

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of May 13, 2013

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:04 P.M.

Present: Councilmember Peter Grefrath, Chair Michael Griffin, Vice Chair Catalano, Member Janine Borgersen, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister

Absent: Members Chris Codner, Dom Smith, John Toale and Ms. McDonough

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of April 15, 2013: Member Hluchan a Motion to Accept the Minutes as presented; Member Borgersen seconded the Motion; All in favor; the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Grefrath reported that the Veterans Park Memorial Benches will be upgraded by armrests being installed in the center of the benches to prevent further skateboarding damage.

The Veterans Park reconfiguration for additional parking spaces for the Library along Park Avenue would severely damage or eliminate the trees on that side of the park. Mr. Grefrath is strongly opposed to this and suggested that parking be allowed on one side of Park Avenue between Second and Third Avenues as it is currently between First and Second Avenues. He will report further developments to the Board.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Spring Programs: Director Buchheister presented the Spring Programs and current registrations to the Board. The spring registration enrollment is very successful.

b. Summer Programs / Concerts / Movies: Summer Playground Program registration has begun and is running on par. Director Buchheister reported that due to the success of the Westwood program, the Township of Washington has expanded their program to simulate our program. Many Township of Washington residents were enrolled in the 2012 Westwood program, particularly Kindergarten through Grade 3. It would be beneficial to our program to have a slightly lower enrollment.

The Concert Series schedule was presented and Board Members were scheduled to host the various concerts.

The Movies Program was presented for review. Chair Griffin and Ms. McDonough will continue to coordinate the program.

c. Field Report: DPW Manager Rick Woods borrowed field equipment from Tenafly to aerate, seed and top dress the Westvale Park little league baseball field, two softball fields, two multi-purpose fields and baseball field.

Director Buchheister purchased approximately \$9,000.00 of clay for the various ball fields.

Drainage issues on the baseball 'A' field were completed by the DPW which should ameliorate future problems.

d. Dads 5k run on 6/16/13: The Christopher Hrbek Foundation's memorial event will occur again at Westvale Park. Discussion of similar events followed.

e. Pre-School: Director Buchheister presented the current registrations for the 2013-14 school year. He invited the Board Members to attend the graduation of the current four-year old class on Friday, June 7 at 10:30 a.m.

f. Over 55 Programs: The Forever Young Fitness class on Tuesdays and Thursdays currently averages 30 women and men per class. The new 'Toning & Strengthening' class on Tuesdays currently averages over 20 per class. Both classes are free for Westwood residents and are funded by the 8-10 non-residents participating.

The Summer Playground Program may pre-empt the exercise classes on occasion if the Community Center needs to be used as a rain site. The exercise participants have been advised of this exception.

g. Lightning Detection System: Director Buchheister reported that the regional school system's Business Advisor, Keith Rosado is scheduling a meeting with the school system, Westwood, Township of Washington and Emerson for a final decision on the shared system. Councilmember Grefrath reported that Mayor Birkner has been approached by several other municipalities regarding the system. Discussion followed.

h. Director Buchheister reported on the recent newspaper reports regarding damage to the Veterans Park benches. Discussion followed on necessary repairs and upgrades including repairs to the McKinley Park tennis courts which have been delayed for decades; Lightning Detection System; Brookside Park basketball court repairs; Westvale Park playground roofs to provide shade. Councilmember Grefrath stated that previous to the State's Recreation Trust Funds all repairs and upgrades would have to come from the Municipal Operating Budgets. Vice Chair Catalano confirmed that Recreation used to update the park facilities on an annual, rotating basis until the late 1990's when restrictions to the Operating Budget prevented the regular maintenance.

After discussion, the Board requested that Councilmember Grefrath bring the projects of the shared Lightning Detection System, the Westvale playground roofs and the matching funds for the McKinley Park tennis courts to the Mayor and Council for approval.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Committee Assignments: Previously

b. Lightning Detection Systems: Previously addressed under Item 5.g

7. NEW BUSINESS: Director Buchheister reported two new programs have been implemented at the High School for Spring / Summer; a free Open-Gym Basketball Camp for Grades 3-8 and a Wrestling Program for Grades 9-12.

Director Buchheister reported that the new youth Tennis Team has 25-30 participants and is doing very well for a new program. He is disappointed at the lack of response from the High School's Tennis Coaches as this is a 'feeder program' for the School's program. Discussion followed.

Surveillance Cameras: An additional camera has been added to the Community Center and several cameras were adjusted for optimum coverage of the facility.

Director Buchheister presented a report of upcoming Facility Use of the Community Center and Fields

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:57 PM by Chair Griffin seconded by Vice Chair Catalano. The next meeting will be the 2nd Monday, June 10, at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.