

The Waltham Recreation Board held their June Board meeting on June 5, 2019 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, Gary Vallerand and Jerry Walker. Absent was John Graceffa.

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

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

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2019 Board Meeting by Jerry Walker, seconded by Tom Creonte, all were in favor.

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

Director Abruzzi reviewed the Statement of Accounts explaining that two pages in their folders detailed operational and capital budget accounts. Over the next month, the Support of Recreation Activities line item will see major movement as the leagues submit their reimbursement requests. All accounts are in good standing.

Next on the agenda, Board Chair recognizes City Councillor Randy Leblanc, Youth Soccer President, Mike Guzzi as well as Coach/Parent Anthony LaFauci. Board Member Jerry Walker, asked to be recused from the topic as he is a neighbor to the property being discussed. Councillor Leblanc requested the board to consider the possibilities of adding lights to the Falzone Field facility. With daylight savings beginning at the end of October, it becomes darker earlier and it's a great challenge to provide practice times for all the teams safely. Mr. LaFauci brought to the Boards attention that fall practices have very limited times. The fall registration recently closed with close to 840 athletes enrolled, requiring three additional teams for this upcoming season. The addition of lights would allow the teams to have a full practice session during the weeknights. Director Abruzzi brought to the Boards attention that in the design/construction notes from when Falzone Field was built it's stated that lights were not a part of the project. There was also concerns from neighbors and the abutting condominium association on the lights and the extended play time at the facility. Discussion from the Board included offering the Waltham Soccer League alternate facilities with lights for practices during the last few weeks of their season. A cost estimate of approximately \$1 million for design and construction was provided by consultants currently working on Capital Projects for the Recreation Department.

After extensive Board conversation on the benefits and concerns of adding lights to Falzone Field, a motion was made to explore the options and research potential solutions to the request for lights by Wayne Cook and seconded by Stacey Tully. All were in favor.

Regan Harrold, from Beals + Thomas, Inc. presented design plans for improvements to Cornelia Warren Park. The new ideas for this design came from community input and the goal was to offer new amenities that are unique to this location. The orientation of the softball field would remain the same but would be moved further into the property. The space between the concession building and the field would be used to place a children's playground area, ninja warrior equipment as well as adult fitness equipment. A perimeter walkway would be included, as well as new site amenities. A

synthetic turf putting area would be created as well. The rock wall at the entrance is not historical, some sections of it will be preserved and the remaining granite will be repurposed as part of seat wall. This highly visible facility will now have recreation elements for all ages and abilities. Director Abruzzi confirmed that the concession building would not be included in this renovation but he will work with City Departments to replace doors, improve bathrooms as well as paint the exterior of the building.

A motion was made by Wayne Cook to approve the final designs for Cornelia Warren Park and seconded by Tom Creonte. All were in favor.

Next on the agenda was a request from the Waltham Youth Football & Cheer to relocate their practice location to Lowell Field. The league is currently utilizing Leary Field, where they are charged a custodial fee. Lowell Field is centrally located and large enough to host the many divisions of this program. In the event the League runs into the challenges of day light, they can be relocated to Nipper Maher Park.

A motion to approve the permit request was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Tom Creonte. All were in favor.

Proposed 2019-2020 Youth Organization Schedule was next on the agenda. The schedule of when the youth sports groups would be presenting to the Board was comparable to past years, with the addition of Waltham Middle School Baseball Program and Waltham Youth Wrestling Club.

A motion to approve the 2019-2020 Youth Organization Schedule was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by Jerry Walker. All were in favor.

A Dedication Request for Elsie Turner Field was presented to the Board. This request was to name an element of the park after a longtime volunteer. At this time the Board decided not to proceed as a new policy regarding dedication was next on the agenda.

A Dedication Policy was presented by Recreation Department Intern Christine Sturniolo. This policy was well researched by comparing local and nationwide policies. The policy would allow residents to complete an application providing supporting documents to nominate a Waltham resident who has had an impact on the Community. This dedication plaque would be installed on a bench already in place within the Park/Facility. The Board would review requests quarterly. The Board engaged in a discussion about some of the specific language and made recommended changes.

A motion to approve the new dedication policy with discussed changes was made by Jerry Walker and seconded by Wayne Cook. All were in favor.

Director's Report:

Hillcroft Playground – Green Acres is well ahead of schedule as they continue to advance on completing this project.

Bobby Connors Playground – The contract to begin construction is currently being circulated. Green Acres Landscape & Construction was awarded the contract. Everyone is excited for this project to begin in the next few weeks.

Prospect Hill Park Update – The designer, Hedlund Design Group, has completed survey work for Phase #1 of improvements at Prospect Hill Park. Recreation Staff will be meeting with Designers in the upcoming weeks to develop a concept plan.

Prospect Hill Park – In the Board's folder is a letter from the Board of Assessors notifying the Recreation Board of newly acquired land to Prospect Hill Park. This land is not buildable or passable as three sides of the property abut Prospect Hill Park.

Picnic Permit Update- The grills throughout Prospect Hill Park have been removed, with the exception of the Base Area. The Picnic Permit Request Form has been updated to reflect that grilling is now only permitted at the Base Area.

Forester Plan – In addition to Phase #1 of improvements at Prospect Hill Park, the Recreation Department has applied for a State Grant that would work with a Forester to inventory the Park as well as provide future recommendations on maintenance and suggested improvements.

Touch A Truck – Our first annual Touch A Truck was organized by Recreation Supervisor Adam Dallaire, on Saturday, June 1, 2019. This event saw over 300 individuals as they explored vehicles from CPW, Waltham Fire and Waltham Police.

Springfest and Summer Nights – Springfest was held at Prospect Hill Park on Saturday, May 18th. This free family event saw over 600 individuals as they explored and utilized the many amenities at Prospect Hill Park. This event was organized by Recreation Supervisor Kathy Gross. As this event was a huge success, a smaller version can be seen weekly during the summer season. The many amenities at Prospect Hill will be featured each Thursday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. during "Summer Nights".

Chill Zone – The programming season has concluded and the staff are pleased to report that over 2,500 teens participated in the Chill Zone program this year. As this program continues to expand we will now utilize 14 Church Street as well for Teen Programming. The Church Street location will open in the fall of 2019 and our program will now allow 11th and 12th graders to attend.

Donated Roof Work – In the Board's Folder is a thank you letter to Three Sons who donated materials and labor to replace the concession building's roof located at Nipper Maher Park as well as Monsignor McCabe Playground.

Rink Roof – The flat roof at Veterans Memorial Skating Rink was recently replaced.

Finance Committee – Director Abruzzi will be presenting the proposed budget to the Finance Committee on Thursday, June 6, 2019.

Other Business

A recommendation was made to form a subcommittee to further investigate and research lighting at Falzone Field. This subcommittee would be chaired by Wayne Cook.

Cornelia Warren – The carnival at Cornelia Field combined with extremely wet weather has caused us to suspend use of the field this season. Due to the field closing early we hope to start construction on the facility in August.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Wayne Cook and seconded by Gary Vallerand, all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly A. Scott
Assistant Director