

The League of Women Voters of Marblehead

Position: Recreation and Parks Commission

Candidate: Derek Norcross

Thank you to the League of Women Voters of Marblehead for holding yet another successful candidates' night. These candidate forums are a great way for the candidates to meet the voters and exchange ideas and suggestions. The Town is fortunate to have such a dedicated group.

I have been honored to have been elected to serve on the Recreation and Parks Commission. I appreciate the confidence the voters have placed in me in the past and hope that they will continue to support me this year. I am running again this year because I find it personally rewarding to give back to the Town in which I was raised, and for a Commission that I worked for as a young man.

In the years of serving the Town in this capacity, I feel that the Commission has provided many beneficial infrastructure enhancements, improvements and recreation programs for Marblehead. We have a young department, with an excellent Superintendent, Peter James and a terrific, energetic Recreation Director and Assistant Superintendent Jaime Bloch. They bring great experience, dedication and enthusiasm to our growing Department. We have several new fulltime employees that have brought new energy to our workforce. The Town has benefitted and will continue to benefit greatly from their hard work. We are also very lucky to work very closely with all the Town's Youth Sports groups, and numerous volunteer organizations such as the Marblehead Family Fund. We look forward to working with them as they reach their goal of a new playground at Hobbs.

I also look forward to being part of the Commission that will be starting a complete renovation of Reynold's Playground. Reynold's Playground is in very poor condition and in some cases is unsafe for athletic and casual use. There has been much work completed by this Commission in preparing a comprehensive plan for a re-do of the park to include 2 soccer fields, lacrosse fields, softball and baseball fields, a re-vamped Dog Park and most importantly a seasonal outdoor ice-skating facility. This project would be able to address the needs of a huge segment of the Town's youth and adult population.

I hope to continue working with the current elected Commissioners in the coming year. Though we do not agree on every topic, I feel that each of the five of us agree on the direction of the department as the stewards of the Town's playing areas, beaches and many parks. I look forward to working with the elected members of the Commission next year and I would encourage the voters to re-elect each in June.

Again, thank you to the League of Women Voters for their service. Please get out and vote!!

Sincerely,

Derek Norcross