

The Waltham Recreation Board held their September meeting on September 19, 2012 at the Waltham Community Center, 510 Moody St., Waltham MA.

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

Also present were Director of Parks and Recreation Sandra Tomasello and Assistant Director Nick Abruzzi.

Chairman Richard Scanlon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He announced that the meeting was being filmed by WCAC, Waltham's local cable channel and would be shown on the local channel at a later date.

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2012 meeting was made by Bill Fowler seconded by Wayne Cook and voted unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting on July 25, 2012 was made by Wayne Cook, seconded by Stacey Tully and voted unanimously.

The monthly bills were circulated and signed by all Board members.

The next item for review was the Statement of Accounts. In reviewing the Statement of Accounts, Director Tomasello noted that some large payments for Lazazzero and McCabe projects have been made with current balances shown on the Capital Budget summary sheet.

Following on the agenda was a presentation by Timothy Starr on his Eagle Scout project held at Prospect Hill Park. Director Tomasello noted that the work has been successfully completed, but Mr. Starr was still in the process of putting together his report for the Board together and asked if he could attend a future meeting.

A motion to table the matter was made by Jerry Walker, seconded by Tom Creonte and voted unanimously.

Next on the agenda was a presentation from Mr. William Durkee Executive Director and Mr. Justin Barrett, Chairman of the Committee from the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). They were present to discuss recent changes to Waltham Community Preservation Act (CPA) that significantly impacts funding availability for park capital improvement projects.

Original laws stated that CPA funds could be utilized for purchasing land/properties for recreation and all park improvement projects to the properties purchased with such funds.

Revisions to the law allow funds to be utilized on all park properties for recreation, with the exception of synthetic turf fields.

Mr. Durkee briefed the Board on the history of CPA – when it began, members, percentage of funds received from Waltham's CPA tax and also State funds. He highlighted current projects in Waltham, including the Wellington House.

Mr. Barret talked about the process for submitting the application to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). Three meetings are held on the matter, and then the CPC committee will vote. If it is approved at this level, it is submitted to the Mayor and City Council for approvals. If the project is approved, the bidding process is held and a contract awarded. The entire process takes approximately 4-5 months. The Law Department is sometimes consults in a matter which may cause a delay.

Mr. Durkee provided a written document used for a power presentation which fully explained all aspects of the new revisions and CPA.

Director Tomasello asked about the bidding process. Bill Fowler, Recreation Board member and also a member of the CPC noted that some cities have an on staff consultant that would handle the projects. Waltham's process would be to go out to bid, through the Purchasing Agent.

Both gentlemen thanked the Board for the opportunity to educate the Board on the Community Preservation Act process and the all hope that the Recreation Board will submit a project for funding.

Director Tomasello presented to the Board a schedule for the Waltham Youth Organizations to appear before the Board to present their financial information concerning their programs and any requests for maintenance and capital improvement needs to facilities.

Two to three groups will be coming each month to the monthly meeting beginning October 24, 2012 and ending February 27, 2012.

Director Tomasello also requested that all league presidents to attend a mandatory meeting with Director Tomasello and Asst. Director Abruzzi to address CORI issues, maintenance issues, field permitting and proper use of any appropriation made to each organization. As Director Tomasello noted this will help new presidents the proper protocol for all these issues.

Questions arose concerning the CORI process. Director Tomasello noted that the process is much quicker with regards to receiving inquiries. All responsible CORI agents must understand the laws and importance of allowing volunteers to serve once Cori results are received..

After further discussion, a motion to approve the schedule as presented and a correction, as noted, to the October 24, 2012 date was made by Jerry Walker. Wayne Cook added that the CORI representative's name should be included on their annual report to the Board. These motions were seconded by Lisa Limonciello and voted unanimously.

Next for review was the 2012 Summer Preliminary Review. Director Tomasello noted that there was a significant number of returning staff members. This summer's staff was very good and did a great job. Three new candidates were hired for the supervisory positions of Asst. Director of Summer Fun, Program Director of LEAP and Asst. Director for the Chill Zone.

It was a very hot summer with, thankfully, not much rain. Some new programs had been added. The first program to fill was Kaleidoscope, which is held outdoors and indoors at the air conditioned Fitzgerald School and Msgr. McCabe Playground

A full 2012 Summer Report will be available at the October Board meeting.

