

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of November 9, 2015

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:11 P.M. by Recreation Director Gary Buchheister

Present: Councilmembers Chris Montana, Board Members Kevin Corcoran, Jodi Murphy, Ruth Nass, Jason Scheffer, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin Asst. Margaret McDonough.

Absent: Chair John Toale, Vice Chair Angelo Pira, Board Members Bobbi Cozic, Bermari Roig

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM: Frank Coppolino of Architectural Flooring Resource, Inc. attended to present an option for the proposed refurbishment of the Community Center gym floor. W.H.S. Coach John Santulli and Recreation Dept. basketball coach Tony Rivera also attended. The Architectural Flooring Resource product is a poured, urethane floor. The lines, key, logos etc. are hand installed then the entire floor is covered with an epoxy coating. The materials are guaranteed for thirty years and can be maintained with the equipment currently in use in the Community Center. Councilmember Montana, Director Buchheister and the Board questioned various aspects of the flooring subsequent to his presentation. Prior to the December meeting, Mr. Coppolino will provide several estimates on the various options. Mr. Coppolino departed the meeting and the further discussion followed. Mr. Santulli departed the meeting.

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

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Montana reported that the Interim Administrator Ben Kezmarsky has contacted Bergen County representatives regarding Open Space Grants for the refurbishment of the McKinley Park tennis courts. Partial funding for the project could be available from the Capital Fund. If funding is available, the project will be done in the Spring of 2016.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Summer Playground Program; Twp of Washington non-resident status: Director Buchheister requested that the Board consider that Township residents should not be granted resident fee status for the Playground Program. The number of Township residents in the Westwood program has increased substantially and the various facilities of the Berkeley School, Brookside Park and Voorhis Park have reached maximum capacity. Their resident fee status would be maintained for all other programs. The Board is requested to consider the matter for a determination at the December Board Meeting, which will be brought to the governing body for their decision.

b. Fall Program Update – Teacher Convention Lego Camp: Mr. Buchheister presented a summary of the Fall Programs for Board review. The Fall session has been very successful and well attended. The classes either have or will conclude by early December. During the two-day school closure, a Lego Camp was offered with two classes of 25 and 20. Feedback was requested from the parents which was overwhelmingly positive. The program will be offered as a summer camp. Member Corcoran reported that his son has been involved in a Lego competitive league which is gaining in popularity and could be considered as a Westwood program. Also offered during the two-day school closure, Coach Santulli offered a very successful basketball camp in the Community Center Gym.

c. Halloween Parade Re-Cap: Director Buchheister thanked the Board members who attended and assisted at the event. 300 treat bags were prepared for the children as they departed the Community Center and more were prepared on site. The only advertisement is done through the Westwood schools. It is anticipated that there were over 800 people in attendance.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM: continued
Mr. Rivera addressed the Board saying he has been coaching in Westwood and Washington Twsp. for 15 years and came to address the Board regarding the recent suspension of a basketball coach. Recreation Dept. Coach Leith Robertson joined the meeting.
Mr. Rivera stated that as a twenty three year police veteran, he believes the situation was drastically mishandled by the Township police. As an associate coach of the person in question, he spoke at length of the merits of the coach and the good that he has brought to the children and the program and feels that this suspension is a loss to the program.
Mr. Buchheister invited any other public comments and Coach Leith Robertson addressed the Board stating that he has coached with the person in question for the last five years. Mr. Robertson addressed the impact of the upcoming season on the loss of this coach. Mr. Robertson stated that he will address the Council at the meeting of November 10 and there was no need to reiterate the points of the coach's good character as stated by Mr. Rivera. Mr. Buchheister thanked the gentlemen for their comments.

- 5 d. Basketball Mr. Buchheister reported that the basketball registration is approximate to the 2014-15 season. Background checks will be conducted on all coaches and each will sign a Code of Conduct as mandated by the Council.

e. Capital Improvements:
 1. Community Center Gym Lights: Director Buchheister has requested that the Council approve his recommendation for the Tom Ryback & Associates proposal for replacement of the lighting system. Mr. Montana confirmed that the matter will be addressed at the November 10 Council Meeting.
 2. Community Center Gym Floor: Previously addressed.

6. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a. Committee Assignments: Tabled

7. NEW BUSINESS:

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 7:53 P.M. by Member Corcoran, seconded by Member Nass.
The next meeting will be the first Monday; December 7 at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.