

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of February 12, 2018

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:04 P.M. by Vice Chair John Toale

Present: Councilmembers Beth Dell and Erin Collins, Vice Chair John Toale, Board Members Michele Fedorchak, Michele Hastings, Jodi Murphy, Bermari Roig, Jennifer Scardino, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough
Absent: Chair Angelo Pira, Board Member Amy McDevitt

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Scardino made a Motion to Accept the Minutes of January 8, 2018 as presented; Member Roig seconded the Motion; All in favor, the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Ms. Dell reported that the Council has reviewed the proposed surface materials for the renovation of the McKinley Park tennis courts and they have approved a material. Ms. Dell will bring samples to the March Board Meeting.
The Councilmember has met with residents regarding the possible renovation of Hegeman Park. Ms. Dell reported that funding is available for this project and she will meet with Mr. Buchheister to discuss options for the Hegeman Park and Brookside Park facilities renovation.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- a. Basketball / Wrestling: Director Buchheister reported that the Basketball Season is going very well. The nine teams in the Travel League are performing as expected with some teams doing very well while others are working hard. The Recreation Leagues are having a very good season to date.

The Wrestling Program accepts children from Westwood and Township of Washington. The premier year of the program under Westwood vs. the Township is growing and doing very well. Westwood will host the District Tournament at the end of the month at the Westwood Regional High School which will involve over 800 children. Mr. Buchheister invited the Board to attend.

- b. Winter Programs: Mr. Buchheister distributed a report of the registration which began on January 2 which is progressing as expected. The Over 30 Basketball Program in the Community Center, previously on Tuesdays and Thursdays, is now on Thursdays to allow the new Adult Pickleball Program to be held Tuesdays. The Pickleball Program is growing rapidly with Over 55 Program participants mentoring the new adult program; equipment for participants is provided. The Under 30 Basketball Program continues on Monday night.

The Men's Softball Program will now register as teams versus individual registration. They will now be responsible for selecting / obtaining their own uniforms. The Program will have eight teams; the Resident team fee requiring 10 Westwood residents is \$800, the non-resident team fee is \$1,500. The Women's Softball program comprised of four teams will eventually be organized similarly.

- c. Over 55 Programs: Several new programs have been added to the Forever Young Programs including Tai Chi on Wednesdays, Strength & Conditioning Exercise on Tuesdays and a Social Club which includes mahjong and card playing. Initially, there are eight members and they stay for several hours. After the C.C. kitchen renovation, refreshments may be available to bolster this program.

- 5 c. In conjunction with Mayor Birkner's Wellness Program and Hackensack Meridian Health, Pascack Valley Medical Center has initiated a six-week program to begin on March 10 in the Community Center. Representatives of fitness centers, personal trainers, dieticians, etc. will present residents many options for improved lifestyles. Member Murphy elaborated on the very inclusive program which includes exercise opportunities, lecture series, free health screenings, book clubs at the Library, etc.
 - d. SNAP – Soccer and Art: The Special Needs Activity Programs: Director Buchheister reported there are currently eight children in the program which is an increased registration. Councilmember Collins reported that the Heritage Society had inquired if the children in the program could revamp the Veteran Park's bandstand Easter decorations. Mr. Buchheister will discuss this with Jim Gines.
 - e. Capital Plans – Tennis Courts, Kitchen, new flat screen tv/cabinet:
Tennis Courts: previously addressed:
Kitchen: Mr. Buchheister reported that he will meet again with Bill Martin who is preparing a set of plans for review.
TV / Cabinet: A large flat-screen tv will be purchased and a custom cabinet which can be locked for security purposes.

C.C. Gym: New acoustical sound panels will be purchased. The proposed panels for the ceiling will be a white tone to blend into the ceiling, the wall panels are proposed as red and black.
 - f. Youth Mental Health First Aid Training: The training / seminars conducted by Bergen County have focused on adult mental health concerns. The new session addresses the concerns of children. Registration for the March 12 and 14 session is now available.
 - g. North Jersey Media Group is no longer able to be the Media Sponsor for the Concert and Movie Programs. They will continue participation in the C.C. Gym Banner. Mr. Buchheister reported that Pascack Press will continue to run news articles but cannot sponsor free advertisements.
 - h. Sponsorship: Mr. Buchheister reported on the current status of former and current participants of the C.C. Gym Banner program. The result of his recent outreach brought three new sponsors. Program materials will be presented to participants in the Community Center Wellness Program in March.
Concert / Movie Sponsors: The status of the sponsors for these two summer programs was reviewed and Board Members were requested to help identify additional sponsors.
 - i. N.J. Parks and Recreation Association: Mr. Buchheister reported that he entered the 'My Westwood' and the 'Forever Young Newsletters' for submission to the Annual Awards program. He announced that Westwood's Forever Young Newsletter won for the State of New Jersey's best publication for 2017. The Award will be announced at the Association's Annual Convention in March. This is a notable achievement as almost every city and municipality in the State participates in this industry awards program. A video of the S.N.A.P. program is currently planned as the 2018 N.J.R.P.A. submission and a separate State program for special needs programs.
6. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a. Committee Assignments: Over 55 Programs; Teen Center; Youth/Pre-School Programs; Facility Improvement (Parks/CC); Sponsorship: Tabled
 - b. Capital Improvement Plans - Tennis Courts: Previously Addressed.
7. NEW BUSINESS:
8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:55 P.M. by Member Scardino, seconded by Member Roig. The next meeting will be Monday, March 12, 2018 at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.