

Advisory Committee
January 21, 2015
Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall

Andy Patten called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present included Thomas Engels, Chad Harris, John Hartnett, Lucy Kapples, Michael Mastrianni, Frank Pinto, Ann Rappaport, Sara Raveret, Mason Smith and Scott Tarbox.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak at this time.

Library FY16 Operating and Capital Budgets

Beth Sullivan-Woods, Library Board of Trustees Chair gave the presentation. She was accompanied by Trustees Marla Robinson and Ann-Mara Lanza, as well as consultant, Chuck Flaherty.

The library is part of the Massachusetts Library System and the Minuteman Library Network. An overview of the Library system was given including the budgeting process, as well as discussion of core versus non-core funding. Circulation has increased by 3% over the last year and 15% over the last three years. Eighty-two percent of the budget is tax impact. Other funding sources are from private sources (non-core) which cover library programs, new materials formats, collection enhancements, ESL and school outreach, branch library operations, teen room and technology improvements. Private sources include, Friends of WFL, Centennial Fund, Trust Funds, WFL Foundation and other gifts. State aid was 2%.

The FY16 Operating Budget request is for \$2,309,185 which recognizes Personal Services of \$1,799,531 and Expenses of \$509,654. There are 37 full time employees with many part time or on call employees. Fines and fees collected during the period are returned to the Town General Fund.

The FY16 Capital Budget request is for \$115,700 which is for furniture repair/replacement \$6,000; RFID tags \$5,200; computer/peripherals replacement \$34,500; furnishings \$10,000; security upgrades \$20,000; and website redesign/mobile application \$40,000.

Recreation FY16 Budget

Steve Burt, Chair of the Recreation Commission gave the review, He was accompanied by Jan Maroney Kaseta, Director of the Recreation Department, Matt Chinn, Assistant Director, Tripp Sheehan and Andy Wrobel of the Recreation Commission.

The mission statement is “to provide recreational and educational opportunities for Wellesley residents in a cost-effective manner”. Recreation ran over 500 programs last year. Morses Pond saw attendance of 24,170 which was an increase from the previous year. Staffing includes five

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. Program revenue is up 15% YTD for FY15. 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. FY14 saw a surplus in funding of \$65,947 which was returned to the Town. The return for FY15 is estimated to be \$75,000 to \$85,000. Budget methodology is being changed from compensation only to department operational costs. The tax impact portion for FY16 is requested at \$348,207 which is up 2.98% from FY15.

The focus for FY16 is to recover lost resident sales from Moses Pond, pursue 900 Worcester acquisition, align resources for a varsity field renovation, pursue Sprague School enrichment opportunities, and increase sponsorships for events. Challenges include the weather, recovering Moses Pond momentum, competition for other providers, spacing issues due to summer renovations, improving marketing, department restructure due to retirements and new hire of a Program Administrator.

Approval of Minutes

Mason Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of January 14, 2015. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Liaison Reports

No reports were given at this time.

New Business/Old Business

The calendar was reviewed and dates assigned for various departments to make their budget presentations. Advisory Public Hearing for the Annual Town Meeting will be on February 11 at 6:45 p.m. First drafts of ATM write-ups are due on Friday, February 20th, as well as the first drafts of TWFP and 5YCBP. The first draft reports/appendices from any other board, commission or department are due Friday, Friday 27 along with the final TWFP and 5YCBP. The Annual Town Election will be on Tuesday, March 3. Final drafts of the write-ups and Chair's letter are due on March 6, as well as all final reports and appendices from boards/commissions/departments. The Advisory Report goes to the printer on March 12 and will be posted online on the Town website.

The Advisory Committee will meet at 6:45 p.m. on January 28, 2015 in the Juliani Room of Town Hall.

Mr. Patten adjourned the meeting at 9:33 p.m. with no objections.