

Memo

To: City Councilors Robert Logan and Gary Marchese Co-Chairs of Ad-hoc Committee for disposition of the former South Jr. HS and Bright Elementary School

From: Waltham Recreation Board

CC: Ad-hoc Committee Members; Councilor Rourke, Councilor Collura and Councilor Brasco, Mayor McCarthy, and Recreation Department Staff

Date: March 20, 2009

Re: Request to consider space within available city buildings for meeting Recreational Needs of Community.

On behalf of the Waltham Recreation Board I send this communication to you to plea for space to offer recreational programs and services to the residents of Waltham. As you may recall when the new schools were being developed and the City knew that old school buildings would become available to the community, interest was expressed then for additional recreation programming space. One of our greatest challenges in meeting the recreational needs of the community is having available resources, specifically appropriate indoor recreational space like a gymnasium, auditorium, multi-purpose class rooms, fitness/dance/exercise/yoga and indoor space for young toddlers to play together. Our programs are in more demand than ever! With the current economic crisis all families face today we predict more families staying closer to home for recreational outlets. When family budgets have to be cut, recreational participation in expensive health clubs and travel most definitely will be something of the past for many, and limited for others. Waltham has always generated continued residential growth promoting its schools, parks, and recreation. We are very proud of our offerings and have heard many residents comment that friends and family members who live outside of Waltham can't believe what we have and that it's affordable.

Attached for your review is a communication that was sent to Chairman, Councilor Marchese who at the time I believe was on a committee to investigate reuse options for those school buildings declared surplus by the school department and offered to the City. The communication is dated January 28, 2002.

Many of you are very familiar with our offerings of programs and services. With administration offices and indoor space under our jurisdiction located at Totten Pond Road, this small facility is very stressed and limited to say the least. Most programming is offered in the old "ski lodge" building built by the Waltham Jaycees in 1968-1969, for those seeking warmth while skiing at Prospect Hill. It now is used for preschool programs, karate classes, fencing instruction, adult yoga, crafts programs, Friday night movies, toddler gymnastics, program registration; youth sport team registrations and board meetings, prospect hill park advocacy groups meetings, special events, and July 4th festivities. And so much more! Although we do go into the schools, that accessibility is also limited due to all schools now offering "afterschool recreation" extended day programs with private providers. It also gets very expensive, since we need to cover custodial expenses.

If it is determined that space would be available, we ask that you consider designating resources for city sponsored recreational programs and services. Now is the time to seriously address future program expansion for recreational opportunities in the City.

Recreation board members and staff are available to answer any questions you may have and would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matter in greater detail with you.

Enclosed for your review is a summer program brochure which highlights our summer offerings beginning in June. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to the possibility of expanding resources for future recreational opportunities to the residents of Waltham.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra J. Tomasello, Director

Waltham Recreation Department

On behalf of Waltham Recreation Board

Enclosures: 1/28/02 communication

2009 summer program brochure

WALTHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT RECREATIONAL FACILITY SURVEY

A total of 1,648 surveys were completed and returned to our office. The surveys were completed by youths 10 years old through adult. The percentage returned by females was 53% with the male responses at 47%

55% responded they would visit the facility once or twice a week and 29% responded they would visit the facility three or four times a week. The balance (16%) responded either everyday or never.

PUBLIC	HIGH SCHOOL	MCDEVITT	KENNEDY	TOTAL
347	338	482	481	1648

Breakdown of number of Responses Received

Responses to the question - "What activities interest you?" (as listed on the survey) are as follows:

