

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of September 8, 2014

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:09 P.M. by Vice Chair Angelo Pira

Present: Councilmember Christopher Owens, Vice Chair Angelo Pira, Board Members, Kevin Corcoran, Jodi Murphy, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin Asst Margaret McDonough.

Absent: Chair John Toale, Board Members Heidi Catalano, Angel (Ruth) Nass

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of June 16, 2014: Vice Chair Pira 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. Summer Program Re-Cap: Director Buchheister presented a summary of the one-week August camps reporting that most of the thirteen camps were at capacity. The two new science-based camps had to turn away applicants. The children had a great time and the parents were very pleased with the programs and scheduling and have asked for increased programming for next year.

b. Summer Playground Program: Director Buchheister presented a summary of the Program. The enrollment was comparable to 2013 with more children enrolled in the Before and After Care programs. Surveys completed at the end of the program by Parents and Staff were presented for Board review. Over 95% were very positive with several good, constructive criticisms. The overwhelming request was for longer days and additional weeks. Mr. Buchheister proposes a 9:00am-3:00pm schedule versus the current 9:30-2:30. Additional weeks are not possible due to scheduling restrictions but the Board of Education 2015 schedule will allow for the traditional, full six week program. The staffs at each site were excellent including twelve volunteer Counselors in Training. Director Buchheister reviewed the program budget with the Board, reporting that the program was as financially successful as it was enjoyable for the children.

c. Summer Concerts / Movies Re-Cap: The Concert Series had an excellent attendance due greatly to the North Jersey Media Group being the new Publicity Sponsor providing articles and pictures of the Series in the local papers. Discussion followed on the future rain date rescheduling of Concerts / Community Band / Movies. The Movies Program was also a great success with increased audiences especially for the new movie release *Frozen*. The practice of showing new releases will be considered for future seasons.

d. 2014-15 Pre-School Registration: Director Buchheister reported that the current enrollment includes 21 four-year olds and 16 three-year olds. Additional registrations are expected in the next few weeks.

e. Jack Decker Retirement: After thirteen years as the Community Center Custodian, Jack retired for personal reasons. Advertisements will be placed for two part-time custodians. There are many specific requirements of the work and if qualified persons cannot be acquired, the position may have to revert to a full-time opportunity. Discussion followed.

f. Private Camps utilization of our Facilities over the summer: Director Buchheister reported on the organizations which rented the Community Center and various ball fields. The gym is currently being rented six to seven days a week through November until the Recreational Basketball Program begins.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Committee Assignments: No report

b. Capitol Improvement Plans:

1. Lighting in Community Center Gym: Quotes are being obtained from engineering firms for the upgrade of the lighting system which was installed during the renovation in the 1990s. The installation of L.E.D. lights will double the light output and halve the energy cost. The plaster ceiling is more than 50 years which complicates the project. Optimally, the lighting should be upgraded before the upcoming basketball season

2: New Community Center Gym Floor: Quotes and various options are being sought for the upgrade of they suspended floor system. The target schedule would be during the summer / fall of 2015. Discussion followed.

c: Repair to lights on Westvale Fields / Take down old scoreboard: Several bulbs are out on the ball field light fixtures. A company will replace these the week of September 15. The old scoreboard will be removed with D.P.W. assistance.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. A new vending company will install a machine in the gym hallway with healthy snacks and drinks on a trial basis. The policing of food and packaging debris will determine if this is a viable venture.

b. Vice Chair Angelo Pira, a Board Member of Westwood Youth Football reported a restructuring of the program's grade-levels reflecting the current registration. He also reported that they will host several N.Y. Jets and a full complement of coaches on September 16 at Westvale Park who will conduct a practice with the children. The event will be restricted to the participants of the program.

c. Fall Program Registration: Director Buchheister presented a summary for review of the registration which began today. Discussion followed including the new program offerings. He reported that a new vendor following U.S.T.A. guidelines will be conducting tennis lessons for the Department. Tennis participation numbers have declined and participants are not returning for subsequent sessions with the current organization. The new organization should greatly improve the program.

d. The Junior Tennis Team has continued excellent growth and again won the U.S.T.A. Sectional Championship but did not repeat last year's Regional Championship. Ben Aufiero continues to be an excellent Team Coordinator.

e. John Santulli, Westwood H.S. Basketball Couch is conducting a free clinic in Voorhis Park. Discussion followed including the creation of summer leagues; the condition of the Borough's outdoor courts, etc. Director Buchheister stated that the Borough basketball courts have not been renovated in over thirty years and this should be addressed in the near future.

f. Lightning Detection: Director Buchheister met with the Strike Guard company representative and representatives from the participating entities of our lightning detection system to review the five mile radius alert versus a ten mile radius among other topics. The alert radius was extended to ten miles and will be readdressed if the frequency of alerts becomes ineffective / excessive. Discussion followed.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 9:00 P.M. by Vice Chair Pira, seconded by Member Corcoran. The next meeting will be October 6, 2014 at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.