

The Waltham Recreation Board held their October Board meeting on October 16, 2019 at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

Present were: Wayne Cook, Patricia Curtin, Jennie Scafidi, Richard Scanlon, Stacey Tully, Gary Vallerand and Jerry Walker. Absent were Tom Creonte and 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 September 18, 2019 Board Meeting by Jerry Walker, seconded by Wayne Cook. 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. These accounts have all been updated to reflect FY 20 balances and all carry forwards. On the operational page, Director Abruzzi stated that the Kaleidoscope and Spray Park operation expenses will see a change as the water bills from the spray parks are processed.

The first youth group to present was the Waltham Youth Baseball League. Bill Hanley, President as well as Sean George, Treasurer presented that this youth league, athletes from age four through age fifteen, has grown and is financially stable. Waltham Youth Baseball also encompasses Babe Ruth and the middle school teams. Kennedy Middle School's baseball team won the Championship, this past year. There was conversation about the interest level from teens in this sport. There was a large number of younger players with very involved parents. This has allowed for the addition of special clinics to be offered and supervised. Mr. Hanley mentioned that there was a concern with geese at Lazazero Playground. Director Abruzzi mentioned that City is looking into the services of Geese Police, similar to the School Department. Director Abruzzi also mentioned that he will be working, this winter, to request capital improvement funds for infield renovations. There was conversation regarding the dugouts at Nipper Maher Park being used inappropriately. The Board thanked the League for their involvement.

The next youth group to present was Warrendale Little League. President, Tim O'Toole as well as Treasurer, Bill Burgess presented. Mr. O'Toole stated that over 200 athletes participated this past season. The League saw a healthy number of sponsors, totaling 30. The sponsors have helped maintain the Leagues financial health; as individual concession items have increased in cost as well as a number of rain outs, reducing concession profits, earlier in the season. The League is now also required to pay for coach testing; providing additional oversight into all coaches. Mr. O'Toole stated that the nine year old team won ten games in the post season. Mr. O'Toole wanted to take a minute to thank the Recreation Department for assisting with the concession roof being replaced.

Mr. Burgess took a minute to explain the criteria to be in the Emerging Leaders Program through Watertown Savings Bank. The criteria included that the youth needed to be entering grade nine and have participated in at least one year of Waltham youth sports. Those who participate in the program learned about business and the many skills needed to be successful as well as interview

skills. The 2019 winner of the Emerging Leaders Program was Michael Parent. Those graduates of this program are given scholarship opportunities as well as a letter of recommendation. In the last nine years, \$1.9 million dollars in scholarships have been awarded. Eleven graduates of this program were presented with college recommendations. The Board thanks the League for their time.

Next on the agenda was Park Bench Dedications – Review Period. As the Dedication Request Form was made available last month, it was recommended the Board establish three designated times to review completed packets. The dedication packets would be presented to the Recreation Board during the November, February and May meetings, every three months. Those dedications approved by the Board would then be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council for approval.

A motion to approve the Dedication Review schedule was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Tricia Curtin. All were in favor.

The Park Dedication - Subcommittee was next on the agenda. The subcommittee's role would be to review completed dedication applications and recommend them to be presented to the Recreation Board. Director Abruzzi recommended the Subcommittee consist of himself, Assistant Director Scott and Board Members Stacey Tully, Jennie Scafidi as well as Wayne Cook.

A motion to approve the Park Dedication Subcommittee was made by Jerry Walker and seconded by Gary Vallerand. All were in favor.

Next on the agenda was the Forestry Management Plan Proposal. The Recreation Department is currently working on Phase I Improvements to the Base Area at Prospect Hill Park. In conjunction with this phase, the DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation) has awarded the Recreation Department a grant of \$4,082.00 to complete a Forestry Management Plan of the entire Park. Included in the Boards folder was a proposal from Green Natural Resource Management to provide a forestry management plan for an approximate cost of \$5,000.00. The City would only be required to contribute the difference between the grant funded amount and the total invoice. Recreation staff have interviewed a couple different foresters, prior to selecting this company. The representative from Green Natural Resource Management would work with the City's Park Ranger Adam Green to develop this plan and create a future maintenance plan and trail maintenance.

