

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of June 10, 2013

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

Present: Councilmember Peter Grefrath, Vice Chair Catalano, Member Janine Borgersen, John Toale, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough

Absent: Members Chris Codner, Joan Hluchan

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of May 13, 2013: Member Borgersen made a Motion to Accept the Minutes as presented; Member Toale seconded the Motion; All in favor; the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Grefrath reported that it was necessary to remove a diseased tree from Veterans Park which was discovered during the renovation process. The three other large trees in the construction area are healthy and will remain intact reducing the proposed number of new parking spaces for the Library.

Mr. Grefrath presented the Board's recommendation to the Council to utilize the Recreation Trust Account to fund the Lightning Detection system, renovation of the tennis court and rooftops for the Westvale Park playground. The Council declined the recommendation as the items are not included in the 2013 Capital Budget and final costs of lighting the Westvale Park ball fields have not been received.

He reported that Mayor Birkner is very concerned with implementing the Lightning Detection System as a shared service as soon as possible and Mr. Grefrath is fully supportive of his efforts to do so.

When the Borough receives confirmation of a grant funding 50% of the tennis court renovation, Councilmember Grefrath will reintroduce the matter to the Council.

The playground rooftops needed for shade at Westvale Park will be postponed to 2014.

Councilmember Grefrath reported that additional charges for the field lighting at Westvale Park have emerged which were not previously disclosed during the planning of the project which Director Buchheister will include in his report.

He will report to the Council the grant which was received by Director Buchheister from the United States Team Association which was received to fund the Westwood Tennis Team Program.

Vice Chair Catalano initiated a discussion of the purpose of the Recreation Trust to support and improve the Department's programs as a separate entity of the Capital Budget. She stated that the Recreation Board fully acknowledges the efforts and responsibilities of the Council.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Buchheister reported that Don Smith has resigned from the Board and thanked Mayor Birkner for the opportunity to serve. He also thanked the members of the Board and stated that he has truly enjoyed his time as a Board Member. A new Board Member will be appointed as soon as possible.

a. Spring Programs: The Spring Programs are mostly concluded for the season. Director Buchheister requested feedback for the current programs from everyone registered in the Spring Season and he presented those to the Board for review.

b. Summer Programs / Concerts / Movies: Director Buchheister presented the current registrations for the summer programs and the Summer Playground Program.

Mr. Buchheister noted that the Berkeley Gr K-3 Playground Program has a reduced enrollment from 2012 mostly due to the Township of Washington having expanded their program hours and now offers Before Care and After Care Programs, duplicating Westwood's program. The 2012 Berkeley program was a very large registration of 285 children; the smaller registration for 2013 will benefit our program.

The Brookside and Voorhis Gr. 4-8 Programs currently have a larger registration than 2012 with three more weeks of registration before the program begins.

The Host Schedule for the Concerts and Movies was reviewed. Director Buchheister presented the proposed railroad re-signalization project for July. It is not anticipated to have a major impact on the Concert, Movie or other Veteran Park events. Discussion followed on commuter, pedestrian and parking issues.

The Tennis Team received a grant from the U.S.T.A. of \$500 which covers the materials, equipment and a small stipend for the Coordinator. The program has expanded into two leagues, based on age. They will be in competition from May through July currently meeting twice a week.

c. 5k run on 6/16/13: The Chris Hrbek Memorial Scholarship 5K run is scheduled for next Sunday June 16th. Volunteers are needed and runner applications are still being accepted.

d. Pre-School: The 4-year Program Graduation Ceremony was held on Friday June 7 for twenty-one students. A celebration was held for the 3-year Program of fifteen students.

The 2013-14 school year currently has 18 4-year old students registered with a maximum of 24 students and the 3-year program has 14 students with a maximum of 20 students.

The Teachers and Class Mothers have done an excellent job this year.

Lightning Detection System: A meeting was held at the Board of Education offices including the Board of Education, Westwood, Emerson, Emerson Board of Education and Township of Washington to review and discuss proposed systems. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for mid-June to finalize the proposed project.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Committee Assignments: Teen Center, Janine Borgersen; Youth / Pre-School Programs, Joan Hluchan and Heidi Catalano; Facility Improvement, John Toale; Sponsorship, Mike Griffin, Over 55 Programs, T.B.D.

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

7. NEW BUSINESS:

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:30 PM by Member Borgersen seconded by Vice Chair Catalano. The next meeting will be the 2nd Monday, Sept 9, at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.