated with Brian Sharkey, the Varsity Ice Hockey Coach and reported that 10 High School Players came to assist at the clinic. Twenty seven children, grades 5 through 8, attended the clinic; eight from Westwood, fifteen from Twp of Washington, four from River Edge and two from Oradell. The children were charged \$5.00 the balance of the rink rental will be divided equitably among the four Recreation Departments. Director Buchheister commented that Margaret Koesel, Twp. of Washington Recreation Director, has been a tremendous help in creating combined municipal programs. Discussion followed regarding the clinic and future program planning.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Westvale Park Renovation: Director Buchheister announced that all current project plans are complete. Future additions and/or improvements will be addressed at the appropriate time.

A currently proposed item is two additional roofs for the playground unit. There is no shade on the area and this would be immediately beneficial. Items to be addressed in the future are bleachers, fencing, etc.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Advisory Board Chair and Vice Chair Elections: Election of Chair and Vice Chair Tabled to the March Board Meeting when the full Board will be present. Director Buchheister administered the Oath to Members Heidi Catalano, Don Smith and John Toale.

b. Community Center boiler: An incident occurred on Tuesday, February 7 when a safety mechanism of the basement boiler malfunctioned causing the boiler to overheat. Sections of the boiler cracked and the unit is irreparable, resulting in no heat for the gym. The four roof units controlling the heat / air conditioning in the remainder of the building were unaffected. Replacement and removal of the boiler is a very substantial expenditure and various options are being considered. The insurance claim has been submitted. Due to the mild winter and the heat from the rest of the building, the gym temperature has stabilized at 55° which is a comfortable temperature for program participants but not as comfortable for spectators. The original, building's boiler will be replaced by a much smaller and more economical system.

c. Teen Center program: Weekly attendance averages 60 teens per week. A new, special event in March will be an indoor Laser Tag night. The Program is proceeding very well due in large part to the Staff of Darren Blankenbush, Janet Dunn, Nora McVeigh and volunteer Roberta Hanlon.

Director Buchheister announced that he is the new Chairman for the Municipal Alliance. He will be working with the Regional School System and various organizations to promote increased participation with the upper high school aged children including special events such as a Teen Concert Series in Veterans Park. Discussion followed.

d. Board of Education Facility Fees: The Regional Board of Education is expected to propose a tiered Fee Schedule for Use of Fields applicable to all resident organizations, Recreation Departments and any outside organizations. If the policy is implemented in its current form, all sports organizations using the High School field facilities will have to pay for every use of the fields. Discussion included that these organizations are the feeder-programs for the High School teams. Director Buchheister has spoken with a Board of Education Member and expressed his displeasure with the new policy considering that the renovated fields are funded by the residents' taxes.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:51 P.M. by Member Codner seconded by Member Borgersen. The next meeting is Monday, March 13, 2012 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.