

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
Minutes of February 8, 2016

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:04 P.M. by Vic Chair Angela Pira

Present: Councilmember Robert Bicocchi, Board Members Kevin Corcoran, Bobbie Cozic, Amy McDevitt, Jodi Murphy, Angelo Pira, Bermari Roig, Jennifer Scardino, Jason Scheffer, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin Asst. Margaret McDonough.  
Absent: John Toale

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

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Bicocchi reported the current Recreation and Travel Basketball registration numbers at the January Council meeting. He also reported on the status of the Community Center Gym floor project and the two anticipated scoreboards which are being donated through sponsorships.  
The Council is working on the 2016 Budget and Mr. Bicocchi will continue to update the Board on the budget process.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Winter Programs: Director Buchheister presented a summary of the season. A few scheduled programs were dropped for an inadequate registration while other classes were expanded. A new yoga class has been added to the 'Over 55' program. The first class was a tremendous success. Approximately 95 % of the participants are Westwood residents with fifteen people new to our programs. Mr. Buchheister thanked Member Murphy for the suggestion of the excellent instructor.

b. Basketball – Recreation and Travel: The Travel season is off to a good start with every team having at least 1 win thus far. Mr. Buchheister reported that at least four or five teams are expected to be in the league playoffs. The Recreational Leagues are also having a very good season. Discussion followed.

c. Ski Trip to Mountain Creek Feb 21<sup>st</sup>: This new event was cancelled for a lack of registrations, most likely due to the unusually warm, winter weather. The event will be offered again next winter.

d. Army West Point Women's Basketball Game Feb 13: Only 1 family registered for this new event, possibly due to the late scheduling notice. This trip to the military academy will be offered again with a similar offer to F.D.U. games next year.

e. New Scoreboards: The two scoreboards for the Community Center Gym are sponsored by the Chris Hrbek Foundation and Dr. Auerback who just moved his medical practice into Westwood. The scoreboards will be installed in April.

f. Capital Improvements:

1. C.C. gym lights: Mike Newman of Newman Electric will install the new lighting in April
2. C.C. gym floor: The third bid is anticipated very soon. The bids will be reviewed and the project schedule is still slanted for the first week of September, 2016.
3. New signs for Brookside Park and Berkeley School Field. The signs have been received and they will be installed as soon as the weather allows.

4. New lights over the C.C. name: Newman Electric will install the new light fixtures as soon as the weather allows.

g. Summer Concert Series: The Series season is contracted at a cost of \$11,000. The Borough's current anticipated expenditure will be \$800. The Series was fully funded by sponsors until one recently declined their full participation. Discussion followed on additional sponsorship opportunities

h. Women's Softball – A Township of Washington resident asked if a Woman's League could be created in addition to the Men's Softball League. Mr. Buchheister said the League could be created with Co-ordinators from Westwood and the Township with a minimum of 40 players. The current field schedule could provide time on Sunday. Discussion followed including making it a weeknight league in 2017.

The current Men's Softball league, in its second season, has an increasing registration.

Discussion followed on Westwood facilities and the lack of Township facilities specifically regarding shared program responsibilities. Several solutions including a tiered fee schedule have been proposed.

Tennis Courts Refurbishment: Bergen County Green Acres funding is pending. Councilmember Biccocchi will report on the County funding and will determine if any funding is available from current Bond Ordinances.

#### 6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Committee Assignments: Director Buchheister welcomed the Board members to attend and/or assist at the Teen Center and to review the other suggested Committees for individual preference. Committee assignments will be designated at the March Board meeting.

b. Capital Improvement Plans: Previously addressed.

1. Lighting in gym
2. New Gym Floor

#### 7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair: Tabled to March Board meeting.

b. Teen Center: Director Buchheister reported that the Teen Center currently has 176 Grade 7-9 children registered in the program. Average weekly attendance ranges from 60-80 children. This is a shared program; Westwood provides two paid staff monitors and Township provides 1 monitor in addition to 50% of the funding for special events and a \$500.00 a year stipend to offset facility costs.

c. The Afterschool Kids Club: Although the Friday afternoon program is going very well with a registration of 48 children in Grade 5 and 6<sup>th</sup>, it is a decrease from the 75 children registered in the 2014-2015 season. It is believed it is due to the mild weather and scheduling conflicts.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:30 P.M. by Member Scheffer, seconded by Member Roig. The next meeting will be Monday; April 18, the third Tuesday of April, at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.