

The Waltham Recreation Board held their June meeting on June 13, 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, Stacey Gallagher Tully, Gary Vallerand and Jerry Walker.

Also present were Director of Parks and Recreation Director 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 will be shown on the local channel at a later date.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2012 meeting was made by Tom Creonte seconded by Jerry Walker and voted unanimously.

The next item for review was the Statement of Accounts. Director Tomasello noted that the operating budget balances will carry through to the end of the fiscal year on June 30 and that there were no changes to the capital account balances.

Next for consideration was a proposal for an Eagle Scout project at Prospect Hill Park. Scout Timothy Starr of Waltham was present to answer any questions concerning his proposal. He addressed the Board with his proposed project - painting the five (5) hydrants in the park, clearing away overgrown brush and clearing the handicapped access path.

Mr. Starr had met with Mike Russo from the C.P.W. Dept prior to meeting with Director Tomasello. He has also met with Mark Mancuso of Water and Sewer, who offered to supply the materials needed for the water hydrant restorations. His also met with Jerry LeBlanc of the Handicapped Commission.

He anticipates the work to take 2-3 weekends to complete. He has approximately 40 people helping, which includes 15 adults, who will help with the power tools. He will have a volunteer EMT on site during the renovations. He has reserved the Summer House site for the first weekend and will provide lunch for the volunteers assisting him.

Lisa Limonciello inquired about other donations. Mr. Starr is going to contact Home Depot. He will also contact the VFW in Dedham where his troop holds their meetings and also Waltham's VFW post.

She praised him for this community project and noted how proud his parents must be.

Bill Fowler noted that Mr. Starr had several years before needing to complete his Eagle Scout commitment at age 18. Mr. Star replied that he wanted to complete it as soon as possible.

A motion to approve Mr. Starr's proposed project was made by Thomas Creonte. The motion was seconded by Stacy Tully and voted unanimously.

An annual request has been submitted by Ron Vanaria, to hold a concert at Prospect Hill Park on Labor Day, Monday, September 3, 2012 from noon to 6:00 p.m. This event has been held at the park for the past three years. Three groups will be playing at the concert – Waltham High School Band Camp, Thirty-5 Times (a group made up of recent graduates of W.H.S.) and Legit (Mr. Vanaria's professional band).

Director Tomasello noted that Mr. Vanaria will notify and invite the local neighbors to the free concert. Since the first year, the group has worked with the neighbors to make the concert enjoyable to all. She recommends approval.

After a short discussion, a motion to approve the request was made by Bill Fowler, seconded by Patricia Curtin and voted unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the proposed 2012-2013 Recreation Board calendar. The Board's meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of the month, with the exception of November and May (working around holidays and scheduling issues).

A motion to approve the 2012-2013 Recreation Board calendar as proposed was made by Jerry Walker. The motion was seconded by Bill Fowler and voted unanimously.

During the Director's Report, Director Tomasello noted Board members received in their folders a calendar of all summer programs (dates and locations).

The summer staff has been finalized, with 3-4 changes made due to applicants declining jobs. The last training for staff will be on Friday, June 15th. Summer programs begin in Monday, June 25, 2012.

The City's internal posting announcing the vacancy of the Building Maintenance position at the Waltham Community Center, home of the Recreation Department. No applications were submitted by the deadline date. The Personnel Department will now post the position on their website for all candidates to apply. That deadline date is July 2, 2012. Since it is a civil service position, notification was sent by Personnel to eligible civil service applicants on the City's list.

Director Tomasello noted the building is currently without a maintenance person. She requested the Board support her plan for having herself, Assistant Director, Nick Abruzzi and Board Chairman Dick Scanlon hold preliminary interviews and present the top two (2) candidates to the Board for their selection. Since the Board is not scheduled to meet again until September, a special meeting would be necessary, most likely at the end of July. A quorum of five (5) Board members would be necessary to have an official vote.

After further discussion a motion to support the plan as proposed by Director Tomasello was made by Jerry Walker. The motion was seconded by Thomas Creonte and voted unanimously.

Renovations at Lazazzero Playground by Marini Corp. are still ongoing. Renovations at Msgr. McCabe Field will begin soon. The first issue to be addressed at McCabe Playground will be drainage along the fence line which abuts the backyards of homes along Mayall Road. Warrendale Little League will be over July 1 at which time construction will begin and the

fields will be closed for the summer. Also included in the project will be spectator seating built into the hill along Candace Ave.

The proposed renovations to James P. Falzone Field are still on hold until a ruling is received from D.E.P. on the appeal.

The final phase of renovations at Nipper Maher Park is scheduled to be finalized in the next month or so. The drainage along Boynton Street will be addressed by the Engineering Department.

Director Tomasello noted all budget increases to the FY2013 budget proposed by the Board were approved by the Mayor and City Council.

However, there were two cuts proposed by the Mayor that were cut by the City Council. The first cut was in the Building Department's budget (\$20,000) for utility expenses at the Waltham Community Center.

The second cut was a proposed grade change, from a grade 17 to 19 to the Director of Parks and Recreation position, submitted by the Mayor, but cut by the City Council. Other personnel grade changes proposed by the Mayor were approved by the City Council with the exception of the Recreation Department's position.

Director Tomasello finds the City Council's decision offensive, but will move forward and anticipates a great summer.

During Other Recreation Business, Thomas Creonte inquired about the contractor for the Warrendale project. Director Tomasello noted that it is the same contractor doing the work at Lazazzero Playground – Ronald Marini Corp.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen O'Brien, Clerk

