

The Waltham Recreation Board held their April meeting on April 13, 2016 at the Waltham Community and Cultural Center, 510 Moody Street.

Present were; Chairman Richard Scanlon, Thomas Creonte, Stacey Tully, Gary Vallerand and Jerry Walker. Patricia Curtin, Wayne Cook, and John Graceffa were absent.

Also present were; Director, Sandra Tomasello and Assistant Director, Nick Abruzzi.

Mr. Scanlon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He announced that the meeting was being taped by WCAC, Waltham's local cable channel and would be shown on the local channel at a later date.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2016 meeting was made by Tom Creonte, seconded by Stacey Tully and voted unanimously.

The monthly bills were circulated and signed by all Board members present.

In review of the Statement of Accounts, Director Tomasello stated that the accounts look healthy. She then reminded Board members that spending will increase with facility renovations beginning and purchases being made in preparation for summer programs.

The first item on the agenda was the Wellington House/Woburn Street Property Stewardship Plan – Future design. Director Tomasello asked the Board to refer to an email communication from Alex Green, Historical Commission member that was a follow up to last month's meeting presentation by Alex Green and Ward 3 City Councillor, George Darcy. What generated Mr. Green's communication was Director Tomasello's conversation with Mr. Green after sharing her concerns and follow up questions. Director Tomasello asked if as drawn on the proposed plan, if they intended to create parking on the Woburn Street lot with the entrance/exit located on Fire Department property as shown on the plan. Providing vehicle access along Woburn Street would be very dangerous, without significant traffic improvements including a pedestrian sidewalk. She also asked if they were aware of a water source available on the property if they plan to restore the property back to farm lands, stating that if they had to bring in water from the house of the street, it could become very costly. Board member, Jerry Walker stated that he took a walk around the property and the surrounding area. He is in agreement that parking and traffic would be a huge concern, especially in if there was a special event. He inquired if the Community Preservation Committee would be a source of funding for the renovations of the property. Board member, Thomas Creonte informed the Board that Councillor Darcy came before the Community Preservation Committee requesting funding. The Committee informed him that the request for funding on the Woburn Street lot would need to be filed by the owner, therefore the Recreation Board.

Director Tomasello suggested that there be community input meeting similar to those had for other Capital Projects. Board member, Jerry Walker agreed and mentioned that they should have a cost estimate regardless of their avenue for funding. He continued by

stating that restoration of the property for community use is a great idea and he believes neighborhood meetings will bring great results. Director Tomasello informed the Board that she would send an email communication informing Mr. Green of the Board's thoughts regarding the matter. When Board member, Stacey Tully asked if there needed to be a vote to allow the clearing of the "mushroom" shaped area that was scheduled to take place Saturday, April 16, 2016. Director Tomasello responded by stating that they had already granted permission at last month's meeting.

For the Director's Report, Director Tomasello reviewed the revised FY 2017 Budget Proposal. She explained that the amounts have been revised and confirmed by the Auditing Department.

Director Tomasello also provided the 2015 Annual Report for the Department that was requested by the Mayor. She informed the Board that the information and the report itself was assembled by all of the staff members. Board members stated that the information in the report is impressive and nicely summarizes the extensive programs and services available to residents.

Director Tomasello proceeded by asking the Board to refer to a handout in their folders showing Summer Program registration numbers as of that afternoon. She stated that walk in registration began at 7:30 this morning, and will continue until each program fills or they begin this summer.

Director Tomasello continued her report by updating them on the construction at Drake Playground, stating that it is going well. She stated that the summer employment applications are coming in slowly. The deadline for applications is, Monday, May 2, 2016. Director Tomasello informed the Board that all athletic fields are open, as well as Prospect Hill Park.

In other business, Assistant Director, Nick Abruzzi informed the Board of a request made by the Waltham High School Softball Coach to use a temporary fence in the lower field at Veteran's Memorial Athletic Complex. When Board member, Thomas Creonte asked if the fencing was temporary, Mr. Abruzzi responded by stating that it was and that John MacIsaac, Waltham High School Varsity Girls Softball Coach would be responsible for removing the fencing when it is not in use. Board member, Stacey Tully asked if they had the fencing already. Mr. Abruzzi informed the Board that they did not have the fencing, but if approved by the Board they would purchase it. Board member, Stacey Tully made a motion to allow temporary fencing to be used at the lower softball field at Veteran's by Waltham High School. Seconded by Thomas Creonte, and voted unanimously.

Continuing the agenda with the next item was "Read with Me", Adriana Voci, a Wellesley High School student. Ms. Voci began by explaining a little about herself and her program. She explained that she was born and raised in Waltham. When asked by Board member, Jerry Walker why "the Waltham Community". Ms. Voci responded by stating that she wanted to give back to the community that she loved, saying that her

fondest memories as a child were playing at McDonald Playground and spending hours reading at the Waltham Public Library. She explained that she loved to read and felt that reading is so important. She wants to share her love for reading. Ms. Voci continued by explaining that she acquires the books with funds she receives from a grant. Director Tomasello informed the Board that she allowed Ms. Voci to go to McDonald Playground during last summer and it was a success. She informed the Board that Ms. Voci would like offer her services again this summer and also during April Vacation. Ms. Voci informed the Board that she would ask her friend to volunteer, as well as provide her information to Director Tomasello, she also stated that there would always be adult supervision, as her mother would be with her at all times. Board member, Jerry Walker asked how she planned to present the program at the park. Ms. Voci responded by informing the Board that she will set up a table with "Read with Me" signs. When Board member, Thomas Creonte asked if the children would be able to keep the book, Ms. Voci responded by saying yes they could. Director Tomasello suggested that Adrianna create a flyer to have available to promote her services that would be available in the Recreation office as well as be distributed to the Waltham Family School to help promote the program. Board member, Jerry Walker made a motion to allow Ms. Adrianna Voci to present her "Read with Me" program at McDonald Playground April Vacation week and the on the dates requested in her proposal this summer, seconded by Thomas Creonte, and voted unanimously. Ms. Voci was thanked for remembering Waltham, and wished her success in distributing her free books.

With no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Thomas Creonte, seconded by Jerry Walker and voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa DiBlasi