

The Waltham Recreation Board held a special meeting on July 25, 2012 at the Waltham Community Center, 510 Moody St., Waltham MA.

Present were: Wayne Cook, Thomas Creonte, Patricia Curtin, Richard Scanlon, Stacey Gallagher Tully, Gary Vallerand and Jerry Walker. Bill Fowler and Lisa Limonciello were absent.

Also present was Assistant Director Nick Abruzzi.

Chairman Richard Scanlon called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The first item on the agenda was the selection/approval of a new building maintenance person for the Recreation Department's Waltham Community and Cultural Center. Asst. Director Abruzzi informed the Board that on July 20th, he along with Director Sandra Tomasello and Board member Wayne Cook interviewed two candidates for this position. Mr. Yvon Cormier was selected and recommended for the position and was asked to appear before the Recreation Board for their approval.

Mr. Walker asked Mr. Cormier to talk about his experience and why he applied for the position. Mr. Cormier noted that he has several years of experience with custodial/maintenance including jobs at MIT and the Town of Westwood. Mr. Walker also inquired if working different shifts including nights and weekends would be a problem. Mr. Cormier replied that it would not be a problem.

Discussions followed with Mr. Cormier talking about his duties at previous positions, noting that he was self-motivated. His recommendation letters included one from his former employer at the Westwood Public School Department.

Assistant Director Abruzzi highlighted his experience with plumbing and painting and that he would be a good fit in the department and was a solid candidate.

After further discussion, a motion to approve Mr. Yvon Cormier as the Maintenance Person for the Waltham Community Cultural Center was made by Wayne Cook, seconded by Jerry Walker and voted unanimously.

Next for the Board's review was a request from St. Jude School for their annual "Barnyard Bingo" event. They are requesting use of Cornelia Warren Field for Saturday, October 13, 2012 (rain date: October 14, 2012).

Mr. Scanlon noted that there would be no conflict with Pop Warner's use of the facility.

After a short discussion, a motion to approve the request was made by Wayne Cook, seconded by Gary Vallerand and voted unanimously.

A request to hold a soccer tournament Thanksgiving weekend at Veterans Memorial Complex was submitted by James Hamblin from Mass Premier Soccer. Asst. Director

Abruzzi noted that the group has used the facility for this high school showcase tournament the last two years. They pay the necessary fees for the use of the facility.

Questions arose concerning inclement weather during this time. Asst. Director Abruzzi noted that Mass Premier understands that if the fields become unplayable because of snow or severe inclement weather, the tournament will not be held. He also noted that at this time of the year the painted lines on the field have faded and Mass Premier has offered to re-paint the lines for this event.

After further discussion, a motion to approve the request was made by Thomas Creonte, seconded by Gary Vallerand and voted unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a communication from Mayor Jeannette McCarthy to the Recreation Board concerning the position of Director of Recreation.

Mayor McCarthy noted that at a City Council meeting the Council voted against a recommendation from the Finance Committee to increase the grade level of the Recreation Director position. A reason given was based on the Recreation Director's duties being reduced by half since the Parks Division merged with the Consolidated Public Works Division (C.P.W.). The Mayor asked if this in fact was true and to provide her with an analysis one way or the other.

Asst. Director Abruzzi noted that the matter in question was the proposed change in grade of the Director of Recreation as recommended by Mayor McCarthy during the FY2013 budget hearings. He noted that the duties of the position have not been cut in half. He noted that the department did lose maintenance positions when they merged with the Consolidated Public Works Dept., but also noted the significant increase in programs and services since the merge as well as additional staff members.

Board members noted the increase of facilities and programs that the Director oversees including taking over operations at the Veterans Memorial Rink beginning in 2005. Since 2000 all the City wading pools have been converted into new spray parks, including Fitch Spray Park which recently had their grand opening. The Recreation Department also oversees the new Veterans Memorial Complex on Forest Street, built in 2006. This past year 1,900 permits were issued for use at this facility. The Department also took over the scheduling of the Waltham Community and Cultural Center, which has been their office since March 2010.

Board members talked about all the old and new programs that the Director oversees. Wayne Cook complimented the success of the new Chill Zone program for middle school age youngsters, which began last year.

Mr. Walker noted that the Director did not lobby for this raise/grade increase, but he noted how down hearted the Director was when talking about this at the last meeting. He said that the Board and city are lucky to have her.

After further discussion a motion was made by Jerry Walker to send a letter to Mayor McCarthy stating that the Director of Recreation's responsibilities were not cut in half and that a roll call vote be attached to the letter and the response from the Board be sent out right away. This motion was seconded by Stacy Tully and voted unanimously.

A roll call vote was taken in response to the motion stating that the job responsibilities were not cut in half – "Yes" was in favor of this motion, "No" was against.

Thomas Creonte	Yes
Wayne Cook	Yes
Jerry Walker	Yes
Gary Vallerand	Yes
Patricia Curtin	Yes
Stacy Tully	Yes
Richard Scanlon	Yes

Jerry Walker motioned that a follow-up communication also be sent to the Mayor detailing the current job responsibilities of the position, including information about the Veterans Memorial Complex, Veterans Memorial Rink, the Waltham Community Cultural Center and the pending Capital Improvement projects. He requested that a draft of this communication be sent out to Recreation Board members for review. The motion was seconded by Thomas Creonte and voted unanimously.

During Other Business, a copy of a communication from the Department of Environmental Protection Agency (D.E.P.) to Ms. Lorraine Centola was reviewed. The letter was in reference to the proposed improvements at James P. Falzone Memorial Field. Ms. Centola filed an appeal with D.E.P. against the Conservation Commission's order of conditions regarding the plan for water drainage. The project has been reviewed by the D.E.P. and they have given their approval for the order of conditions as required by the Conservation Commission.

Asst. Director Abruzzi noted that the proposed construction and synthetic turf field will help with the current water problems at the facility.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Thomas Creonte, seconded by Patricia Curtin and voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen O'Brien, Clerk