

The Waltham Recreation Board held their June meeting on June 10, 2020 via a Zoom Meeting.

Present were: Wayne Cook, Patricia Curtin, John Graceffa, Jennie Scafidi, Richard Scanlon, Stacey Tully, Gary Vallerand and Jerry Walker. Absent was Tom Creonte.

Also present were Director, Nick Abruzzi and Assistant Director, Kim Scott.

Chairperson Richard Scanlon called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He announced that the meeting was being recorded through the Zoom app and would be shared to WCAC, Waltham's cable channel and would be shown on the local channel at a later date.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2020 Board Meeting by Jerry Walker, seconded by Tricia Curtin. All were in favor.

Director Abruzzi reviewed the Statement of Accounts explaining that the two pages in their folders detailed current operational and capital budget accounts. The only change since the last Board Meeting was salaries and wages. All accounts are in good standing.

The next item on the agenda was the 2020 Summer Staff list. This list was emailed earlier today for review. Once this list is approved by the Recreation Board it will be sent to Human Resources and the Mayor. The applicants will be notified as soon as all approvals have been received. An alternate list of applicants will receive emails offering them positions at Putt at Prospect Hill and expanding to Amusements, when these facilities open. A motion to approve the 2020 summer staff list was made by Wayne Cook and seconded by Tricia Curtin. All were in favor.

The request from 37 Andrea Road (Tabled) was next on the agenda. A motion was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Wayne Cook to bring the topic back on the table. All were in favor.

A discussion was had by the Board pertaining to its role regarding park land. The role of the Recreation Board is to protect and preserve park land. A motion was made by Wayne Cook to deny the request to sell land at Nipper Maher Park that abuts 37 Andrea Road. A roll call was requested:

Motion to deny the request to sell park property at Nipper Maher Park abutting 37 Andrea Road

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Abstained	Absent
Wayne Cook	X			
Thomas Creonte				X
Patricia Curtin	X			
John Graceffa	X			
Stacey Tully	X			
Jennie Scafidi	X			
Richard Scanlon	X			
Gary Vallerand	X			
Harold (Jerry) Walker	X			
	Total: (8)	Total: (0)	Total: (0)	Total: (1)

Director's Report:

Cornelia Warren Park – Aerial photos were recently provided by MJ Cataldo of the facility. The photos were shared with the Board. Recreation Department Staff met with the design consultant as well as the contractor to create a final punch list. The parking lot will be paved and striped in the next week.

Prospect Hill Design – An informal conversation with the Conservation Commission will be held regarding the park improvements at Prospect Hill on June 11, 2020. A site visit will be scheduled in the near future and the public hearing will occur later in June. Once the Conservation Commission approves the improvement plans, the project will go to Bid for construction later this summer.

Summer Programs Update – The Recreation Department staff is working on offering Resident only programs. The program brochure and registration dates will be announced soon. Summer programs modifications for 2020 will include: half day programs, a six week season, no indoor facilities resulting in programs being canceled in the event of inclement weather, reduced participant enrollment numbers based on new regulations. There will be three in-house programs held at Prospect Hill Park, Monsignor McCabe Playground and Nipper Maher Park. Additional third party programs will be offered. Activity boxes will be sold during the summer registration period to include: Art in a Box, Science in a Box, as well as Build Your Own Gnome House. Weekly afternoon programs will be available for preschool age, youth and teens. These programs will supplement the weekly offerings.

Wellington House – The land clearing project, previously approved by the Recreation Board, will commence in the near future.

Pocket Park Resolution – A resolution, provided in the Board's documents was recently provided regarding Pocket Parks. A site visit will be scheduled in the future and this item will be discussed in the fall of 2020.

Budget – Director Abruzzi had his budget hearing with the City Council's Finance Committee. The hearing went well. The City Council will be voting on the City's budget in the near future.

Spray Parks – The facilities are being prepared to open at the end of June. The Recreation Department is working with CPW to sanitize City playgrounds, daily. A daily record will be signed off each day as parks are completed. This same system will be implemented when Spray Park facilities open.

Other Business

Board discussion was held to commend the Recreation Department staff for the seasonal program offerings and adapting to meet new COVID – 19 guidelines. The Board requests that in the fall of 2020 that the Recreation Staff be present over a period of meetings, so that they can be thanked for their hard work and dedication to providing quality, safe and modified seasonal programs as well as safe and clean recreational facilities.

Director Abruzzi went on to praise Recreational Staff for their time and effort during these challenging times. The staff met often to brainstorm and create plans for the newly released guidelines.

A site visit was recently held at the High School to view alternate space for the Philharmonic Orchestra. The Superintendent provided the Philharmonic with a few options. A decision, regarding the move, will be made in the next week.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly A. Scott
Assistant Director