

The Waltham Parks-Recreation Board held their June meeting on June 9, 2021 via a Zoom Meeting.

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

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

Chairperson Richard Scanlon called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 12, 2021 Parks-Recreation Board meeting by Jerry Walker, seconded by Gary Vallerand. All were in favor.

The monthly bills report for the last month will remain in the Recreation Department Office. Director Abruzzi requested that the Parks-Recreation Board stop by the office in the next week to review and sign the bills report.

The Statement of Accounts was the next item on the agenda. Director Abruzzi referenced two pages in the Parks-Recreation Board's folder detailing operational and capital accounts. Director Abruzzi stated that routine spending and expenses had occurred since last meeting. Director Abruzzi noted that on the operational page, the Veterans Rink – Salaries & Wages was currently a deficient of \$9,617.00. The Rink staff have recently started working their summer schedule within recreational facilities. In the near future, their salaries and wages will be adjusted to the Recreation General Support – Personnel budget. All accounts are in good standing.

The proposed 2021-2022 Youth Organization Schedule was next on the agenda. Director Abruzzi explained that the 2021-22 Youth Organization Schedule was comparable to previous years, scheduling groups to appear in front of the Parks-Recreation Board beginning in October of 2021.

A motion to approve the 2021-2022 Youth Organization Schedule was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Tom Creonte. All were in favor.

Prospect Hill Signage was next on the agenda. Prospect Hill Park is currently under construction. In addition to the major improvement project currently underway, there are smaller projects ongoing throughout Prospect Hill Park. These projects were discussed during Park Ranger Adam Green's presentation to the Parks-Recreation Board. Director Abruzzi explained that Park Ranger Adam Green has begun installing posts on trails within Prospect Hill Park for future trail signage upgrades. Signage will all be consistent with QR codes linking to the Prospect Hill Park map.

Director's Report:

Prospect Hill Park Capital Improvement Project - A ground breaking ceremony was recently held at Prospect Hill Park. Director Abruzzi thanked the Parks-Recreation Board Members that were able to attend. The project is progressing nicely with the foundation for the playground and spray park recently poured. Underdrainage and rain gardens have been completed and inspected, as well. Paving will begin in the next two weeks.

McDonald/Thompson Playground Capital Improvement Project – Both parks are currently under construction. Green Acres Landscape and Construction is working on sidewalks at McDonald Playground, as well as grading. A tank was recently found in the middle of the park property. An outside company has been brought in to inspect, test and remove the tank safely. Preliminary tests are negative for contamination. The wall and fencing at Thompson Playground are just about completed.

Lake Street Presentation – At a recent meeting, Phil Moser from the Conservation Commission presented regarding potential future improvements to the shore line of Hardy Pond Road at Lazazzero Playground and Shore Road. Director Abruzzi will continue to talk with Mr. Moser regarding this potential future project. A second proposal from the Hardy Pond Association was also sent to the Parks-Recreation Board. Director Abruzzi wanted confirmation if the Parks-Recreation Board wanted to further discuss the Shore Road request from Hardy Pond Association, based on previous Parks-Recreation Board conversation to only focus on projects on current park land or have it brought back to the table at a future meeting? Director Abruzzi would like to follow up with the Hardy Pond Association regarding their current request. The Parks-Recreation Board discussed the topic and felt that the land is not currently under the care and control of the Parks-Recreation Board. They felt that there are many current park projects being coordinated. The Parks-Recreation Board has a five-year capital improvement plan. They would like to see Lazazzero Playground in the future added to the five-year Capital Budget schedule and would like to consider these types of improvements, at that time.

Lowell Field Public Meeting – Director Abruzzi stated that enclosed in the Parks-Recreation Board information packet includes a flyer to a public input meeting for Lowell Field on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. The meeting will be held at Lowell Field at 190 Grove St. This public meeting will gather community feedback for future improvements. Lowell Field improvements were completed prior to 1998. The spray park was added in 2002.

Spray Parks – A flyer was provided in the Parks-Recreation Board packet of information, announcing that a number of spray parks opened on June 4, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Nipper Maher Park, Lazazzero Playground, McCabe Playground are not open at this time. Seal coating will occur at these locations. Drake Playground was recently repaved and then will be seal coated. Thanks to Mike Chiasson, Director of the Consolidated Public Works Department (CPW) for providing

funding to repave this facility. All facilities will be up and running for the start of the summer season.

Finance Committee – Director Abruzzi attended the Finance Committee on Thursday, June 3, 2021. The Finance Committee had great questions and were very pleased with seasonal programs and park projects. Director Abruzzi spoke about our Parks-Recreation Board and how invested they are in the Community.

Request from a Resident – The Mayor forwarded a letter from a young resident requesting hockey board system to be installed at Monsignor McCabe Playground, similar to what can be found at Bobby Connors Playground, Cedarwood Playground and Hillcroft Playground. At this time there are no plans for improvements to McCabe Playground. Someone from the Recreation Department will meet with the young resident to learn more about his idea and thank him for the request. The Recreation Department will hold the request for consideration when future improvements are scheduled.

Bay State Games Hall of Fame – Director Abruzzi was recently notified from the Bay State Games Organization that Waltham Recreation Department has been recognized for their involvement and efforts over the years. Director Abruzzi and the Waltham Recreation Department will be inducted into the Bay State Games Hall of Fame at a ceremony scheduled for later this summer. Director Abruzzi noted that this is a tremendous honor and it's been a pleasure to work with this organization through the years.

Other Business:

Carnival – Board Member Tom Creonte inquired on the status on the location of the Lions Club Carnival. Director Abruzzi stated that Recreation Staff met today with members of the Lions Club and representatives from 200 5th Ave Management Group to look at the 5th Ave location for a potential site for parking and carnival. At the conclusion of the meeting, Lion Club members were discussing details with the 5th Avenue Management Group, for this location.

Clivus Unit Request – Board Member Gary Vallerand inquired about Clivus Units, throughout the City of Waltham. He requested if a new unit is to be installed that Nipper Maher Park be considered as a location.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by Gary Vallerand. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly A. Scott
Assistant Director