

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of September 9, 2013

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:025 P.M.

Present: Mayor John Birkner, Councilmember Peter Grefrath, Members Chris Codner, Joan Hluchan, Angelo Pira, John Toale, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough

Absent: Chair Michael Griffin, Vice Chair Catalano, Members Janine Borgersen

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Director Buchheister introduced and welcomed new Board Member Angelo Pira who was appointed by Mayor John Birkner to fulfill the unexpired term of Member Don Smith. Mr. Pira is currently the President of the Westwood Girls Softball Association and a Member of the Westwood Youth Football Association Board.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of June 10, 2013: Approval of the Minutes has been tabled to the Sept. 9 Board Meeting.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Grefrath reported that there has been a question raised by the N.J.D.E.P. Bureau of Hazardous Waste Management Program regarding the rest rooms / concession stand building in Westvale Park. Mr. Grefrath deferred to Mayor Birkner to present the report.

Mayor Birkner informed the Recreation Advisory Board of his meetings today in Trenton regarding Westvale Park. A letter from N.J.D.E.P. dated August 28 stated there were questions regarding methane gas readings in the ventilation system of Westvale Park. There are more than 700 landfill sites in the State of New Jersey and the methane gas standards for all landfills is under review for possible revision.

During a routine inspection the week of Sept 2 of the facility, an Agency Field Agent questioned when the building had been constructed as they did not have plans subsequent to the Malcolm Pirnie plans of 2005. Mayor Birkner stated that the building was constructed in 2010 with all appropriate approvals and inspections by D.E.P. and it was confirmed that the site was inspected during and after the completion of the building.

Mayor Birkner, Borough Administrator Hoffman and a Boswell Engineering representative today presented in Trenton the appropriate documentation and photographic evidence of the various phases of the renovation / construction. Their efforts over the last several days allowed the building to be re-opened for use.

The readings done on site on Sept. 2 showed no methane gas or any gases being expelled from the site. Boswell Engineering suggested that a rising water table could interfere with the operating functions of the system. As a precautionary measure, methane detection systems will be installed and ventilation modifications will be implemented in the building which should be compliant with the revised D.E.P. standards. These modifications will be presented to the Board when they are determined.

The Board thanked the Mayor for his efforts and report as Mayor Birkner departed the meeting at 8:30.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Summer Programs / Concerts / Movies Re-Cap:

Summer Programs: Director Buchheister distributed a report of the Summer Programs for Board review including the five-week Playground Program and the one-week specialized camps. A parental feedback

survey netted a 20% response rate and a 90% positive response. The most common request was a return to a six-week program. The program had to be curtailed due to the Board of Education schedule. Mr. Buchheister is working with the Board of Education to remedy this for 2014. Several items and aspects of the report were discussed including that the Township of Washington replicating our Playground Program resulting in many Township residents rejoining their own program. This was a benefit to Westwood as our registration numbers are now at an optimum level. The Staff at all four sites were outstanding and the program is financially self-sufficient based on registration fees.

Concerts: The Concert Series was a great success. The Ambulance Corps' annual fund-raising Carnival is held during the Series. Mr. Buchheister stated that the artist chosen for that week next year will be chosen to avert any conflict with Carnival attendees.

Movies: The Movies in the Park Program was again a huge success celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Program. The schedule was determined by residents' vote. Due to the Veterans Park construction the program was moved to the bandstand area which was a definite enhancement.

b. Pre-School Update: The school year began today with twenty, four-year old students and fifteen, three-year old students. The Program is completely self-sufficient financially based on tuition fees.

c. Westvale Park: The irrigation system of the Westvale 'B' softball field will be integrated with the park's system also utilizing the 'rain metered' system which monitors weather precipitation and adjusts the amount of field irrigation accordingly.

d. Tennis Team: The three-year old program won the league competition against larger, private Bergen County teams that have operated for decades and went on to the Eastern Regional Championships. This is one of the very few municipal United States Tennis Association teams. Mr. Buchheister has a meeting scheduled with the Deputy Director of the U.S.T.A. Middle States to promote municipal participation in creating an area, competitive, municipal league.

e. Special Needs Program: Director Buchheister reported that the program continues to improve and expand. The Board of Education's Special Needs Department is distributing the 2013-14 program brochure which will increase residents' awareness of the year-long, four program offerings.

f. The Community Center has been improved for the coming year with the Pre-School, two lobbies, the hallway, the Lounge and restrooms painted and the entire facility 'touched-up' as needed. Fluorescent light fixtures have been upgraded as necessary.

g. Fall Programs: Director Buchheister distributed the Fall Program Flyer for review. Several new programs have been added and the successful programs of previous seasons have been continued.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Committee Assignments: Tabled.

b. Lightning Detection Systems: Director Buchheister reported that the equipment for the new system has been received and will be installed at Westvale and Meadowbrook Parks and Berkeley School field. Signage will be posted explaining the siren-alert system and procedures to be followed.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

The Westwood Rotary and the Public Library Director, Martha Urbiel, have proposed an event to fund-raise for the 'Shelter Box Program' to purchase and ship emergency medical supply kits world-wide to

areas in need. Funds will be raised at a camp-out at Westvale Park in the open areas. The number of participants this year will be conservative. The program may be expanded in following years to include resident families.

Member Toale reported that there are two drainage-type pipes in Westvale park with missing covers. Director Buchheister will follow-up with the D.P.W.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 9:07 P.M. by Member Hluchan seconded by Member Codner. The next meeting will be the 3rd Monday, Oct. 21, at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.