

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of May 12, 2014

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:09 P.M.

Present: Chair John Toale, Board Members Heidi Catalano, Kevin Corcoran, Jodi Murphy, Ruth Nass, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin Asst Margaret McDonough.

Absent: Councilmember Christopher Owens, Vice Chair Angelo Pira

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of April 14, 2014: Member Catalano made a Motion to Accept the Minutes as presented; Member Nass seconded the Motion; All in favor, the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Community Center façade repair: Director Buchheister reported that Jim Burke of Burke Built Construction has done an excellent job. The work was delayed by inclement weather and a family of squirrels which have been evicted and the project should be completed by the end of the week.

b. Spring Programs: Director Buchheister presented and distributed a summary report of the current season for the Board's review. Items of discussion included;

On-line registrations account for 75 % of the registrations received;

The new science program 'Chemical Creations' was an overwhelming success and a second class was created to meet the demand;

The 'Fitness in the Park' program conducted by Member Murphy has been a great success and the program has been extended for an additional session at the participants' request. The program takes place in Westvale Park, utilizing various aspects of the park. The program may expand to include healthy menu alternatives which spurred a discussion regarding;

Expanded cooking in the Community Center requires the installation of a fire suppression system for the stove/oven. This would benefit other programs and events held in the Community Center. Director Buchheister has explored various options to accomplish this project.

The 'Over 55' exercise program held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings continues to be very successful and has expanded to include a Friday afternoon class which is free for Westwood residents.

The current Teen Center session concludes on Friday, May 19. After the change of program ages from Grade 7-10 to Grades 6-9, the attendance expanded dramatically. The parents and children are very pleased with the program. An average attendance has at least 35-40 teens per night. Director Buchheister will meet with the Teen Center Staff over the summer to plan the 2014-2015 season.

c. Summer Programs: A summary of the Playground Program was presented and distributed for review. Registration began May 1st and is proceeding as expected. Late registrations will continue after June 1 with a late fee of \$25.00.

The Summer Camps scheduled for the second week of August will include both a physics and robotics camp. Member Corcoran proposed a 'Lego' program / competition which have been very successful in other communities; this and other camp / event ideas were discussed.

d. Summer Concerts / Movies: The Concert Series has added ReMax Realty as a sponsor for the program. The Board Members schedule of hosting the concerts was confirmed. Director Buchheister reported that the Community Life will run a quarter page ad in the newspaper at no cost to the Borough. The Movies Program has also added a new sponsor, Title Boxing of River Vale. Former Board Member Michael Griffin will continue to assist the program when available as will Ms. McDonough. Board Members are needed to assist for the program to continue.

e. Repair to lights on 'A' field and removal of old scoreboard were discussed. The repairs will be done by Charlie Johnston of Johnston Brothers Contracting and should begin mid-May. The price to remove the old football scoreboard is \$2800.00.

f. 2014-15 Pre-School Registration: Registration began on April 29 and is progressing as expected. The Four-year old class is almost half filled and the Three-year old class is a third filled. The current Four-year old class will have a commencement on Friday, June 6 and 10:00 A.M. and all Board Members are invited to attend.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Committee Assignments: No report

b. Capitol Improvement Plans: Member Ruth Nass inquired what funding / grants may be available for the renovation of the McKinley Park tennis courts. Extensive discussion followed regarding the tennis court repairs that have been postponed since the early 1980's; the new Meadowbrook Park Field house that was accomplished entirely by the Westwood Baseball Association; the need for Community Center gym floor repairs and improved lighting; landscaping at Westvale Park, reinstating the Recreation Department's Capital Projects / Park Improvements schedule, etc.

7. NEW BUSINESS: Director Buchheister reported that a Westwood resident who is involved in a large paving project in Waldwick has offered the Borough millings to "pave" the Westvale Park lot. DPW Manager Rick Woods will be given the contact information for follow-up.

A youth lacrosse program has requested to use one of the Westvale Park multi-purpose fields from late May through July. After Mr. Buchheister discussions with the Mayor, Administrator and the Westwood Youth Football President, permission has been granted. The program will be conducted on a trial basis and will be cancelled if there is undue field damage or any difficulties with the facility use.

Discussion followed on the benefits to the Borough's restaurants, stores, other businesses, etc. that bring people into Westwood for programs and events at Westvale Park.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 9:10 P.M. by Member Nass, seconded by Member Catalano. The next meeting will be June 9, 2014 at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.