

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Sept 10, 2012

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:02 P.M.

Present: Councilmember Peter Grefrath, Board Chair Michael Griffin, Members Janine Borgersen, Joan Hluchan, Don Smith, John Toale, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough

Absent: Vice Chair Catalano, Member Chris Codner

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of June 11, 2012: Member Borgersen made a Motion to Accept the Minutes as presented; Member Hluchan seconded the Motion; All in favor, the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Grefrath reported the Veterans Park renovation is proceeding. Director Buchheister has received a number of inquiries for the Memorial Bench Program from two local newspaper articles submitted by Mr. Grefrath. Details of landscaping were provided which are contingent on the Shade Tree Committee's recommendations. This phase of the project is expected to be completed by mid-October.

Mr. Grefrath reported that patch.com addressed the issue of implementing fees for the use of lighting on sports fields and he asked for the Board's comments to bring before the Mayor and Council. Director Buchheister clarified the establishment of the current field fee structure for non-resident and adult leagues considering PSE&G seasonal rates, seasonal field usage, etc.

Discussion followed regarding fees for resident, youth sports. Discussion included the organizations' expenditures on field maintenance and equipment; the residents' extensive volunteer hours required to run the organizations and maintain and equip the fields; that unlike other Borough organizations such as the Fire Department, Ambulance Corps etc. the Borough does not provide any equipment and the services provided by those organizations are not charged to the residents. It was the unanimous consensus of the Board that resident, youth organizations should not be charged for field use or use of field lighting.

The Board of Education's new Field Usage Fee for the renovated sports fields was discussed.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Summer Program Re-Cap: Director Buchheister presented Program Summaries of the six week Playground Program and the one week specialized camps for review. Playground Program participation increased by 46 children from 2011. Participation in the Before Care and After Care Programs increased substantially. Participation capacity was reached in several of the one-week August camps. All of the programs were overwhelmingly successful.

The Junior Tennis Team is in its second year and progressing very well ending the season 3-3. Two of those losses were to the Upper Ridgewood Country Club.

b. Summer Concert Series / Movies Re-Cap:

The Concert Series was again very successful. Some of the bands will change for 2013, as a regular rotation.

The Movies Program was very well attended. Chair Griffin stated that additional speakers are needed to balance the sound. Discussion followed. 2013 is the program's 10th year. He would like to have popular vote for the 2013 season of all the movies shown in the last 10 years.

c. Fall Programs: Resident registration began today for the Fall Programs, with 80 registrations already received. 65-70% of registrations were done on-line. Non-resident registration begins Monday, Sept. 18.

d. Pre-School Update: The morning 4-year old program is full with 24 students. One student was accepted into the public system through the lottery and there are several people on the wait list. The afternoon 3-year program has nine students with a capacity of twenty. More registrations are anticipated as the year progresses and children become ready to enter the program.

6. OLD BUSINESS: Committee Assignments: Tabled.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Dog Fest Re-Cap: The event was very successful with approximately 1,000 people in attendance. Westwood Youth Football ran the concession stand which will benefit that program. The D.P.W. reported first thing Monday morning that the organization's clean-up was "excellent". Dogs were not permitted on the sports fields, which was respected.

Events like this will benefit the various businesses in town, particularly the restaurants / food stores.

b. Veterans Park Construction Update: Previously addressed under Item 4.

The United Water / H.U.M.C. 5 K Run through Pascack Brook County Park and Westvale Park was very successful. H.U.M.C. at Pascack Valley donated two defibrillators to the Borough. One will be installed in the Public Library the other at Westvale Park. The Park defibrillator will be in the snack stand until procedures for the safe storage yet availability of the equipment can be determined.

The new Ice Hockey Program, coordinated by Member Chris Codner will resume in October. Four towns are participating in the Program and enrollment is growing.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:48 P.M. by Member Smith; seconded by Member Borgersen. The next meeting will be the third Monday, October 15, 2012 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.