

The Waltham Parks-Recreation Board held a Special Meeting on March 25, 2021 via a Zoom Meeting.

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

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

Chairperson Richard Scanlon called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. 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.

The first item on the agenda was the FY 2022 Budget Proposal. Director Abruzzi explained that the one-page document, provided to the Parks-Recreation Board prior to this meeting, includes two columns. The first column is the current appropriated FY 2021 Budget. The second column is the proposed FY 2022 budget. There is an increase of approximately \$141,024.00 from FY2021 to FY 2022. \$91,000.00 of those increases were accounted for personnel costs and step raises in Salaries/Wages. There was another \$10,000.00 increase in part time wages, as the Park-Recreation Board recently voted to approve an increase from \$13.00 to \$15.00 per hour. \$25,000.00 increase was requested for Water. With the additional spray parks and irrigation systems to the newly renovated parks, the water bills have also increased. There are a total of 12 spray park facilities throughout the City. The final increase seen was for \$20,000.00 in the Support of Recreation Account. As athletic leagues return to normal game schedules, night lighting will increase. The electricity usage will increase at those facilities with lights. Additional electrical cost will be seen at the future spray park facility at Prospect Hill Park. Director Abruzzi then stated that once the Budget is approved by the Parks-Recreation Board, it will be sent to the Mayor and City Council. Budget hearings will be held prior to the budget being officially approved.

A motion to approve the FY 2022 Proposed Budget was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Jennie Scafidi. All were in favor.

The second item on the agenda was the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Request for Year 47. The one-page document provided to the Parks-Recreation Board provided a breakdown of the request. The first request included ADA Improvements to the back nine holes at the Putt at Prospect Hill Park. The first nine holes were renovated in recent years and the back nine are in need of repair and accessibility upgrades. The second request was for ADA Composite Restroom Facility for Cornelia Warren Park. CDBG funds have recently been allocated for installation of the Clivus Units installed, summer of 2020, at Lowell Field, Lazazzero Playground and Falzone Field. The final request was for Tree Plantings at Lazazzero Playground. Citing the two proposals sent to the Parks-Recreation Board for consideration, funding for plantings would assist in reducing erosion along the shore line of Hardy Pond.

A motion to approve the Community Development Block Grant Year 47 request was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by John Graceffa. All were in favor.

Director's Report:

State of Massachusetts Youth and Adult Sports Activities Update

Phase IV, Step 1 of the Youth and Adult Sports Activities State of Massachusetts Protocols and guidelines were released on March 22, 2021. The newest edition of this document has minimal impact on current regulations. All groups that receive permits to utilize Parks and Facilities with the Recreation Department are required to sign that they acknowledge and will comply with the regulations.

State of Massachusetts Summer Recreation Camps and Programs Update

On Wednesday, March 24, 2021 the State of Massachusetts released updated summer regulations and guidelines. The updated regulations and guidelines were shared with the Recreation Staff. For this summer, the Recreation Department will continue to offer outdoor summer programming, similar to last summer.

Other Business:

Director Abruzzi took a moment to thank the Parks-Recreation Board for being available to participate in today's special meeting.

Board Member Gary Vallerand inquired if he could share his men's softball league waiver with Director Abruzzi for review. He also asked for information to prepare for the upcoming season and up to date regulations. Director Abruzzi said that he would send him the packet of information.

Board Member Stacey Tully made note that the construction fencing has gone up at Prospect Hill Park. Director Abruzzi expanded to say that Green Acres, contractor for this project, has begun with tree work, utilizing Tree Tech as their sub-contractor. The initial tree removal and pruning has made a huge improvement. Director Abruzzi also noted that with continued communication, the construction vehicles staging at Prospect Hill Park have only been seen in the morning, as per the agreement. The Park is being monitored by Recreation Staff.

A reminder will be sent out for the site meeting at Lazazzero Playground for Wednesday, March 31, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by Wayne Cook. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly A. Scott
Assistant Director