

The Waltham Recreation Board held their November Board meeting on November 10, 2021 at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

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

Also present was Assistant Director, Kim Scott.

Chairperson Richard Scanlon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2021 Parks-Recreation Board Meeting by Wayne Cook, seconded by Tom Creonte. All were in favor.

The monthly bills were circulated and signed by all Parks-Recreation Board Members.

Assistant Director Scott reviewed the statement of accounts explaining that two pages in their folders detailed operational and capital budget balances. Assistant Director Scott noted that account balances were similar to last month. On the Capital Improvement page, two new accounts have been added. The funding for design services of Lowell Field has been added as well as a portion of the funding for design services for Fernald (Parcel 1). The remaining portion of the Fernald (Parcel 1) design amount is in the appropriation stage. All accounts are in good standing.

The next item on the agenda was the Youth Sports Group Presentations.

The first group of the evening was Waltham Youth Lacrosse, represented by President David Becker. Mr. Becker shared that within the last year, Waltham Lacrosse has absorbed the Watertown Girls Lacrosse program. This past year, approximately 260 athletes were enrolled. Fundraising for the 2021 season did not occur due to the pandemic. Registration for the 2022 season will open in the near future. The Parks-Recreation Board thanked Mr. Becker for his time.

The second group of the evening was Waltham Youth Baseball Little League, represented by outgoing president Bill Hanley and newly elected president Jeff Paladino. Mr. Hanley stated that he has stepped down as President and a new board has been elected for the 2022 season. Mr. Hanley stated record number of registrations were seen this past year. The fall season saw a championship. Financially the league is stable as sponsorships and grants were received. Rebuilding the concession stands will be the focus of the upcoming season. Only two non-residents participated. Mr. Paladino noted that the older divisions of Warrendale Little League played as part of the Waltham Little League. Mr. Paladino plans to reach out to the Warrendale Little Leagues President about plans for the 2022 season. Assistant Director Scott noted that the Recreation Department will be reaching out to Mr. Paladino to review policy and procedures. Mr. Hanley was thanked for this time and service and Mr. Paladino was welcomed by the Park-Recreation Board.

The third group of the evening was Waltham Youth Wrestling, represented by Vice President Mike Collins. Waltham Youth Wrestling was excited to start a new season, as they did not

operate last year due to the pandemic. Mr. Collins was excited for their new home, for the 2021-22 season at the Waltham Recreation Department. Registration policies for this season will welcome past athletes as well as Waltham youth. The registration goal is for 50 athletes. Mr. Collins explained that new mats were purchased in the fall of 2021, which was a major financial investment. There has been no fundraising due to the pandemic. Practices will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Wrestling meets will occur on Saturdays. Waltham Wrestling will be traveling for the meets. The 2021-22 season will begin this November and continue through March. The Parks-Recreation Board thanked Mr. Collins for his time.

The final group of the evening was Waltham Track Club, representative Treasurer Joe Tranchita. Mr. Tranchita stated their program has operated all four seasons and was thankful their Board had a variety of creative contingency plans to continue to hold safe practices. An indoor program did not occur last winter, but the Track Club's focus was on distance running. Athletes would meet and run around the Common as well as the Riverwalk, weather permitting. The Waltham Track Club has permission to utilize the track at Brandeis University, during the University's winter break. Mr. Tranchita has also been in contact to Director Abruzzi about alternative location outdoor options. Mr. Tranchita was excited about the new Boston Landing Track and Field Complex, opening in March of 2022 and has secured weekly sessions next year. The Parks-Recreation Board thanked Mr. Tranchita for his time.

Prospect Hill Park – Fitness Equipment was the next item on the agenda. This project was previously discussed by Director Abruzzi. Assistant Director Scott noted that Recreation Department Staff have been working with Chris Quincy, Real Estate Manager of properties that abut Prospect Hill Park. Mr. Quincy provided a letter stating that they will purchase and pay for installation of five fitness stations within Prospect Hill Park. A quote and renderings for the fitness equipment was also provided. Once approved, Director Abruzzi will seek City Council approval for this donation. The project will begin in spring of 2022.

A motion to approve the donation and installation of fitness equipment was made by Wayne Cook and seconded by Stacey Tully. All were in favor.

A request for the 2022 Needham Memorial Day Tournament was next on the agenda. The request letter for this event could be found in the Parks-Recreation Board's folder. Assistant Director Scott noted that this has been a successful annual event held on Memorial Day weekend.

A motion to approve the 2022 Needham Memorial Day Tournament was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by Wayne Cook. All were in favor.

A request for the 2022 Bay State Summer Games was the next item on the agenda. Assistant Director Scott noted the request letter for this event was in the Parks-Recreation Board's folder. This organization has been great to work with through the years. The Recreation Department will again work closely with the Bay State Games to prepare for this July event.

A motion to approve the 2022 Bay State Games request was made by Tricia Curtin and seconded by Wayne Cook. All were in favor.

Director's Report:

Prospect Hill Park Project Update – The project is completed and the ribbon cutting event is currently being scheduled. A communication will be shared with the date and time of the official park opening.

McDonald and Thompson Playgrounds Project Update – The projects are completed and the ribbon cutting events are currently being scheduled. A communication will be shared with the date and time of the official opening of the parks.

Veterans Field Turf Replacement Design – Recreation Staff have recently met with NESRA Engineering to begin the design process for replacement of the turf at Veterans Athletic Complex. The hope is to have the design in place in the next few months and seek a bid for construction, this winter.

Lowell Field Improvements – A meeting with Carolyn Cooney and Associates recently took place to begin the design process for improvement to Lowell Field. The design should take two to three months.

Other Business

Conversation was had about the Veterans Memorial Skating Rink and options for additional parking. Assistant Director Scott stated that a side walk along Totten Pond Road was installed as part of the Prospect Hill Park construction project. Athletes and families can park at Prospect Hill Park for additional parking.

Additional conversation was had about confirming the fields and dug outs at Nipper Maher Park were locked for the winter season.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by Jennie Scafidi, all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly A. Scott
Assistant Director