

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
Minutes of Mar 13, 2018

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

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Scardino made a Motion to Accept the Minutes of February 12, 2018 as presented; Member Roig seconded the Motion; All in favor, the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Dell reported that the proposed surface materials for the McKinley Park tennis courts is going out to Bid.

Ms. Dell reported that the items made available from the U.S. Military surplus includes 25 soccer balls which are currently at the D.P.W. site. Ms. Dell will coordinate getting them to the Recreation Dept. A member of the Zion Lutheran Church inquired of Ms. Dell if it would be possible to raffle front row seats at the Westwood Summer Concert Series as a fundraising item for the Church. After discussion it was decided that this could not be done at the present time.

A lacrosse event will be held on April 14 to benefit a resident child who is enduring a medical crisis. The lacrosse event and the sale of tee-shirts is being promoted on various social media sites.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Basketball / Wrestling: Director Buchheister reported the season is almost concluded. The Travel League has had an excellent season with 8 out of the 9 Travel Teams making it into the Playoffs which will conclude by mid-March.

The Wrestling Program, now under the auspices of Westwood, has concluded their season. The program's equipment is now stored in the Community Center. Director Buchheister will obtain and report on the team's placement in the regions, districts and State matches/tournaments.

b. Winter, 2018 Programs – A summary of the Spring, 2018 Registration begun on March 12 was distributed for review. The 8-week Spring programs and the continuing 15-week Winter programs will conclude mid-June. We are hosting three camps which will be held during the school system's 'Spring Break' of April 2-6 including a Yoga/Art program, a Sports Squirts camp and a basketball camp.

c. Over 55 Programs: The programs are all going very well including the new 'Social Club' which offers mahjonn and card playing with 8-12 people participating for 2–2 ½ hours every Thursday. The HUMC / Pascack Valley Wellness Challenge began March 10 with 122 people in attendance; 77 attendees received health screenings and 176 registered for the 'Pascack Valley Health Challenge'. The health / exercise / lifestyle vendors in attendance were very pleased with the event and Ms. Dell reported that she received great feedback at the Walk in Westvale Park. Many attendees of Saturday's Walk also participated on Sunday. It was an excellent response to the premiere year of this program.

5. d. SNAP: The indoor soccer program and the Art program will conclude by mid-March and the Tennis and Baseball programs will begin mid-April, weather permitting.
- e. Capital Plans – Tennis Courts, Kitchen, new flat screen t.v./cabinet: Mr. Buchheister announced that the Bids for the renovation of the McKinley Park Tennis/Pickleball Courts are anticipated in April and construction should begin in May.  
The Community Center's kitchen renovation is proceeding, William Martin is preparing the final plans. The Community Center lavatories will also be renovated. Jim Burke of Burke Built will submit an estimate for the work including tiling, floors, partitions, high and low sinks, etc. Mr. Buchheister will report as project develops.  
The box t.v. and t.v. cabinet in the meeting room will be replaced March 22 with a large, flat screen t.v. and a custom cabinet to house it. Discussion followed.
- f, Youth Mental Health First Aid Training: There were 26 registered, only 14 attended most likely because of the weather. Member Roig reported that most of the attendees were teachers or people working with youth in various capacities.
- g Gym Banners: There are currently 15 banners with an additional 4 or 5 banners anticipated. Member Murphy, a Chamber of Commerce member, reported that Chamber members are becoming more aware of the Recreation Department's sponsorship opportunities. Discussion continued.
- h. Forever Young Newsletter Award: Mr. Buchheister presented a plaque that was awarded to Westwood Recreation at the N.J. Recreation and Park Association's annual convention in Atlantic City for the 'Activity, Facility or Program Newsletter' category. Mr. Buchheister reported that the Awards are not tiered so candidates represent communities up to and including County Departments which emphasizes the acknowledgment of Westwood's achievement. Mr. Buchheister thanked Member Murphy for her assistance in developing the Newsletter. Discussion followed.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

Committee Assignments:

Over 55 Programs – Michele, Jodi

Teen Center – Angelo

Youth/Pre-School Programs – Amy

Facility Improvement (Parks/CC) – John, Jennifer:

Sponsorship – Jodi, Bermari

7. NEW BUSINESS: The Annual Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, March 31 at 10:00 in Veterans Park. Board Members are requested to meet at 9:00.

Member Murphy reported that she and Lisa Bontemps of 'Westwood For All Ages' submitted a grant application with the assistance of the Borough's grant writer to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in conjunction with the 'N.J. Rebuilding Together' campaign. The grant is for a 'Senior Playground' which is designed for people of all ages. The grant has a maximum award of \$100,000.00; there are six stages to the process which will be awarded in December, 2018. Discussion followed and the Board will be advised of any developments.

Director Buchheister announced the Summer Concert Series including Reminisce (Oldies), Route 80's Band (80s music), Soul Groove (R&B), Tequila Rose (Country), Tramps Like Us (Springsteen Tribute) and Beginnings (Chicago Tribute).

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:35 P.M. by Member Murphy, seconded by Member Hastings. The next meeting will be Monday, April 9, 2018 at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.