

The Waltham Recreation Board held their October meeting on October 26, 2011 at the Waltham Community Center, 510 Moody St.

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

Also present were Recreation Director Sandra Tomasello and Asst. Director Nick Abruzzi.

Vice-Chairman Richard Scanlon called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2011 meeting was made by Wayne Cook seconded by Bill Fowler and voted unanimously.

In review of the statement of accounts, Director Sandra Tomasello noted that recent appropriations to the Capital Improvement budget. Director Tomasello reviewed anticipated construction projects planned for 2012 which include: Falzone, McCabe, Lazazzero and Nipper Maher Park.

Recent approval was made from the Mayor and City Council to appropriate funding for these projects – totaling over 3 million dollars.

The Lazazzero and McCabe projects will go out together as one bid, mid November, with the bid opening scheduled for mid December.

Falzone and Nipper Maher projects will go out to bid as one bid in December, with the bid opening scheduled for mid January.

Bill Fowler noted that he noticed the Falzone project on the agenda of the Conservation Commission at their next meeting, scheduled for November 3. Director Tomasello anticipates the project introduced at that meeting with a scheduled on-site meeting to follow and then a second appearance before the Conservation Commission on November 17th. An order of conditions has already been determined by the Conservation Commission for the Lazazzero Project.

Next on the agenda was the annual appearance before the Board by the youth sport organizations that receive funding within the Recreation Department budget towards their operating expenses. This month Waltham Baseball League, Warrendale Little League and Babe Ruth were scheduled to appear. Babe Ruth had submitted their financial paperwork, but did not attend due to a time conflict with their league treasurer. They will attend the November meeting.

President, Jay Joyce and Treasurer, Dominic Spoto representing the Waltham Baseball League were present at the meeting to address the Board and answer any questions members had.

Mr. Joyce talked about improvements to the league, since the merge three years ago of the Nipper Maher League and North Waltham Baseball. This past year they replaced the water heater at the Lazazzero concession stand. They also purchased (2) two new tractors, one for each

location – Nipper Maher Park and Lazazzero Playground. They plan to do more renovations at the concession stands, adding padlocks to refrigerators and freezers, due to a door left open and food items spoiled as well as items taken.

Their concession stand took in a lot of money during their annual Fourth of July Tournament. Rick Joyce, who is currently the Fundraiser Coordinator, will be replaced by Kevin Meade next year.

Mr. Joyce noted that next year they will be looking closer at the registration fees for the summer travel program, due to the high costs spent this past year on umpires.

He thanked Asst. Director Nick Abruzzi on a great coaches clinic held earlier in 2011 and hopes a similar conic will be available in 2012.

Director Tomasello noticed that the league's numbers were down from 2010 in the Junior Division. She also congratulated the league on a great job.

Director Tomasello alerted the league of the anticipated construction at the facility in 2012. She along with Assistant Director, Nick Abruzzi will keep the league updated on the construction schedule as soon as the bid is awarded and a plan is developed with the contractor hired.

Mr. Joyce inquired about the sun glare problem at the new field. Director Tomasello noted that the construction plan includes a shift in the field dimensions to help with that issue.

Next before the Board were representatives from Warrendale Little League – President, John McLaughlin and Treasurer, Bill Burgess.

Mr. McLaughlin apologized for not having Page (1) of the report available to the Board. He stated he would see that we receive that page the following day.

Mr. McLaughlin noted the leagues number of participants are holding steady at @ 310 in 2011. The spring league consists of 5 major teams, 8 minor teams, 8 AA teams and 6 rookie teams. Their summer program was made up of 4 teams. No one was turned away. Two (2) teams participated in the Suburban League and two (2) teams played in the Middlesex league. Their new fall program was a Babe Ruth transition program - that was geared to help 12 year olds making the move from the little league field dimensions to Babe Ruth Lge. (60 ft. to 90 ft.). They played a total of 8 games.

Also noted by Mr. McLaughlin was the great effort of the volunteers in helping to make the league run smoothly – from the people lining the field daily to concession personnel (Coordinator, supervisors, and those making deposits nightly).

Mr. McLaughlin joking talked about not originally being a fan of the new water park at the playground. But now realizes what a great compliment to renovated facility. At the 9-year-old Cal Ripkin regional tournament held at McCabe this past year, visiting parents and players were thrilled to be able to utilize the spray park.

Mr. Burgess noted that Mr. McLaughlin not only instituted the new concession/deposit system, but the league is now recording weather conditions and temperatures daily to help with ordering of supplies. With the anticipated increase in price of bases and uniforms, supplies are being ordered early to take advantage of the lower prices.

Also purchased this past year were new pitching machines. Mr. McLaughlin also wanted to make sure the Board was aware of their expense to remove netting in the batting cage that was damaged as a result of built-up snow and ice over the winter.

