

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Oct 15, 2012

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:11 P.M.

Present: Board Chair Michael Griffin, Vice Chair Catalano, Members Chris Codner, Joan Hluchan, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough

Absent: Councilmember Peter Grefrath, Members Janine Borgersen, Don Smith, John Toale

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of September 10, 2012: Member Borgersen made a Motion to Accept the Minutes as presented; Member Hluchan seconded the Motion; All in favor, the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Tabled

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Fall Programs Report: Director Buchheister presented a report on the Fall Programs and registrations received in each program. Registrations received were 75% through the on-line program and 25% in person and mailed registrations. The Board reviewed and discussed the report.

b. Pre-School Update: Director Buchheister reported that the Pre-School Director, Diane Russell, will be relocating in January. The Assistant, Natalie Boes, will become the Director and interviews are being conducted for the Assistant position. Many resumes were received in response to the advertisement from well-qualified people. A selection will be made by the end of November and that person will work concurrently with Ms. Russell and Ms. Boes during the month of December.

The 4-year old class is currently filled with 24 students. The 3-year old class currently has nine students; which is expected to increase as prospective students become ready to enter the program.

c. Halloween Parade: The annual parade and reception will occur on Saturday, October 27. All Board members are asked to arrive at 9:00 a.m. to prepare for the 10:00 start.

d. Lightning Detection Systems: Director Buchheister presented a proposed system to the Council last year with an anticipated cost of \$18,000. The issue was tabled at that time. It is now under review by the Council. The estimated cost will have to be updated.

The proposed system will have a monitor centrally located at the Community Center with alarms at Westvale Park and Meadowbrook Park. The warning system can be programmed to various mileage diameters and specific hours of the day. The system can send text messages to cell phones, including heads of each sports organizations, etc. The Board of Education has been invited to partner in the purchase and use of this system. Discussion followed.

It was the unanimous consensus of the Board to pursue the purchase of the system.

e. Improvements to the 'A' field: Water drainage is deteriorating exponentially in the infield. Bids are being obtained to ameliorate the problem which would include clay and re-grading of the home plate area, pitchers mound and infield. Any substantial rain renders the field unusable for several days. It is the only

field in Westvale Park not included in the renovation. Improved fields will allow for increased use by residents and non-residents resulting in increasing usage fees.

The Board unanimously concurred that the field is overdue for the repair and it should be pursued.

6. OLD BUSINESS: Committee Assignments: Tabled

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Field Lighting: The Council has been reviewing the cost of field lighting and is considering a tiered fee ordinance similar to a plan implemented by the Borough of Hillsdale. The ordinance would cover all use of the fields when lit, including all youth and adult resident use; which could be fully implemented over a three year period. Extensive discussion followed.

The Board unanimously does not support resident sports organizations to be charged for use of borough fields in consideration of many factors.

b. Veterans Memorial Renovation: Director Buchheister reported that the Eagle Scout Project of Anthony Catalano has been completed and complimented Anthony on one of the finest Eagle Scout projects he's ever seen. The Board congratulates Anthony for his research, presentation and professional implementation of the renovation. Vice Chair Catalano, Anthony's mother, thanked the Board on his behalf and thanked all of Anthony's mentors.

c. Memorial Bench Program: The program initiated and implemented by Councilmember Grefrath has purchased seventeen benches to date, fourteen of which are sponsored as memorials. They will be placed in Veterans Park, Westvale Park and Voorhis Park with memorial plaques approved by the sponsoring individuals at no cost to the residents. Board Members suggested again that picnic tables be incorporated into the Veterans Park plan which would benefit the residents and business owners.

d. Westvale Park Concessions: Board Members questioned the decision of how the Concession Stand will be utilized and discussed various options. Director Buchheister stated that the various methods are currently under review. A determination has not been determined.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:56 P.M. by Member Chris Codner; seconded by Vice Chair Catalano. The next meeting will be the third Monday, November 19, 2012 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.