

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of June 14, 2014

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:06 P.M. by Vice Chair Angelo Pira

Present: Councilmember Christopher Owens, Vice Chair Angelo Pira, Board Members, Jodi Murphy, Angel (Ruth) Nass, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin Asst Margaret McDonough.

Absent: Chair John Toale, Board Members Heidi Catalano, Kevin Corcoran

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

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: No Report.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Spring / Summer Programs: Director Buchheister presented a program summary of the Spring Programs and the Summer Program registrations to date. He reported that there has been extensive feedback from parents regarding the new science programs. There is a large core group of parents who are very interested in non-athletic programs. Generally, the August summer camp registrations begin to fill up in mid-summer; as of June 14 the two science camps are almost at capacity. Similar programs will be offered in the upcoming seasons to satisfy this interest.

The Board reviewed and discussed items of the program summaries.

b. Summer Playground Program: The Playground Program registration several weeks before the start of the Berkeley program is down approximately 50 children. Director Buchheister anticipates a large number of late registrations and the staff will be assigned to each program site and level accordingly. The Playground Program Handbook for parents was distributed to the Board for review.

c. Summer Concerts / Movies: The line-up of Concerts and Movies were discussed and the Board's Host Schedule of the Concert and Movies Programs were confirmed.

Director Buchheister reviewed the sponsors of these and other programs and new sponsorships were discussed including the Westwood Chamber of Commerce which recently donated \$2,000.00

d. Repair to lights on 'A' field and removal of old scoreboard: Director Buchheister reported that the

e. 2014-15 Pre-School Registration:

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Committee Assignments: No report

b. Capitol Improvement Plans:

1. Lighting in Community Center Gym

2: New Community Center Gym Floor

Director Buchheister reported that these two items and the refurbishing of the McKinley Park tennis courts are the priority upgrades for the Department for 2014-15. The Open Space Grant Applications for 2015 will soon be received. Mr. Buchheister will ask the Board for their input at that time.

7. NEW BUSINESS: Director Buchheister reported that the 'Taste of Westwood' sponsored by the Westwood Library was held at the Community Center for the first time. The Library was very pleased with the result being able to expand the event to include thirty restaurants and the site was more conducive for accommodating a band, outdoor cooking, the option of having many people seated inside for heat / rain

purposes and the extent of transforming the space with decorations. The annual event will be scheduled from now on at the Community Center.

The annual Dad's Dash was held Sunday, June 13 which is a great event and it was a great day. Westvale Park and the parking lot looked great and the site accommodated the event very well. Cheryl Hodges reported there were 450 people in the 5 K dash and 75 participated in the 1 mile run. Member Pira reported that Member Murphy was the first Westwood resident to cross the finish line. A marked detriment was that being such a sunny day there was no shade in the park which was mentioned specifically regarding the playground area. Director Buchheister and DPW Manager Rick Woods have discussed the viability of planting trees in Westvale Park outside of the capped areas.

Director Buchheister was just advised that a component on the remote system for field lighting at Westvale Park has malfunctioned requiring the lights to be shut on and off manually until it is repaired. Director Buchheister has arranged for the repairs and items are still under warranty.

Member Catalano joined the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Vice Chair Pira reported that the Chris Hrbek Foundation has donated \$3,000 to the Football Association to purchase a new scoreboard. A portable system was purchase regarding the landfill cap and it being a mobile system, it can be used on any of the fields at Westvale Park. Discussion followed on the status of the program, the merged programs with lower levels of the Twsp of Washington program and a variety of league considerations.

Director Buchheister reported that the Pre-School's Graduation ceremony of Friday, June 6 went very well. The children presented an extensive musical program for the many parents and extended family members in attendance.

The Community Center custodian is out on medical leave. A Summer Playground Counselor home from college and members of the DPW will assume his duties for the interim.

Director Buchheister reported that a controversy occurred on a playing field in Emerson when an umpire saw lightning in the distance and called the game and the Lightning Detection System did not trigger. Several parties met with the Detection System representative. The lightning strikes were shown to be 7-8 miles away. After extensive discussion it was agreed that area systems would be increased from 5 to a 10 mile radius alarms. The adjustment will be judged to determine if the 10 mile alarm radius is feasible. Discussion followed.

Vice Chair Angelo Pira questioned if something could be done to alleviate the problems of the gravel road on the east side of Westvale Park. Due to the size of the stone, several vehicles have gotten stuck requiring tow trucks to get them out. Discussion followed including signage; alternate surfaces, etc.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:55 P.M. by Member Catalano, seconded by Member Nass. The next meeting will be September 8, 2014 at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.