

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of October 17, 2011

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:05 P.M.

Present: Chair Sherman Taylor, Vice Chair Catalano, Board Members Janine Borgersen, Michael Griffin, Joan Hluchan, Don Smith, John Toale, Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough
Absent: Councilmember Ingrid Quinn, Member Christopher Codner

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of September 12, 2011: Member Borgersen made a Motion to Approve the Minutes as corrected; Member Toale seconded the Motion; All in favor, the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Fall Programs Update: Director Buchheister presented a summary of the Fall Program registrations.

The new, co-ed Crafty Kitchen Program for children in Grades K—2 and Grades 3-5 has been very successful. There are 9 children in each class which is the optimum participation. Resident Roseann Brill is doing a great job teaching the class which includes cooking and craft each session.

The new Field Hockey Program is coordinated by Westwood High School Coach Erin Lach. It currently has a registration of 18 girls in Grades 4 through 8 and registrations continue to come in, which is excellent for a first season. The girls are having a great time while learning the sport and this will greatly improve the future of the High School's participation in the school league.

The Girls Volleyball Program has increased registration from last year, The Coordinator is last year's Middle-School Coach and she is contacting area programs to help create a local recreational league.

The new Senior Fitness Program on Tuesday mornings has 14 Westwood residents and 9 non-residents and registration increases each week. Westwood residents do not pay a fee and the nominal, non-resident fee covers all program costs. Adults 55 years and older are eligible, the oldest participant is 93 years old.

The Magic Program was cancelled due to an insufficient registration and several of the other, more expensive programs such as Chess, Golf, etc. have decreased numbers believed to be a result of the suppressed economy.

b. Special Needs Program Update: The Special Needs Program is currently running the Basketball Program with 9 participants and the two Dance classes have 4 & 5 participants. Both programs have a number of Adults and High School volunteers.

- c. Pre-School Update: The Pre-School currently has 20 in the 4-year old class and 15 in the 3-year old class. The program is running very well.
- d. Halloween Parade: The Parade this year will be Saturday, October 22. The sponsors will be H.U.M.C. and Care One at Valley. Director Buchheister requested as many Board Members as possible assist at the event beginning at 9:00 A.M. The School Drum Corps is expected to lead the Parade again this year. The entertainment and refreshments have been confirmed. An additional High School student is needed for the costume character.
- e. Basketball Program: Registrations are being accepted for the Recreational League. Travel Team Try-Outs will be held in late October / early November.
High School Coach and resident, John Santulli, is coordinating a free, pre-season clinic for Boys and Girls in Grades 4 through 8.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Westvale Park Renovation: The Mayor and Council are expected to award the playground bid at the meeting of October 18. If the Whirl Construction bid is accepted, they will begin the 3-4 week construction period this week. The entire park is in use especially in the late afternoon and evening; therefore the construction area will be completely fenced off at the end of their work day.
Due to State and County Grants obtained; the Borough will have incurred no cost for the playground equipment (and/or construction?).

The parking lot has been lined for vehicles. Two handicapped parking spaces have been installed in both the front and rear lots of the facility.

Landscaping will be installed as a buffer between Westvale Park and the D.P.W. facility.

The Borough and the Board of Education are discussing a joint effort for improvements to the baseball 'A' field including infield clay, etc. The field is used by the High School's freshmen team.

- b. Community Center Use Policy and Park Use Policy: Director Buchheister presented a comparative report of the current and proposed policies to be implemented as of January, 2012. The revised policy includes changes to fee schedules, set-up and clean-up procedures, large event policies, etc. Mr. Buchheister reviewed the improvements to the Community Center and Borough Parks enabled by the Usage Fees during the current year and proposed improvements for 2012. The Board reviewed and discussed the policy changes in detail and approved the revisions as presented.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review of 2012 Fee Ordinance: Director Buchheister presented the proposed Program Fee Ordinance to the Board. The Board reviewed and discussed the Fee changes in detail and approved the revisions as presented.
- b. Status of Brookside Park: Sufficient funding is not currently available for the repair of the Brookside Park ball field sustained during Hurricane Irene in September. There is extensive damage to the field. The field fencing, concession stand / rest room facilities and bleachers are irreparable. Director Buchheister will advise the Board of any developments at the November Board Meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 9:00 P.M. by Member Griffin seconded by Member Hluchan. The next meeting will be Monday, November 14, 2011 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.