

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Nov 19, 2012

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:03 P.M.

Present: Councilmember Peter Grefrath, Board Chair Michael Griffin, Vice Chair Catalano, Members Chris Codner, Joan Hluchan, Don Smith, John Toale, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough

Absent: Members Janine Borgersen

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of October 15 2012: Member Codner 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: Councilmember Grefrath will present an extensive report on the Recreation Department at the Mayor and Council meeting of November 20 to highlight many aspects of the Department such as the number of new programs and the increased participation in long-standing programs.

The Memorial Bench Program is proceeding well. The first shipment of benches should be received and installed in Veterans Park in time for the Home for the Holidays' if the D.P.W. schedule allows. Several more benches will be received and installed in the next few weeks.

Member Codner inquired on the status of the proposal for youth sports organizations to be charged for field lighting costs. Mr. Grefrath stated that he conveyed to the Mayor and Council the Recreation Board's opposition to residents being charged for use of the fields at night.

Mr. Codner stated that if these costs were implemented the youth organizations would need ample notice to include these fees in the children's registration fees. Discussion followed including estimated, hypothetical costs versus the actual costs of the first year of field use. Discussion followed

Member Codner reported that some of the Westvale Park irrigation sprinkler heads are becoming raised above the level of the fields, due to the settling ground. Director Buchheister has spoken with the sports organizations and the necessary adjustments will be made after the current sports season.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Director Buchheister presented the Fall Program Report to the Board. New programs include Girls Field Hockey and Girls Volleyball. Most of the returning programs continue to increase their enrollment over previous seasons, particularly the second season of the Ice Hockey program.

The Basketball Recreational and Travel Teams report included current enrollments and status for each league. Of particular note is the increased participation of girls in both the Recreational and Travel teams. The enrollment has increased in all grade levels, excepting the boys Gr. 9-12 program. Formerly a very successful league, the program may be cancelled for this season due to a dwindling participation.

b. The Pre-School Update: The morning 4-year old class is currently filled with 24 students. The 3-year old afternoon class will soon have ten students.

Due to the relocation of Director Diane Russell, Natalie Boes will be promoted to the Director position and interviews are being conducted for the position of Teacher Assistant.

c. Halloween Parade: The attendance at the annual parade and reception on Saturday, October 27 exceeded previous years, perhaps partially due to the good weather.

d. Lightning Detection Systems: Director Buchheister will meet with Westwood, Township and Board of Education officials to pursue a shared system which would be located at the Westwood Borough Hall with monitors located at various fields to cover the entire area of Westwood and Township of Washington.

e. Westvale Park 'A' Field: The proposed repairs / upgrade to the baseball field have been postponed to March / April dependent on weather. The denigrated condition of the field was further exacerbated by Super Storm Sandy.

f. Repair to the Gym Floor: Each year, areas of the floor rise and buckle due to summer humidity. The floor was installed in 2005 and perimeter repairs were done to alleviate the problem soon after the installation. Replacement tiles are necessary in several areas, particularly in the keys and entrances to the gym. Director Buchheister met with the manufacturer representatives to inspect the required repairs. Under the 10 year depreciating warrantee, the repair costs are estimated at \$2,500.00 which should extend the use of the floor for at least six years. This item is scheduled for the November 20 meeting of the Mayor and Council.

g. Basketball: A coaches' clinic will be held in the Community Center on January 3 for all new coaches. Director Buchheister will conduct a meeting with all of the coaches in the 2013 program to insure familiarity between himself and each coach and to present the policies and procedures for the season. Toward the end of the 2012 program a few instances of coach / parental / spectator misconduct were reported. Director Buchheister will establish the methods which will be implemented to immediately address misconduct of any kind to assure a good and pleasant season for all.

6. OLD BUSINESS: Committee Assignments: Over 55 Programs, Teen Center, Youth / Pre-School Programs, Facility Improvements, Sponsorship.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Community Center Use as a Shelter: Director Buchheister reported that the Center was used by displaced residents for a few days during Super-storm Sandy. On Monday, October 29 when the storm began until Thursday, November 1 the Center could not be used by residents because the building did not have power. As a Community Center, there should be the capability of being a warming / cooling center, gathering center, food distribution center for the Community during times of crisis. This has occurred during previous storms and other reasons for resident evacuations. There are Grants available to fund the purchase of a natural gas generator so the Community Center could be available for residents during emergency situations. Director Buchheister requested that Councilmember Grefrath present this matter to the Mayor and Council.

Member Codner offered Director Buchheister the portable generators of the Dragons Soccer Club for use to the Borough at anytime they may be of assistance.

Discussion followed.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:39 P.M. by Vice Chair Catalano; seconded by Member Hluchan. The next meeting will be the third second Monday, December 10, 2012 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.