

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of June 15, 2015

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:03 P.M. by Chair John Toale.

Present: Councilmember Chris Montana, Chair John Toale, Vice Chair Angelo Pira, Board Members Kevin Corcoran, Bermari Roig, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister.

Absent: Members Bobbie Cozic, Jodi Murphy, Ruth Nass, Jason Scheffer, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of May 11, 2015: Tabled.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

Councilmember Chris Montana reported that the Council is currently reviewing the Recreation Department's Coaches Code of Conduct. Conduct rules will be assessed and a procedural process for disciplinary action of coaches / parents in accordance with N.J. State procedures may be included. The matter should be addressed at the next Council meeting.

Parking for Jake Voorhis Park on Oakland and Stratton Avenues is under Council review for possible action. Discussion followed regarding the current 'No Parking' signage on both streets not supported by Borough Ordinance, pedestrian traffic safety without sidewalks on either street, seasonal and general use of the park, etc. Councilmember Montana requested the Board's input on the issue for Council consideration. Mr. Montana will report to the Board on Council determinations / action.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Summer Registration Updates: Director Buchheister distributed a summary of the Playground Program registration as of June 15 with 475 children registered, an increase of 67 children from 2014 including many Township of Washington residents. Non-resident registration was curtailed the first week of June. All new registrations will be waitlisted to assure a proper ratio of counselors to campers in each group as it is too late to hire additional counselors. Discussion followed.

The August one-week summer camps registration is going very well; the Performing Arts program is full and other camps are already nearing capacity.

b. 2015-16 Pre-School registration: The four year old program is full with 24 children registered, the three year old program has 9 registered which is typical at this stage, more registrations are anticipated.

c. Community Center Façade: Kronewitter Painting has been contracted to power-wash, repair the stucco and paint the façade. The work will be done on Saturdays to avoid disruption of programs.

d. Summer Concerts: The Summer Concert Series has been set beginning on July 2 and will conclude on July 30.

e. Summer Movies: The Movies in the Park will commence on August 6 and will conclude on August 27.

f. S.N.A.P.: Councilmember Montana, Baseball Coordinator of the Special Needs Activities Program, reported that the 7 children enrolled had a great season. Members of the newly formed Men's Baseball League played a game against the S.N.A.P. players which was a great and enthusiastic event. He stated that program participation should be expanded through increased cooperation of the school system and other agencies.

The S.N.A.P. Tennis Program, Coordinated by Nick Thanasides and J.J.Crachtus, has also concluded. Mr. Montana commended Mr. Thanasides and Mr. Crachtus for the great job they do with the program and the children respond very enthusiastically to them.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Committee Assignments: Tabled

b. Capitol Improvement Plans:

1. Lighting in gym: Boswell Engineering has been authorized to design a lighting plan for the Community Center gymnasium. The bid process is not required as the anticipated design cost is less than the required amount.

2. New gym floor: Tabled

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Over 55 Programs: Director Buchheister reported that the Over 55 Exercise Programs with an average participation of 40 residents will be relocated to the Thomas J. Riley Senior Center for July as the Community Center is an inclement weather site for the Playground Program and Summer Camps and maintenance occur in August.

b. Park Safety Inspection: A J.I.F. representative conducted the annual inspection. It was recommended that mulch be added to all of the playgrounds, which is currently being installed.

Park Signage: Mr. Buchheister reported that a design has been created and he is getting quotes for replacing the Brookside Park and Berkeley Field signs.

c. Berkeley Field Maintenance: The Westwood Regional School System, which maintains ownership of the Berkeley School field, conducted pesticide spraying for ground bees without notifying the Recreation Department or the sports organizations. Although the spraying did not create a safety issue, there was great concern among parents shared on social media concerning the effects of the pesticide use. Discussion followed regarding field maintenance and field renovation issues.

d. Basketball Courts: Two new rims have been ordered at the McKinley Park basketball courts and new nets have been installed at every park in Westwood.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:35 P.M. by Member Roig, seconded by Member Corcoran. The next meeting will be September 14, 2015 at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.