

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of May14, 2018

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

Present: Councilmember Beth Dell, Vice Chair John Toale, Board Members Jodi Murphy, Bermari Roig, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister

Absent: Chair Angelo Pira, Board Members Michele Fedorchak, Michele Hastings, Amy McDevitt, Jennifer Scardino

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Roig made a Motion to Accept the Minutes of April 9, 2018 as presented; Member Murphy seconded the Motion; All in favor, the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Dell reported that Westwood Police Sergeants Antonacci and Foley have coordinated with E Z Ride to present a bicycle safety course in Westwood. The two day course will be done in June at the Middle and Berkeley Schools; the first day is an Assembly and the second day is a 'Bike Rodeo' which will emphasize safety.

Ms. Dell announced that for increased safety purposes, a crossing guard will be present on Fridays at the intersection of Broadway and Westwood Avenue due to the increased number of minors who are in the downtown area.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Spring, 2018 Programs: Director Buchheister distributed a summary of the season's registrations for review. The number of participants in each program is excellent.

b. Over 55 Programs: All of the six programs are going very well. The participants of the 'Social Club' which meets on Thursdays for mahjonn and cards have requested expanding to meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays which was approved and attendance is increasing.

c. S.N.A.P. The Special Needs Tennis program is progressing well and the Softball program began last week. The High School Coaches have been very helpful with promoting baseball/softball team members to assist as aides in the SNAP program.

d. Springfest Recap: Director Buchheister announced that he is very pleased with the results of the Recreation Department's premiere Springfest in Veterans Park. Despite heavy rain along the entire east coast, Westwood had minimal rain and was able to have a great event with excellent food vendor choices. Early morning parking procedures for vendors will be discussed with the W.P.D. for 2019.

e. Capital Plans – Tennis Courts, Kitchen: The renovation of the McKinley Court tennis courts has begun with the removal of perimeter fencing and initial surface repairs. Mr. Buchheister reported on conversations he has had with tennis instructors regarding the proposed court surface. Discussion followed.

M. Buchheister reported that he met with Borough Architect William Martin regarding the Community Center kitchen renovation and their discussion of the placement of the upgraded stove / oven, etc. Due to logistical issues, the renovation may be postponed to the summer of 2019.

5. f. Summer Programs: Director Buchheister reported that the Summer Playground Program registration began May 1 for Westwood residents and May 7 for non-residents. Non-resident registration was shut down at the end of the first day and a wait list was initiated as almost 60 non-residents had registered on that one day. To ensure safety and program quality, the number of children in each program / counselor group is carefully regulated. There were 90 non-residents in the 2017 program and non-residents will be admitted as space allows.
 - g. Concerts / Movies: Director Buchheister reported that the concerts and movies for the 2018 season has been confirmed. The availability of Board Members to host the concerts will be confirmed and the procedures for hosting were reviewed.
6. OLD BUSINESS:
- a. Committee Assignments:
Over 55 Programs – Michele, Jodi
Teen Center – Angelo
Youth/Pre-School Programs – Amy
Facility Improvement (Parks/CC) – John, Jennifer:
Sponsorship – Jodi, Bermari
 - b. Capital Improvement Plans – Tennis Courts: Previously addressed.
7. NEW BUSINESS: Director Buchheister reported that the Pre-School registration for 2018-19 began on April 24. There are currently sixteen four-year olds and 7 three-year olds registered for September. The registrations are on par for this time of year.

The Discount Amusement Tickets program offered by the N.J. Recreation and Park Association will be reinstated by the Recreation Department for Westwood residents. The benefits for residents, the percentage of the discounts and the nominal service charge of the program were discussed.

Vice Chair Toale read a statement from Chair Pira regarding the need for a strategic plan for future development of Westvale Park by a professional park planner pursuant to dialogue between the governing body and the Recreation Advisory Board. Extensive discussion followed including future projects, landscaping, etc. Ms. Dell will report this at the next Council.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:36 P.M. by Member Roig, seconded by Member Murphy. The next meeting will be Monday, June 11, 2018 at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.