Musical Instrument Lessons	147	234	349	343	1073
Sports and Exercise	221	211	307	302	1041
Spending Time with Friends	154	214	333	311	1012
Laser Tag	64	230	357	346	997
Swimming/Aquatics	230	159	280	280	949
Field Trips	120	174	335	293	922
Cooking/Eating	185	195	261	263	904
Bowling	170	182	275	275	902
Listening to Music	113	219	295	271	898
Miniature Golf	151	171	262	247	831
Sledding/Tubing	138	152	253	255	798
Video Games	40	171	297	277	785
Rock Climbing	93	131	284	252	760
Ping Pong	104	148	225	252	729
Internet Use	74	164	218	213	669
Arts and Crafts	189	103	181	187	660
Computer Games	73	113	239	234	659
Dancing	143	131	187	184	645
Roller Skating	99	124	221	198	642
Photography	110	87	163	166	526
Drama/Performing Arts (Horse)	124	58	166	152	500
Fishing	67	83	158	179	487
Hobbies	45	109	172	150	476
Board Games	105	88	146	128	467
Skiing	88	68	138	160	454
Skateboarding	41	59	177	168	445
Yoga	128	76	117	107	428
Movie Watching	148	59	80	106	393
Reading	128	63	106	95	392
Pottery/Ceramics	113	50	102	111	376
Cycling	86	50	108	117	361
Singing	52	61	124	122	359
Martial Arts	72	68	109	107	356
Scrapbooking	58	44	113	104	319
Karaoke	31	64	100	112	307
Volunteering/Com. Service	105	63	56	59	283
How to Shop	13	51	99	100	263
Gardening	126	21	59	52	258
Sewing	73	26	56	58	213
Backpacking	68	33	44	49	194
Kite Flying	42	22	52	54	170

4331

4529

7604

7439

23903

WALTHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT RECREATIONAL FACILITY SURVEY

A total of 6,254 responses were received to the question "If the City of Waltham were to build an indoor/outdoor recreational facility what activities would you want included in the facility"

The top 25 responses generating a total responses of (667) to (93), 11% to 2% of total responses

Swimming Pool	667
Basketball Court	447
Soccer	328
Laser Tag	223
Bowling Alley	203
Baseball	199
Football	188
Dance Room - Teens	172
Rock Climbing Wall	148
Paint Ball	140
Computer - wireless access/lessons	139
Golf - Miniature	138
Video games/TV	137

Track, running, walking	133
Game Room/board games/cards	118
Tennis	118
Ping Pong	108
Cooking Classes	104
Café/Snack Area	103
Arcade games	98
Skateboard park	98
Arts and Crafts	96
Yoga Room/Lessons	96
Weight Room/Exercise Equip.	94
Movie Room/Movie nights	93

Activities generating between a total of number of (90) to (50) responses - less than 2%

Gym	91
Music Lessons/Programs/Room	91
Volleyball	83
Rink-Hockey/ice skating	77
Exercise Classes/Aerobics	75
Skiing, Tubing, snowboarding, sledding	74

Sports - general	74
Skating - roller	72
Hang with friends	61
Dodgeball	57
Pool - Table/Billiards	55
Hockey/ice skating rink	50

WALTHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT RECREATIONAL FACILITY SURVEY

Activities totaling (49) to (29)

Gymnastics Room/Programs/Equipment	49
Field Trips/special events	45
Singing/Karaoke	42
Art Studio - painting, drawing	41
Homework help	39
Karate/Martial Arts	38

Drama	37
Movie Theater	36
Golf - 9 hole course	34
Go Carts	33
Lacrosse	33
Library/Reading Room	29

Activities totaling (27) to (20)

Ceramics/Pottery/Kiln	27
Photography	26
Theater - stage	26
Batting Cage	24
Dance Room/Classes, jazz, tap, zumba, line	24
Mall	24
Street Hockey	24

Air Hockey	23
Trampoline	23
Fishing	22
Cheerleading	21
Cycling	20
Karaoke/Singing	20
Swimming Pool - specified outdoors	20

WALTHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT RECREATIONAL FACILITY SURVEY

Activities totaling (18) to (1)

Kickball	18
Playspace - indoor - children	18
Playstructure - outdoor	18
Softball/ Clinics	18
Fitness Workout Room/Programs	17
Sewing Classes	17
Skating - Ice/figure	17
Scrapebooking	16
Skateboard park - indoors	15
BMX Track/trail	14
Park	14
Field Hockey	13
Floor Hockey	13
Football - flag	13
Shopping	13
Show - featuring local bands/fashion shows	12
Water Park	12
Gardening	11
Hot Tub/jacuzzi	11
Turf Fields	11
Wii - with sports and fitness programs	11
Archery	10
Fooseball	10
Playspace - older children	10
Boxing	9
Rentable function room/for parties (kitchen)	9
Golf - Indoor driving range/practice facility	7
Finger Boarding	5
Hiking	5