Each Board member was given a copy of the 2011 Warrendale Yearbook. Mr. McLaughlin noted that they have done this for the past several years – and the kids love it. He also thanked his wife who is in charge of the putting the yearbook together.

With the anticipated renovations scheduled at McCabe Fields, Director Tomasello noted that the department would also keep Warrendale Little League updated on the construction schedule and once a contractor is hired, more information will follow.

Mr. McLaughlin noted that the league is scheduled to host the Eastern Mass. Cal Ripken tournament the end of June, beginning of July.

Mr. McLaughlin brought up a maintenance issue, stating that the “C” clamps are being removed from the picnic benches near the shack. The kids are moving the benches to the side the concession stand and climbing onto the roof. He suggested the department look at a possible solution of a more permanent installation of the picnic tables, so that they cannot be moved.

Next on the agenda was a request from the Explosion Futbol Club to host a soccer tournament at Veterans Memorial Athletic Complex in the spring of 2012. Appearing before the Board was Tournament Director, Keith Woods.

Mr. Woods is requesting the use of all four fields for two weekends March 24-25 and March, 31-April 1, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the tournament is for participants to have some playing time to condition, before the start of the soccer season.

He proposes to have one weekend for boys and the other for girls. Participants will be age U11-U14. The cost charged per team will be \$350.00.

Mr. Woods has coached high school players at several local schools, including Waltham. He currently is coach of the Waltham Hawks Futbol Club team, which is a girl’s team with (7) Waltham players.

He reviewed all of the items within his proposal. He had met with Asst. Director Abruzzi previously to learn what would need to be included in his proposal.

Asst. Director Nick Abruzzi was concerned with weather/field conditions that early in the season. Mr. Woods would have to realize that if the fields were deemed not playable – he would

have to refund each team's registration fee. Mr. Woods confirmed that he would do so, if that were the case, and understands the fields would not be plowed off if snow still remains.

Director Tomasello did receive a letter from the president of Waltham Youth Soccer, stating they would not be using the fields on these weekends. However, they would be using them Monday-Friday.

She also reminded the Board that in the spring, the Waltham Youth Lacrosse program utilizes (2) of the fields Monday-Thursday.

Director Tomasello also stated that since 2008, Waltham Youth Soccer has been on the fields as soon as the fields all opened, one year as early as March 15th.

She is also very concerned about not having time available on the weekends for Waltham residents. The spring season is the season most requested, especially after the long winter. If permission were granted for two weekends all other groups would be denied. The Department is always trying to find a balance; so many groups can be accommodated.

Director Tomasello felt granting permission of the request would be too limiting to others in Waltham. If the Board was to consider the request, they may want to offer a compromise by granting use for one weekend. If approved, the required paperwork including insurance and reservation fees would need to be paid in full, prior to the tournament.

Wayne Cook brought up the fact that the fields could still be frozen in March. Asst. Director Abruzzi is also concerned about that issue, as well as the current condition of two of the fields. The department is awaiting a maintenance service repair scheduled. He is not sure it repairs will be done before the winter. It may need to be scheduled for the spring.

After further discussion, a motion to table the matter until next month's meeting was made by Gary Vallerand, seconded by Patricia Curtin and voted unanimously.

An annual request was received from the New England Orienteering Club for a meet at Prospect Hill Park on Sunday, November 13, 2011. Director Tomasello recommends approval.

A motion to approve the request was made by Wayne Cook, seconded by Patricia Curtin and voted unanimously.

Next for discussion was the 2011 Summer Report. Director Tomasello again mentioned this past summer as the best in 25 years. The report provided Board members with program statistics, program descriptions, conclusions, and anticipated changes for 2012. Board members had no questions after reading the report.

During the Director's Report, Director Tomasello highlighted the communication received from the Traffic Commission regarding the pedestrian traffic light planned for Totten Pond Road. It was a long time coming, but Board members are happy to see construction underway.

The State Fire Tower within Prospect Hill Park will be demolished and removed. The company doing the demolition has (90) days to secure permits and complete the removal. Director Tomasello spoke with a company representative and they anticipate the project to be completed in (30) days.

A diagram was presented to Board members showing the new field layout at Nipper Maher. This shift should help with the solar glare problem first reported to the Department this past year. This plan will be included in the final Phase 6 of the Nipper Maher park project.

With sun reflecting off of the windshields of cars parked in the new parking lot, Patricia Curtin suggested that signs be posted asking cars to back into parking spaces. Asst. Director Abruzzi also suggested putting cones in those parking spaces where there are issues for the week to 10 days that this problem occurs.

Director Tomasello reported that the Chill Zone is currently averaging 65-75 participants on Friday nights. An additional staff member has been hired to provide adequate supervision.

Director Tomasello reported rink operations are going very smoothly. November brings public skating hours and Waltham High School practices and games.

The winter brochures is being finalized and will soon be at the printers for distribution to schools prior to Thanksgiving.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen O'Brien, Clerk