

The Waltham Recreation Board held their January meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2017, at the Waltham Community and Cultural Center, 510 Moody St., Waltham MA.

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

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

Chairperson, Richard 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 December 7, 2016 meeting was made by Jerry Walker seconded by Gary Vallerand and voted unanimously.

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

In reviewing the Statement of Accounts, Director Tomasello noted that the first page reflected updated balances in General Operating Accounts and the second page lists appropriations and balances for Capital Improvement Accounts. Due to the warm weather construction on the Peter Gilmore Project has continued. Therefore you will see a decrease in the Capital Improvement account amounts. There were no other changes. Director Tomasello continued by stating all accounts are still healthy.

On the agenda next was the annual Waltham Youth Organizations presentations. The first organization to present was Waltham Youth Football. Director Tomasello asked the Board to refer to a copy of the leagues financials. Representing the group was their Chairman, John Bourque and the League's Secretary, Jeanne McDonald. Mr. Bourque began by informing the Board that numbers increased 70 % from the previous year. He continued by informing the Board that one of the Cheer teams competed in Florida at the National Cheer Competition and came in second place. Mr. Bourque also informed the Board that their 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade football teams played in the Super Bowl. Mr. Bourque continued by stating that financially the organization is in good shape and that ultimately the goal is to maintain the legacy of Pop Warner Football. Board member Gary Vallerand asked how many teams there were. Mr. Bourque stated that there were (4) contact teams, which consist of children in grades 4 thru 8, (3) flag teams, grades 1 thru 3 and an "E" non-compete team grades K thru 2. This was the most popular level with 50 participants. Mr. Bourque informed the Board that that team only practiced once per week with no games. Chairman, Richard Scanlon thanked them for a great presentation.

The next organization on the agenda was the Prospect Hill Ski Team. Representing the program was Acting Treasurer, Brian Bower, President, Kristie Keane and Head Coach Ronnie Sue Bower. Mrs. Bower began by stating that on the idea of legacy's that Mr. Bourque talked about she is happy to report that after over 25 years of the Prospect Hill Ski area closing the Prospect Hill Ski Team continues to be strong. She informed the Board that Blue Hills is now their home hill. Mrs. Bower stated that at the top of the ski hill at Blue Hills there is a sign that reads, "Home of Prospect Hill Ski Team". Mrs. Bower reported that there were 147 races this season and that the program is doing great with the numbers of participants continuing to rise, stating the largest group was the U-12 group with 39 participants and was happy to report there were 12-15 participants at the U-19 level. They continue to have teams competing at every level U-8 to U-18 and very successfully.

She expressed how proud of the program she is, stating that it is very family oriented with parents and family members being very supportive. Board member Jerry Walker asked if program still competed in the Buddy Werner Ski League. Mrs. Bower confirmed that they did still compete in that organization. She continued by thanking Recreation for their continued support. Mrs. Bower informed the Board their financial support as well as a grant from the Kelly Brush Foundation assists with participants training as well as sending participants and families to special events, such as Big Air at Fenway this past year. The league was also able to acquire more safety netting and a timing display board that allows participant's to see their time as they finish. She also discussed the One Revolution Program and the importance of bringing awareness for individuals with disabilities.

Mr. Bower informed the Board that all Board members and coaches are certified in First Aid and CPR. Concussion training is required as well. All participants are required to wear hard shell helmets. He thanked the Board and the Recreation Department for allowing them to utilize the Recreation Building at Prospect Hill Park for registration and dry land training and their continued support of the program. Director Tomasello reflected on remembering Mrs. Bower as a volunteer ski patrol and stated she also competed in the Buddy Werner Ski League. She thanked her for all she has done for the program. Mrs. Bower also thanked Director Tomasello for her years of dedication to the program and all of the youth groups of Waltham. She presented Director Tomasello with a gift from the organization. With nothing further, they were thanked for their presentation and continued success with the program.

The organization that presented next was the Waltham Youth Basketball Association. Representing the group was their President, Brian Wilder. Mr. Wilder began by informing the Board that this season marked the organization's 40<sup>th</sup> year. He stated that his father coached him and is now coaching his children. Mr. Wilder continued by stating that this year's participant numbers were their largest to date. Mr. Wilder informed the Board that they have approximately 50 participants playing on a scholarship from the league. The league will not turn a child away. His vision for the future of the program is to add more travel teams and be able to acquire more gym space. Mr. Wilder continued by stating that facility custodial fees are their biggest expense. Board member, Jerry Walker asked which facilities the program primarily utilizes. Mr. Wilder responded by saying that they use most of the elementary and middle schools gymnasiums, as well as the gym at the Waltham Community & Cultural Center. Board member Tricia Curtin questioned why there was no concession funds. Mr. Wilder responded by stating that is something they would be considering in the future, but that at this time, there isn't the volunteers available to assume the task. He also stated that they organization would like to acquire more sponsors to assist with their finances. With no further questions, Mr. Wilder was thanked for his presentation.

