

WALTHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT



DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

December 12, 2012

**The meeting will be held at 510 Moody St., Waltham
The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. Minutes of Board Meeting
2. Monthly Bills
3. Statement of Accounts
4. Waltham Track Club - Annual Presentation
5. Waltham Youth Soccer - Annual Presentation
6. Waltham Pop Warner Football - Annual Presentation
7. 2013 Picnic Permit Fees
8. 2013 - Facility Use Permit Application & Fee and
Waltham Community Center Application & Fee
9. 2013 Summer Program Registration Fees
10. Director's Report
11. Other Recreation Business

The next meeting of the Waltham Recreation Board will be held on Wednesday December 12, 2012. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m., and will be held at the Waltham Recreation Dept, 510 Moody St., Waltham. If you are unable to attend, please notify the office.

The Waltham Recreation Board held their November meeting on November 28, 2012 at the Waltham Community Center, 510 Moody St., Waltham MA.

Present were: Wayne Cook, Thomas Creonte, Patricia Curtin, Bill Fowler, Lisa Limonciello, Richard Scanlon, Gary Vallerand and Jerry Walker. Stacey Gallagher Tully was absent.

Also present were Director of Parks and Recreation Sandra Tomasello and Assistant Director Nick Abruzzi.

Chairman Richard Scanlon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He announced that the meeting was being filmed by WCAC, Waltham's local cable channel and would be shown on the local channel at a later date.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2012 meeting was made by Tom Creonte seconded by Jerry Walker and voted unanimously.

The monthly bills were circulated and signed by all Board members.

As Board members reviewed Director Tomasello noted that there were no significant changes from last month for operating or capital budget accounts.

The next item on the agenda was the Eagle Scout Project at Prospect Hill. Mr. Timothy Starr originally planed to have his slide/video presentation on a screen, but due to some problems getting the screen to the meeting he had to show the Board his presentation on his laptop.

Mr. Starr spent (3) three weekends at the Park clearing out the overlook at the top of the park; painting (7) seven fire hydrants, and installing a park sign.

He met with the City's Engineering Dept. and with Stu LaCrosse and Mike Russo from C.P.W.

Director Tomasello asked if she could get a copy of the video and suggested to Mr. Starr that he send along copies to Engineering and C.P.W. departments.

Board members congratulated him on completing his Eagle Scout project and praised his family on raising such a nice young man.

Next on the agenda were (3) three youth organizations appearing for their annual presentation of their financial reports, program participant statistics and summary of season's activities. Attending the meeting were: Connie Mack Baseball League, Waltham Youth Lacrosse and Waltham Girls Softball.

First before the Board was Connie Mack Baseball League President, Brooks Cranmer, along with Treasurer, Theresa Ricci.

Mr. Cranmer noted that an additional team was added this year, with a total of (5) teams participating in 2012. Approx. (16) players were on each team's roster.

The league runs from the end of May to the beginning of August. One new sponsor was added this year, with hopes of adding more next year. There was a wait list of approx. 12 youths, but these players were placed on teams within (2) two weeks of the opening of the season.

The league consists of 80% Waltham residents, non-residents come from Newton, Lexington Framingham and Milton. The fee charged for participating was \$165.00 for Waltham residents and \$230 for non-residents. Participants would get a refund of \$25.00 if their team shirt was returned and another \$25.00 refunded if an adult volunteered in the concession stand.

The league participated in tournament play in New York and completed their season with a year end banquet/cookout.

Gary Vallerand offered his assistance with field work at the facility for next year's season.

League representatives asked for help from the City with upgrading the existing restroom. It was also mentioned that squirrels continue to enter the building at the press box window. Although repaired by the City's Building Dept., another solution needs to be found to resolve the issue.

Asst. Director, Nick Abruzzi will talk with the other groups that use Jake Dennis Field to see about helping with the problems, seeking their assistance.

Representing the Waltham Girls Softball League was President, Leo Cardarelli. Mr. Cardarelli noted that the league's numbers were down this year. They have done some re-organization of the teams.

This year they added a T-Ball division for kindergarten and first graders. The next division consists of girls in grades 2-5. And the older division is made up of players in grades 6-10.

This past season they hired people from outside their league to hold tryouts to determine team assignments. Mr. Cardarelli noted that it did not work out as they hoped.

As representatives of Waltham Youth Lacrosse had not arrived yet, Director Tomasello suggested that they proceed with the rest of the items on agenda until they arrived.

During the Director's report, Director Tomasello noted that the winter brochure had been delivered to the schools and online registration had begun. Walk-in registration will start on Tuesday, December 4th. Registration is on going until the programs fill.

Director Tomasello reviewed with the Board her communication sent to the Mayor regarding the Department's five year Capital Improvement Budget request. The mayor instructed Department Heads to submit capital budget items for FY2018 only.

She noted that other options for funding could come from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds or Conservation Presentation Act (CPA) funds.

She noted that one area that could possibly benefit from both sources would be Koutoujian Playground. Repairs to the skate park, which opened in 2000, need to be addressed. If future improvements are to be considered, arrangements for parking should also be addressed, which would require looking at undeveloped property on the site.

Another area that has not had any renovations in the (30) years Director Tomasello has been with the Department is Elsie Turner Playground. This area was going to be incorporated into the proposed golf course. Now that this does not seem feasible, improvements should be considered.

Director Tomasello noted that the City is currently in their 8th year of the (20) year lease agreement with the State for the Veterans Memorial Rink. She explained that she and Asst. Director Nick Abruzzi have had meetings to investigate using geo-thermal energy at the facility, along with other committee members made up of City officials appointed by the Mayor.

The project at McKenna Playground has stated with a drainage system being installed under a section of the parking lot area. She also noted that the combined bid for renovations at Nipper Maher Park and the James P. Falzone Memorial Park will open on Monday, December 3.

As there were no other business issues and the Board was notified that a representative from Waltham Youth Lacrosse was on his way, Mr. Jerry Walker motioned to take a short recess. The motion was seconded by Bill Fowler and voted unanimously.

The Board re-adjourned at 6:15 p.m. Chairman Scanlon called the Board to order when President, Steve Duffy from Waltham Youth Lacrosse appeared.

Mr. Duffy talked about the growing program, but wishes that more girls participated. Not only are they competing with softball and soccer, but it's hard to recruit coaches who are familiar with the sport and the rules and regulations.

When asked by Jerry Walker about use of facilities, Mr. Duffy noted that their organization has been using Waltham High's Harding Field for their games and practices.

Director Tomasello asked about non-residents in the program. Mr. Duffy noted that they have two players from Newton. Registration had closed in Newton and Mr. Duffy noted it was hard to say "no" to a youngster who would like to participate in the sport.

Lacrosse clinics will be held on Saturday nights at the high school during the winter months.

He also commented on what great kids and great parents participate in the program.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Thomas Creonte, seconded by Bill Fowler and voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen O'Brien, Clerk