

The Waltham Recreation Board held their April meeting on April 24, 2013 at the Waltham Community Center, 510 Moody St., Waltham MA.

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

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

Vice-Chairperson, Jerry Walker called the meeting to order at 5:33 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 March 27, 2013 meeting was made by Thomas Creonte seconded by Patricia Curtin and voted unanimously.

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

In reviewing the Statement of Accounts, Director Tomasello noted that figures for Operating Accounts were current as of April 24th and the figures for the Capital Improvement Accounts are current as of April 15, 2013.

Tom Creonte inquired about the water charges for the Spray Parks. Director Tomasello noted that she had requested the readings be done at the beginning and the end of each season. Invoices have been received for 2012 and will be paid this month, being deducted in April reports.

Next for consideration was a proposed request for Capital Improvement funding in accordance to the Mayor's recommendations for FY2012 and FY2013.

Director Tomasello noted that a request has been made for a truck for maintenance personnel at the Recreation Department. Board members received a quote for a Ford F250 Truck with a plow at a price of \$33,860.00.

Also requested was funding for design services for (3) playground improvement projects. A request for Cedarwood Playground, 25 Intervale Road would include improvements to the basketball court, open green space and woodlands. The improvements to Drake Playground, 3 Hazel St. would be for improvements to the play structure area. And the third park would be at Pond End Tot Lot, 93 Winter Street. The total request for funds is \$150,000.00.

Director Tomasello also talked about design services proposed for improvements at Peter Gilmore Playground. That request has already been approved through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Lisa Limonciello inquired about the time frame for the renovations. Director Tomasello noted that the process could most likely take up to six months. If the funds are secured, neighborhood meetings would be held for input from constituents. Design services bids would go out through the Purchasing Department. A decision would be made to include all (4) projects as one bid or to select designers based on prices received and preliminary concepts presented.

Once the design services were complete, additional funds would be requested to complete the construction of the projects. As in the past, construction could be done in phases. As noted by Director Tomasello, Nipper Maher is currently in Phase 6, with improvements being done over a (10) year period.

Tom Creonte asked where Pond End Tot Lot was located. Director Tomasello described the small neighborhood park located along Winter Street, behind the ice rink.

After further discussion a motion to submit a letter of request to the Mayor for funding to purchase the truck and design services for the (3) locations was made by Thomas Creonte. The motion was seconded by Lisa Limonciello and voted unanimously.

Next on the agenda was information Director Tomasello received from the Waltham Land Trust (WLT). Board members received information concerning the Land Trust's clean up of Hardy Pond on April 27, 2013.

She also received notification of the (WLT) publication of a new trail map of Prospect Hill Park. Unfortunately, it does not include the location of the new comfort station located near the Summer House shelter. She has asked that the next time they may want to contact the Recreation Department and Board for their input before publishing newsletters and/or updated park information through their organization.

Bill Fowler noted that the map does not include the Berry Farm property.

Next for review was the Mayor's Recommendations for the 2013-2014 Community Development Block Grant budget.

For the Recreation Department she has requested \$300,000 for improvements to the Waltham Community Center (WCC) at 510 Moody St. which will most likely be expended on a new roof and air conditioning for the building.

During the Director's Report, Director Tomasello noted that personnel are very busy with spring programming and getting ready for the summer season.

Registration continues for both the Spring and Summer. Registrants must be confirmed as Waltham residents, along with date of birth of participants, to make sure they registered in the correct program. The process of finding out if a youngster is registered in an inappropriate program and proof of residency is a very time consuming task. It's not unusual to have to contact parents several times for the necessary documentation. A

deadline is given for completion of the paperwork, or the child will be removed from the program.

Deadline for applying for a summer staff position is May 3. A list of the proposed summer 2013 staff will be presented to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

Scheduling for the fields is ongoing with Asst. Director Nick Abruzzi and Admin Asst. Karen O'Brien handling all requests.

Construction continues at the James P. Falzone Memorial Park on Trapelo Road. The building has been removed and the facility will be prepared for the synthetic turf field.

Improvements are also scheduled for Nipper Maher to address the drainage problems. Improvements for this problem, will take place across the whole facility. Summer baseball will end on August 15, at which time improvements will begin.

During Other Business, Thomas Creonte inquired about Director Tomasello's budget meeting with Mayor McCarthy.

Mayor McCarty was supportive of the request for an energy study at the Veterans Memorial rink, grade change to Director's position, and request for additional Recreation Supervisor.

Once the Mayor determines her budget proposal for FY2014, she will distribute to Department Heads and to the City Council. Director Tomasello will then attend a budget hearing with the Finance Committee of the City Council, usually sometime in late May or early June.

Should the increase for summer staff wages be approved, the new hourly rate would go into effect the second week of the summer 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 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen O'Brien, Clerk