Jonas Brothers Fan Club	7
Journalism, writing	7
Performing Arts	7
Picnic Area/Tables	7
Pilates	7
PreK age activities/area	7
Racquet Ball	7
Roller Blading	7
Trail - Bike	7
Volunteer programs	7
Afterschool Activities	6
Bathrooms	6
Bungee Jumping	6
Capture the Chicken	6
Cycling - Bike Shope	6
Gym - Open gym time	6
How to Shop	6
Indoor Play Area for children	6
Language classes	6
Social Skills - behavior, manner, how to dress	6
Swimming - Water Slide	6
Wrestling	6
Backpacking	5
Badminton	5
Bumper Cars	5
Diving	5
Dog Park	5
Jungle Gym - kids	3
Jump rope	3

**WALTHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATIONAL FACILITY SURVEY**

Skydiving	5
Summer Camp	5
Track - specified outdoor	5
Tutors/Tutoring	5
Animals	4
Amusement Park	4
Auto Tech, car, auto shop	4
Cricket	4
Drop in activities (no sign-ups)	4
Golf - Driving Range	4
Multi Purpose Fields, rugby, lax, soccer, field hockey	4
Play equipment	4
Play equipment - indoor	4
Playground - fenced in	4
Swings	4
Teen Place/programs	4
Theater - drive in	4
Wave Pool	4
Whiffleball	4
X Box 360	4
Classrooms	3
Classrooms - adults, evening classes	3
Community Service	3
Day Care	3
Farm/Farming	3
Frisbee	3
Go Carts - indoors	3
Graffiti (on Walls-2)	3
Inflatables	3
Horseshoes	2
Knitting	2

Lego Training/League	3
Lockers/showers	3
Lounge	3
Music System	3
Poison Ball	3
Recording Studio	3
Robotic Center/Competition	3
Spinning	3
Steam room, showers, sauna	3
Team Sports	3
Trail - Walking	3
Tug of War	3
Water Slide	3
Weight Loss Program	3
Artificial Lake	2
Audio/Video recording studios	2
Babysitting	2
Baseball - Indoors	2
Bible Camp	2
Bocce	2
Boot Camp	2
Camping	2
Car Racing	2
Chess	2
Family Activities	2
Friday Night activities - 4, 5 & 6 graders	2
Golf - indoors	2
Gun Range, skeet shoot	2
Gym - Sensory	2
Clubs	1
Comic Books	1

**WALTHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATIONAL FACILITY SURVEY**

Membership fee	2
Minature Fenway	2
Nature Activities/classes	2
New Mom/Baby Group	2
Non Competitive sports for children	2
Shuffleboard	2
Ski - revive Prospect Ski Hill	2
Slamball	2
Squash	2
Tech Lab - audio, video	2
Volleyball - specified beach	2
Waiting Area	2
Water Polo	2
Weekend hours	2
Wood Shop, woodworking	2
Yoga - all ages	2
Activities on weeknights, grouped by age	1
Adult Times only	1
Aikido	1
Aquarium, frog pond	1
Arcade games - NO	1
Auditorium, performance arena	1
Basketball - Adult League	1
Basketball - wheelchair	1
Book Club	1
Bowling - specified outdoors	1
Carnival Games	1
Child Care	1
Cleaning Club	1
Health/wellness workshops	1
Holiday Events	1

Conference/training room	1
CPR classes	1
Cycling - Bike Rentals	1
Darts	1
Dirt Bike Riding	1
Dog Shop	1
Drag Racing	1
Evenings & weekend classes	1
Fashion Design	1
Field Day	1
Fields - Youth/adult play	1
Fitness Course with distant markers	1
Flower Gardens	1
Foam Pit	1
Football - indoor field	1
Foreign Language Classes	1
Four Square	1
Free access to resident taxpayers	1
Free Beverages	1
Garden - community	1
Giant Checkers	1
Golf - Cages	1
Golf - Disc	1
Golf - putting green	1
Golf - Team	1
Golf Lessons	1
Graphic Design	1
Guest Speakers	1
Handball	1
Outdoor Skating Rink	1
Outdoor Stage	1

**WALTHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATIONAL FACILITY SURVEY**

Home Economics Room (cooking, preserve food, financial)	1
Hopscotch, 4 square	1
Horseback riding	1
Inventment Club for kids	1
Juke Boxes	1
Kick Boxing	1
Kite Flying	1
Lake with fish	1
Lazy River	1
Location - in center of Waltham	1
Location - next to McDevitt	1
Massage therapy	1
Matball	1
Maze	1
MCAS help	1
Metal Fabrication	1
Monkey Bars	1
Monthly Socials - introduce new neighbors	1
Motor Scooters	1
Mountain Climbing	1
Museum - children's	1
Nap Room	1
Nature Trail	1
Night Club	1
No Smoking	1
Nutrition	1
Obstacle Course	1
Older Adult Classes	1
Orienteering	1
Self Improvement	1
Skating - outdoor rink	1

Parent Night Out with services	1
Parent/baby, parent/toddler classes	1
Parties	1
Pie Eating	1
Pitch and Putt	1
Play Area - indoors	1
Play Area - with obstacle course	1
Playgroups	1
Playroom - separate for children/youth	1
Playtime - rainy days, no school days	1
Poker RoomTeam	1
Pool - Bumper	1
Programs to expand a child's world and mind	1
Quad Course	1
Radio Control Model Flying Area	1
Racing Track	1
Rapping	1
ReCycle Bins	1
Riflery	1
Rock and Roll	1
Roller Coaster	1
Rope Climbing	1
Rugby	1
Sauna	1
Scavenger Hunt	1
School Vacation week programs	1
Science Club	1
SCUBA Diving	1
Seesaws	1

**WALTHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATIONAL FACILITY SURVEY**

Skee-ball	1
Ski Slope	1
Sleepover Camp	1
Slumber Party Theme	1
Spelunking	1
Sports - equipment	1
Spy Training	1
Swimming - Wading Pool	1
Tables	1
Tag	1

Tai Chi	1
Tennis - specified outdoors	1
Texas Hold'em tournaments	1
Theater - outdoors	1
Trail - Hiking	1
Transportation to facility	1
Trapeze	1
Tree Climbing	1
Tubes	1
Video game tournament	1
Visual Aid Touch Screen	1
Wake Boarding	1
Water Balloons	1
Water Tubing	1
Yoga - chair class	1
Zero tolerance behavior	1
ZipLine	1

*The following page summarizes the survey results by age,
grade, school attended, and number of anticipated visits.*

**WALTHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATIONAL FACILITY SURVEY**

	PUBLIC	HIGH SCHOOL	MCDEVITT	KENNEDY	TOTAL
Number of Responses Received	347	338	482	481	1648
Forms					
Email Responses	141	N/A	N/A	N/A	141
Responses from Water Bills	165	N/A	N/A	N/A	165
Responses from Rec. Participants	41	N/A	N/A	N/A	41
Gender					
Male	107	169	240	246	762
Female	240	169	242	229	880
Number of adults in household	597	N/A	N/A	N/A	595
Number of children under 18 in household	408	N/A	N/A	N/A	408
Age					
19	N/A	1			1
18	N/A	12			12
17	N/A	56			56
16	N/A	47			47
15	N/A	94	2	2	98
14	N/A	126	29	26	181
13	N/A	2	163	170	335
12	N/A		145	143	288
11	N/A		112	134	246
10	N/A			6	6
Grade					
12	N/A	66			66
11	N/A	31			31
10	N/A	92			92
9	N/A	149			149
8	N/A		154	166	320
7	N/A		181	154	335
6	N/A		147	161	308
School (formerly attended)					
Banks	N/A	11	2		13
Bright	N/A	21	58		79
Fitzgerald	N/A	36	95	3	134
Fitch	N/A	6	0		6
MacArthur	N/A	56	7	130	193
Northeast	N/A	49	13	131	193
Plympton	N/A	25	15	104	144
Stanley	N/A	29	121	15	165
Whittemore	N/A	36	110	4	150
Parochial	N/A	17	15	26	58
Other	N/A	29	18	35	82
Did not answer	N/A	14	28	33	75
McDevitt	N/A	7	N/A		7
Kennedy	N/A	2	N/A		2
How often would you visit?					
Everyday	14	21	50	29	114
Three or Four times a week	121	70	136	142	469
One or Twice a week	195	178	268	257	898
Never	17	69	28	47	161

Indoor and Outdoor Recreational Facility Survey
One Survey per Household
To be Completed by an Adult

Gender M F Number of adults in household: _____

Number of children under 18 in household: _____

If the City of Waltham built a new recreational facility, how often would you visit?

