

The Waltham Parks-Recreation Board held a Special Board meeting on September 1, 2021 via a Zoom Meeting.

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

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 Lions Club – Light Show Request. Bob Malone from the Lions Club and Eugene (EJ) Dean from Fiesta Shows presented. A four-page document was presented to the Parks-Recreation Board outlining the plan for the proposed light show to be held at the former Fernald Property. This event was held at this location last year. The organizers of this event would work with the various City Department's to ensure a safe and successful event. All tickets would be purchased online and emailed updates of the event would be sent directly to each patron. This event would operate from November 26, 2021 to January 2, 2022. Fiesta Shows would begin setting up on November 1, 2021 and it would take approximately four to five days to take down and clean up after the last evening show in January. A night watchman would be hired once the setup of the event is underway.

A motion to approve the Lion's Club Light Show was made by John Graceffa and seconded by Wayne Cook. All were in favor.

Director's Report:

104 Acres – An RFP for design services for the 104 acres of the former Fernald Property went out last month. A Prebid meeting was held on August 6, 2021. Over 20 designers were present. The Bid opening will occur on September 7, 2021. Once a designer is selected, Director Abruzzi will begin the process to secure funds for design services.

Fernald Site Article – In the Parks-Recreation Board folder is an article written by Eric Olson of Brandeis University. This article provides details on the types of trees found on the former Fernald Property. This article will be used as a future tool when evaluating the trees at this location.

***A Walk in the Park*, a book by Lesley Sneddon** – An email trail is provided within the Parks-Recreation Board folder regarding a field guide that was created by Lesley Sneddon regarding the plant communities of Prospect Hill Park. The excellent book is very informative. Director Abruzzi will invite Ms. Sneddon to a future Parks-Recreation

Board meeting. The book is available in the Recreation Department office if anyone is interested in reading it.

Lowell Field – A public input meeting was held on August 3, 2021. This meeting discussed the future improvements to the facility. This well attended meeting brought the neighbors, Parks-Recreation Board members, City officials and staff. A designer is being sought at this time.

Summer 2021 Season – This summer's nine-week summer season concluded on August 20, 2021. Despite the rain and the high temperature challenges, youth and staff had a great season. The use of school facilities was appreciated for indoor programming use. Summer statistics will be presented at the September Parks-Recreation Board meeting.

September 15, 2021 Parks-Recreation Board Meeting – The next Parks-Recreation Board meeting will be held in person at 510 Moody St. The City has issued a mask mandate and masks are required indoors. WCAC, Waltham's cable channel, has reached out to inform us that they are not able to commit to recording this year's meetings.

Prospect Hill Park Improvements – Construction is ongoing with a completion date of the beginning of October 2021. Shipping delays of fencing material and poured in place material are being addressed at this time.

McDonald/Thompson Playground Improvements - Construction is ongoing with a completion date of the beginning of October 2021. Shipping delays of fencing material and pour in place material are being addressed at this time.

Other Business:

Parks Recreation Board Members received positive feedback from this summer's program offerings.

Discussion was had when the infield work would begin at Monsignor McCabe Playground and Nipper Maher Park. Director Abruzzi noted that work is scheduled to begin during the month of September.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly A. Scott
Assistant Director