During the Director's Report, Director Tomasello updated the Board on the current status of capital projects at Lazazzero and McCabe that are almost completed. Director Tomasello and Asst. Director Abruzzi attended weekly on site construction meetings throughout the summer with Weston and Sampson's Gene Bollinger and the contractor to keep construction moving.

The project at Lazazzero experienced some delays due to permits, but should be completed very soon.

McCabe's renovations are 85/90% completed. A few change orders were necessary, the most recent one concerning the sidewalk along Candace Ave. Plans to replace it were not in the original design, but due to deplorable conditions, it has been decided to replace it.

Spray parks were very successful this summer. Fitch Spray Pool opened the beginning of the summer. The only problem that arose was an issue with out-of-towners traveling by bus appearing at McCabe Spray Park. With the Kaleidoscope program being held at Fitzgerald School, the play area and spray park was extremely very busy. After consulting with Mayor McCarthy and the Law Dept., a sign was posted at all spray facilities facility noting they are open to Waltham resident only.

The Falzone project was delayed as a result of appeal filed with DEP. It has been rectified and renovations will proceed as planned. Both the Falzone and Nipper Maher Projects will go out together for bid later this fall.

The plans for renovations to Logan Park have been awarded to JNJ Sacca. The Elm St./McKenna Playground project will be going out to bid next week with the project starting late fall, early winter. Logan Park and McKenna projects are both CDBG funded projects.

Director Tomasello along with Mike Chiasson, director of Consolidated Public Works and Planning Department's James LaCrosse traveled to Haverhill, MA to inspect the Clivus restroom units proposed to purchase and install at Prospect Hill Park.

Director Tomasello noted that the City's CPW Dept. would enter a service contract for the maintenance of the units. Tentative plans are for the (2) units to be installed the Spring 2013.

Next Director Tomasello updated the state of projects at Waltham Community and Cultural Center (W.C.C.). She noted that the gymnasium is almost ready to be open to the public. They are awaiting the installation of the divider curtain and the final punch list will be presented.

The auditorium experienced some staining/peeling of the ceiling above the stage area. The contractor is expected to return to repair the damage.

CDBG –

The Veterans Memorial Rink has begun its 8th season, opening on September 10, 2012. Director Tomasello noted that the first month of operation has been difficult due to compressor issues and warm temperatures. The age of the equipment and efficiency of the building to make ice when temperatures outdoors is summer like, is very difficult. It may be time to consider equipment and significant building improvements.

The City has been approached about considering geo-thermal technologies for rink and building utility services. A proposal has been submitted to Mayor McCarthy for review and consideration.

Director Tomasello informed Board members of an alleged incident of trees being cut down by a resident of 124 Lura Lane. The incident was reported to the Ward 1 Councilor, Dan Romard. The Councilor then alerted city officials. The Law Dept. was contacted and Attorney Luke Stanton has been assigned the case. Director Tomasello asked Attorney Stanton if he needed a complaint or report to be filed by the Recreation Board, as the property is under their jurisdiction and was instructed not to take any action until we hear back from him.

Director Tomasello included a copy of the communication from the Mayor to the City Council regarding the Board's response to her request for a proposed grade change to the position of Parks and Recreation Director in the fiscal year 2013 budget. Director Tomasello thanked the Board and her staff for their support.

During Other Business, Thomas Creonte inquired as to what renovations will take place at Nipper Maher Park. Director Tomasello reviewed the scope of final plans for the park which will include significant drainage improvements, the addition of a few water spray elements like at Thompson Playground, play equipment changes, and an adjustment in field alignment at new baseball field to address sun glare problems.

Wayne Cook informed the Board that a pile of clay has been left on the field at Nipper Maher Park. Asst. Director Abruzzi will let Mike Russo from C.P.W. know about it, and ask to have it removed.

Trisha Curtin informed the Board that the tents from the 3-Day Susan G. Komen walk were donated to the Brownie Troops at Fitzgerald, Northeast and Stanley Schools.

Lisa Limonciello complimented the grand opening of the fall season for the Chill Zone. Director Tomasello noted that the average attendance numbers are around 55/60 for Fridays and Saturdays.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen O'Brien, Clerk