A motion to approve to accept Forestry Management Plan Proposal was made by Jerry Walker and seconded by Wayne Cook. All were in favor.

Middle School Baseball Program – Recreation Board Support was the next item on the agenda. Director Abruzzi summarized the Board's support approved last year to include; field usage and baseballs. There was no financial support provided. It was noted that the Board would revisit this decision one year later. Discussion was had regarding the School Department's plan to financially support middle school level teams in the future. There were no issues reported regarding this program.

A request for additional information regarding the School Department's involvement and funding schedule was made prior to a decision being made by the Recreation Board.

Director's Report:

Lowell Field Parking – In the Board's folder is a copy of the letter that was sent to Captain Russo regarding the Recreation Board's decision for parking at Lowell Field.

Hillcroft Playground Update – In the Board's folder is a sheet with before and after photos of the improvements. The Park was opened recently. There are only a few punch list items remaining. Green Acres Landscape has done a tremendous job, completing ahead of schedule. There is no set date for an official grand opening.

Bobby Connors Update- Construction is ongoing. The playground and spray park areas are almost completed as well as the basketball and street hockey courts. The plantings are all in the ground. The neighborhood's concern regarding the removal of existing vegetation was resolved as the dead trees were removed and a new plantings provided.

Reading Program – In the Board's folder is an email from Adriana Voci who has once again held her reading program at McDonald Playground, this past summer. Pictures on the email include her expanding her offering to a local preschool. The Department looks forward to next year's program.

37 Andrea Road – In the Board's folder is a copy of the requested stamped plan from Mr. Davis and a letter to the Law Department from Director Abruzzi. The Board will be updated as the Law Department provides a response. Quotes are also being gathered for the privacy fencing that was discussed. This item continues to be tabled.

Summer Recap – Attached to the monthly bills, circulated earlier in the meeting, was a power point presentation, summarizing the 2019 summer season. The power point as well as a video, created by Recreation Supervisor Kara Greeley, of 2019 Kaleidoscope Program will be emailed to the Board later this evening.

Walk and Roll Special Event – In the Board's folder is a thank you letter and summary of the first annual Walk and Roll Event held at Nipper Maker Park on September 22nd. This event was well attended and the Recreation Department looks forward to working with the NAPA organization again in the future.

Parade – The City held a parade on September 22nd. The Recreation Department provided the parking lot to host the antique cars that would be displayed. Recreation Maintenance Staff Yvon Cormier was diligent in his preparation of site. The Recreation Department looks forward to being involved in future City events.

Park Ranger, Adam Green – Adam Green began working on September 24, 2019 and has already made a tremendous impact on the parks and open space throughout the City. He spent the first week, at the Recreation Department Office, learning about Department logistics and polices. He then began inventorying parks and developing a list of future improvements. He will be working with the forester on the forestry management plan.

McDonald and Thompson Playground – Public meetings were held on October 9, 2019 to begin the community input process on these two capital improvement projects. The meetings were well attended and the feedback was helpful. The designers, NESRA Engineering, will begin creating schemes and renderings based on feedback.

Cornelia Warren Park – Construction is underway with Cataldo Landscaping. The current focus is the grading of the site and preparing for the new softball field.

November Board Meeting – Director Abruzzi proposed that next month, prior to the Board Meeting, the Recreation Board meet at 14 Church St. to show the improvements and ongoing programming that occurs at this new facility. The Board will meet at 4:45 p.m.

Other Business

Attention was brought to the playground gate at Monsignor McCabe Playground. Director Abruzzi will go and look at the site and contact the appropriate Department for repair.

A request was also made to install shade shelters at the Veterans Athletic Complex's Softball fields.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly A. Scott
Assistant Director