

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of April 9, 2018

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

Present: Councilmembers Beth Dell, Chair Angelo Pira, Board Members Michele Fedorchak, Michele Hastings, Amy McDevitt, Jodi Murphy, Bermari Roig, Jennifer Scardino, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister

Absent: Vice Chair John Toale

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Murphy made a Motion to Accept the Minutes of March 13, 2018 as presented; Member McDevitt seconded the Motion; All in favor, the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Dell reported that Sgt. Michael Pontillo has been named as the new Westwood Chief of Police. Ms. Dell elaborated on the equitable and long selection process created by the Council and the Borough Administrator. She remarked how fortunate Westwood was to have three highly qualified and capable candidates currently service in the Westwood P.D.

Ms. Dell reported that the Safety Board's latest report addresses several areas of interest regarding parks and ballfields which will be addressed by Director Buchheister and D.P.W. Manager Woods.

The Council is investigating the possibility of installing additional bike racks in several locations throughout town and Ms. Dell will keep the Board advised.

The Council has approved the testing of all water fountains in the Borough to assure the quality and safety of every water fountain.

The McKinley Park Courts refurbishment project which will accommodate tennis and Pickleball is proceeding. The surface material selected has been installed in several other area municipalities and they are very pleased with the results. Discussion followed. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by the end of May, 2018 which will include the new surface, new posts, nets and fencing. The regional school system has approved Westwood's use of the high school courts during the project.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Basketball: Mr. Buchheister reported that the travel league season culminated with a year- end party in the Community Center with most of the players attending which was a great end to a great season.

b. Spring, 2018 Programs: A season summary report was distributed for Board review. Registration is proceeding as anticipated. Mr. Buchheister is very pleased with the increasing number of participants in the art, ceramics, knitting, painting and piano classes. One of the eleven 'Squirts' classes and one science class had to be cancelled for low registration.

Two school Spring Break Camps were held very successfully; Charles Collis of W.W.R.S.D. hosted a basketball camp and resident Bernadette Flood hosted a yoga / art camp.

c. Mr. Buchheister has a meeting tonight with the Westwood Men's Softball League with eight teams. The Women's Softball League did not have sufficient team captains / players so the league will not be held this year. Member Murphy reported that the schedule of the league was very difficult for many of the women; which will be addressed in 2019.

d. Over 55 Programs: The six different programs are all proceeding very well with a burgeoning attendance. The Tai Chi class which started this year has a less than anticipated attendance and additional promotion will be done.

5. e. SNAP: The Winter programs of indoor soccer and art have concluded and the Spring session currently includes 5 tennis players and 6 softball players with additional registrations anticipated.
 - f. Capital Plans – Tennis Courts, Kitchen, new flat screen t.v./cabinet:
 1. Previously addressed.
 2. The architect of the Community Center’s kitchen renovation is finalizing the plans.
 3. Estimates for the Community Center’s restroom renovations are anticipated in the very near future.
 4. The new smart, flat screen t.v. and the new t.v. cabinet have been installed in the Center’s Meeting Room has the full capability to be used for presentations, etc. and it will continue to be used for the Teen Center and many other programs / meetings.
 5. The Center’s Acoustical tiles in the Gym will soon be replaced. The ceiling will be painted white, and white, acoustical ceiling tiles and red/black wall acoustical tiles will be installed. The estimated life of the acoustical tiles is 25 plus years.
 6. The Bergen County Open Space Grant of 2016 has been awarded for the Westvale Park playground roof structures. The Borough will issue the Ordinance for the project, installation is anticipated for late August.
 - g. Staff meeting on April 30th: Mr. Buchheister reported that every Program Coordinator has been invited to attend a meeting on Monday, April 30 in the Center. The Staff of part-time / seasonal / volunteer Coordinators will be brought together to recognize their importance to the success and the team effort of the Department; to address the mission and the future goals of the Department.
 - h. Egg Hunt Recap: The scheduled day of the Egg Hunt this year was the best weekend day of the season; the attendance was excellent, the Face-Painters went above and beyond to make sure every child was satisfied, The Library created an event after the Egg Hunt which was also very successful.
6. OLD BUSINESS:
- a. Committee Assignments:
Over 55 Programs – Michele, Jodi
Teen Center – Angelo
Youth/Pre-School Programs – Amy
Facility Improvement (Parks/CC) – John, Jennifer:
Sponsorship – Jodi, Bermari
 - b. Capital Improvement Plans – Tennis Courts: Previously addressed.
7. NEW BUSINESS:
- a. Director Buchheister reported that a participant in the Over 30 Basketball program collapsed during the program with a heart issue. Two program participants who are a P.A. officer and a C.P.R. Instructor came to his aid. The A.E.D. in the lobby was used, HUMC at P.V. arrived followed by the Westwood Ambulance Corps and thanks to these persons the man’s life was saved. Discussion followed on the A.E.D.s in Borough Facilities and emergency training for all Dept. Coordinators.
 - b. The use of Westvale Park’s parking lot by the DPW for the storage of snow removal in the Winter was discussed including various alternate options.
 - c. Councilmember Dell reported on an anticipated report of the remediation of the inactive Pistol Range adjacent to Westvale Park. Ms. Dell will provide an update to the Board.
 - d. Director Buchheister DPW Manager Woods met regarding the seasonal ballfield preparation. The Westwood Baseball Association and Softball Association have agreed to assist with the field preparation in 2019 under the supervision of DPW staff. Weather permitting, this will be done in March for the beginning of the season in April.
 - e. Ms. Dell reported that she has been asked about the possibility of reinstating fireworks displays in Westwood. Westvale Park is the only Borough location suitable for this but it is currently restricted by the EPA. She also raised the matter of conducting 50/50 raffles at the Concert Series which is not currently possible.
8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:52 P.M. by Member Roig, seconded by Member Murphy. The next meeting will be Monday, May 14, 2018 at 8:00 PM. in the Community Center.