

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of March 11, 2013

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

Present: Councilmember Peter Grefrath, Board Chair Michael Griffin, Vice Chair Catalano, Members Chris Codner, Joan Hluchan, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough

Absent: Members Janine Borgersen, Don Smith, John Toale

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of February 11, 2013: Member Hluchan made a Motion to Accept the Minutes with a Correction of the April Board Meeting date; Member Codner seconded the Motion; All in favor; the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Grefrath reported that a Resolution has been passed at the Mayor and Council meeting authorizing the Girls Softball Association to install dugout covers at the Westvale Park softball field. Discussion followed on construction restrictions on the landfill project's capped area.

Borough Administrator Hoffmann's Memo of March 6, 2013 confirmed that no member of any Board or Committee should request advice from the Municipal Attorney without prior approval from the Department Head and advisement of the Council Liaison and Borough Administrator. Mr. Grefath confirmed there had been no such incident with the Recreation Board Members.

Residents from the Hegeman Park area attended a Mayor and Council meeting to request repairs and improvements be done to Hegeman Park. Discussion followed on the rotational schedule of park improvements which has been postponed due to budgetary constraints over recent years. Each Spring, every park is reviewed for necessary repairs and improvements will be done wherever possible.

G.A.S.P. (Global Advisers on Smokefree Policy) representatives made a presentation to the Mayor and Council which Councilmember Grefrath stated was well received. Several forms of Resolutions were presented to prohibit the use of tobacco products in public areas. Extensive discussion followed. Mr. Grefrath will request the Borough Attorney review and adapt the proposed Resolution and present it to the Mayor and Council for Approval and Adoption.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Winter Programs: Director Buchheister distributed the Final Summary of the Winter Programs for the Board to review.

b. Basketball Program: Director Buchheister presented the final analysis of the Basketball Program which will conclude mid-March. Specific discussion and review of the various programs followed. The conclusion of the basketball season allows private sports groups to use the Community Center gym when

not in use by resident programs which will generate revenue for Community Center and field improvements and maintenance.

c. Smoke Free Parks: Previously addressed under Item 4.

d. Egg Hunt – March 30: Director Buchheister requested that all available Board Members meet at Veterans Park at 9:00 A.M. to assist with the event. Discussion followed.

e. Spring Programs: The programs to be offered for the Spring season was presented and discussed.

f. The Senior Fitness ‘Forever Young’ class presently meets on Tuesday and Thursday. An additional class ‘Toning & Strengthening’ will be added on Tuesdays beginning April. Average attendance is 25 per class. All classes are free for Westwood residents, non-residents pay \$25 and \$15 per month respectively. The Non-Resident fees covers the cost of the program. Responding to Member Hluchan’s question of program advertisement; Mr. Buchheister reported that the Community Life newspaper has been very cooperative in running articles to promote this and other Department programs.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Committee Assignments: Director Buchheister asked the Board to review and confirm the committee assignments i.e., Don Smith, Over 55 Programs; Janine Borgersen, Teen Center; Joan Hluchan/Heidi Catalano, Youth / Pre-School Programs; John Toale, Facilities; Mike Griffin, Sponsorship:

b. Improvements to the A field: A delivery of clay is expected March 13. D.P.W. will install the clay on the various fields and prep the fields for use as soon as the weather allows in a week or two.

c. Lightning Detection Systems: Administrator Hoffman, DPW Superintendent Woods, O.E.M. Official Blankenbush, Keith Rosado of the Board of Education and Director Buchheister met to discuss the possible shared service of a Lightning Detection System which would cover all of Westwood’s municipal fields and the Board of Education fields. The shared service proposal would share the purchase of the equipment with the Borough and the Board of Education each maintaining their field equipment, i.e., horns, lights, etc. Mr. Hoffmann and Mr. Rosado will review the financial estimates and if approved will forward to their respective governing bodies for approval.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

Summer Playground After-Hour Events: Vice Chair Catalano broached the idea of having the Borough’s Van transport children from the Gr. 4-8 Playground sites to the in-town events. Gary Buchheister stated that the Borough Van is an 8 passenger van and logistically it would not be possible. Discussion followed on the various aspects of the Playground Program and the Van Program.

Chair Griffin discussed the advertisement of the Movies in the Park ‘10th Anniversary Year’ showing of the favorite movies from the last ten years which will be determined by popular votes of residents. Voting on the program’s selections will be advertised through newspaper articles, the Borough’s website, the registration data base’s e-mail and the Department’s Spring Program Flyer.

Concerts 2013 will present Reminisce June 27, the Banjo Ragtimers on Weds. July 3, Soul Finger Live (R&B) July 11, Danny V & the 52nd Street Band (Billy Joel Tribute) July 18 and Tramps Like Us (Springsteen Tribute Band) July 25.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:31 P.M. by Chair Griffin seconded by Member Codner. The next meeting will be the second Monday, April 8, 2013 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.