Everyday _____

Three or four times a week _____

Once or twice a week _____

Never _____

If the City of Waltham were to build an indoor/outdoor recreational facility, what activity would you want included in that facility?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Please return survey by October 20, 2008 to Recreation Department at 314 Totten Pond Road, Waltham, MA 02451, or download a survey online at www.city.waltham.ma.us and click on Recreation Dept. link. The survey can be emailed back to: kascott@city.waltham.ma.us

(Survey continued on back)

Please Choose the Activities That Interest You

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Instrument Lessons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacking | <input type="checkbox"/> Movie Watching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Games | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bowling | <input type="checkbox"/> Ping Pong |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Games | <input type="checkbox"/> Pottery/Ceramics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking/Eating | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cycling | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Climbing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing | <input type="checkbox"/> Roller Skating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drama/Performing Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Scrapbooking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Singing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hobbies | <input type="checkbox"/> Skiing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> How to Shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Sledding/Tubing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internet Use | <input type="checkbox"/> Spending Time With Friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Karaoke | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports and Exercise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kite Flying | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming/Aquatics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Tag | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Games |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listening to Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering/Community Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Martial Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Yoga |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miniature Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

WALTHAM PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

TO: CITY COUNCILLOR, GARY MARCHESE
FROM: SANDRA J. TOMASELLO, DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION
SUBJECT: COMMUNITY CENTER
DATE: 01/28/02
CC: NICK ABRUZZI, ASST. DIRECTOR OF PARKS & REC.

AS A FOLLOW-UP TO OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION REGARDING THE POSSIBLE USE OF A SCHOOL BUILDING, I HAVE PUT TOGETHER A LIST OF FACILITY NEEDS IN CREATING A "COMMUNITYCENTER" CONCEPT FOR THE CITY OF WALTHAM

- GYMNASIUM(S)
- FITNESS ROOM
- AEROBICS/DANCE ROOM
- AUDITORIUM/ THEATRE
- MULTI-PURPOSE CLASSROOMS
- KITCHEN AREA FOR FOOD SERVICE AND TO OFFER COOKING CLASSES
- COMPUTER ROOM
- YOGA/FLOOR EXERCISE ROOM
- CONFERENCE ROOM
- YOUTH ROOMS - T.V., MOVIES, GAME ROOM, QUIET STUDY ROOM
- PRE-SCHOOL/TODDLER CLASSROOM AND PLAY ROOM
- CAFETERIA
- REST ROOMS/SHOWERS/LOCKERS - DRESSING ROOMS
- EQUIPMENT AND STORAGE AREAS
- ADMINISTRATION OFFICES
- LARGE ENTRANCE/SPACIOUS CONCOURSE AREA/SERVICE DESK AREA

- REGISTRATION AREA/COMPUTER/DESK/WAITING AREA
- FIRST AID ROOM
- VARIOUS CLASSROOM SIZE ROOMS FOR OFFERING NUMEROUS REC. PROGRAMS
- STAFF ROOM WITH LOCKERS/DESKS FOR SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTORS, REFEREES OR OFFICIALS, PROGRAMMING STAFF, AND VOLUNTEERS
- SMALL GYMNASTICS ROOM
- MAINTENANCE ROOM/STORAGE OF SUPPLIES

As we briefly discussed, we are limited to what we can offer due to the indoor facilities under our jurisdiction. The current "Recreation Building" was built as a ski lodge to accommodate those skiing at Prospect Hill. We do use gymnasiums in the Waltham schools, but must work around school scheduling. It is also very costly, since we are required to pay custodial charges. In 1968, when the ski lodge was built, it was a welcome facility to offer recreational programs. We have outgrown the space and most definitely would welcome use of an abandoned school, if the opportunity arose in addition to our offices and space at Prospect Hill Park.