

Advisory Committee
October 23, 2013
Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall

Marjorie Freiman called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 7:30 p.m. Those present included Robert Capozzi, Mary Crown, Thomas Engels, Becky Epstein, Tom Frisardi, Ann Marie Gross, John Hartnett, John Hussey, Lucy Kapples, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport, Mason Smith and Scott Tarbox.

Ms. Freiman indicated that several Advisory members had met at 6:15 p.m. for an informational tour of Schofield Elementary School. She thanked Joe McDonough, Director of the Facilities Maintenance Department for leading the tour, and Matt King, Chair of PBC; Selectman Barbara Searle; KC Kato, Chair of the School Facilities Committee; and School Committee members Wendy Paul and Tere Ramos for accompanying Advisory and responding to questions.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the sequence of entries in the minutes indicates the actual order in which they were discussed during the meeting and does not reflect the sequence on the published agenda. There were no objections.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Lucy Kapples to approve the minutes of October 16, 2013, with a spelling, punctuation and time correction. The motion was seconded and the minutes as corrected were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Liaison Reports

Various members of the Advisory Committee provided their liaison reports.

Recreation Overview

Andy Wrobel, Chair, joined by Steve Burt and Tom Harrington of the Recreation Commission, and Matt Chin, Assistant Director of the Recreation Department, gave the overview. The mission statement is “to provide recreational and educational opportunities for Wellesley residents in a cost-effective manner”. Highlights of 2012 include a variety of 581 recreational programs serving 11,149 participants. Morses Pond saw attendance of 41,762. Staffing includes five (5) permanent employees. There are also many part-time employees who are paid by the programs they run; they are seasonal and do not receive benefits. Although some programs are free, most programs have fees and must break even financially to be held. Scholarships are available from special funding in the budget. An overview of the revenue sources showed that 40% is seasonally related, 15% is from adult programs and 45% is from children’s programs. Main funding is through the Parks and Recreation Revolving Fund and a 53E ½ Revolving Fund authorized at Town Meeting. Contributions and gifts are crucial to providing additional programs and scholarships. Last year, there was a \$92,000 surplus in funding which was returned to the Town. Challenges and opportunities were also discussed including the development of the 900 Worcester site. Sponsorships for special events are being actively sought now and in the future.

Human Resources Overview

The report was given by Ilissa Povich, Chair, and Laura Hockett, Vice-Chair, of the Human Resources Board with Susan Adler, Human Resources Director. As of September 2013, there were 1,257 permanent employees including 50 forty-series (non-exempt) and 73 fifty/sixty series (exempt), 247 non-union School, 294 Town union employees and 572 School union employees. Examples of the positions included in the 40 series and 50/60 series and their pay ranges were discussed. The merit plan matrix for 50/60 series employees was also reviewed. Benchmarking is completed with similar area municipalities to ensure the Town stays competitive; however, this is sometimes difficult due to nuanced position variation among towns. The Board of Selectmen handles the majority of union negotiations, but School positions are negotiated by the School Committee. The Municipal Light Plant Director handles collective bargaining for the MLP union employees. The collective bargaining process was reviewed including the resultant actions if there is no agreement.

School Facilities Committee Report

KC Kato, Chair of School Committee gave the report. She was accompanied by Wendy Paul, Vice Chair of the School Committee, Dr. David Lussier, Superintendent, Matt King, Chair of the Permanent Building Committee, Joe McDonough, Director of Facilities and Barbara Searle, Vice Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Review of the Capital Plan development revealed that all seven (7) elementary schools will be needed for the next seven years; the 2013 Strategic Plan Initiatives do not require any special or dedicated spaces; changes in educational needs and mandated programs have affected space requirements; and school infrastructures will continue to be a concern depending on age and any renovations completed or needed. Facilities staff recommendations based on categories were reviewed: major renovations, additions, replacement and/or consolidations may be needed at Hardy, Hunnewell and Upham; infrastructure renovations are needed at Fiske and Schofield; the long-term cash capital plan for Bates, Sprague and PAWS was outlined; HVAC and other systems at the Middle School may require replacement. The timetable was also discussed for all considerations.

Facilities Maintenance Department

This item was not handled at this meeting and will be brought back for review at a different time. There were no objections.

New Business/Old Business

Articles on the Special Town Warrant were reviewed and an updated status was given by the Chair. Advisory members were asked to notify the Chair of any Articles that would need a revisit before final discussion and voting. Background drafts need to be started and completed by deadline dates. Discussion followed regarding the format of information for the final report publication.

Announcements

Ms. Freiman announced that a public hearing on the Special Town Meeting Warrant would be held on October 30th in the Juliani Room of Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Freiman adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m. with no objections.