Next was the 2017 Summer Program Registration Fees. Director Tomasello directed the Board to a chart in their folder depicting the fee structure for our major summer programs over a period of (3) years. She recommends a small increase in the fees. Director Tomasello stated that the fee is still very reasonable considering the quality of each program and in comparison to other programs and surrounding communities programs and fees. Director Tomasello stated that the budget will be evaluated and an increase in summer staff pay will be considered especially for the supervisory positions, in hopes it will attract more qualified candidates. Director Tomasello also suggested looking into making other major summer programs completely self-supporting. Board member, Jerry Walker made a motion to approve Summer Program Registration Fee increase, as proposed, seconded by Gary Vallerand and voted unanimously.

On the agenda next was Bay State Games request for use of Veteran's Memorial Complex. Director Tomasello began by informing the Board that this is an annual event that has been hosted at Veteran's Complex since it was opened. She recommends approval of the use of the complex for the event, stating that it is very well run and Assistant Director Nick Abruzzi is in contact with organizers to ensure that regulations are met. A motion to approve the use of Veteran's Complex for Bay State Games was made by Board member, John Graceffa, seconded by Stacey Tully and voted unanimously.

Next on the agenda was a request for use of Veteran's Memorial Complex for Needham Soccer Memorial Day Tournament. Director Tomasello stated that she recommends approval of the request. She informed the Board that this an annual event and that there has never been a problem. Assistant Director, Nick Abruzzi informed the Board that the organization gives back to Waltham Youth Soccer and that the event is a showcase tournament. Board member, Jerry Walker made a motion to approve the request for use of Veteran's Memorial Complex for the 2017 Needham Memorial Day Tournament, seconded by John Graceffa, all in favor.

The next item for discussion on the agenda next was personnel matters. Chairman, Richard Scanlon introduced Mayor Jeanette McCarthy. Mayor McCarthy began by formally thanking Director, Sandra Tomasello for her 39 plus years of service to the City of Waltham and for her lifelong dedication to the City. She stated that Sandra always had the children in mind. Mayor McCarthy wanted to personally and publicly thank her and wished her well on her retirement.

Director Tomasello continued discussions by informing the Board that, Facility Supervisor, Robert McCarthy would also be retiring February 3, 2017. She reminded the Board that Mr. McCarthy began with the Recreation Department when the Department acquired the rink in 2005. She acknowledged and thanked Mr. McCarthy for his years of service to our community.

Director Tomasello explained, that filling positions within the City can be a lengthy process. With her retirement date February 10, 2017, well before the next Board meeting and Mr. McCarthy's position necessary to fill immediately. She asked the Board to make motions to facilitate the process. Director Tomasello informed the Board that she completely endorses Assistant Director, Nick Abruzzi for the position of Acting Director of Recreation. A motion was made by Board member, Jerry Walker to move quickly to facilitate the necessary documents for the hiring of an individual for Mr. McCarthy's position immediately and to authorize Recreation Board Chairman, Richard Scanlon to sign all necessary documents on behalf of the Board, seconded by John Graceffa, voted unanimously.

Board member, Jerry Walker agreed with Director Tomasello's endorsement of Assistant Director, Nick Abruzzi as Acting Director of Recreation. Therefore, Board member, Jerry Walker made a motion to appoint Assistant Director, Nick Abruzzi as Acting Director of Recreation effective, on the first day of Director Tomasello's retirement, seconded by John Graceffa, voted unanimously. A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

During the Directors Report, Director Tomasello informed the Board that the Chill Zone Program is still going strong. She directed the Board to a brief summary that was done by Program Supervisor, Kathy Gross.

In closing Director Tomasello expressed how comfortable she is in knowing she is leaving the Department in caring, capable hands and she believes that the Department will continue to do great things.

Each Board member thanked Director Tomasello for her service to the City and wished her the best on her retirement.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by John Graceffa, seconded by Stacey Tully and voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa DiBlasi, Clerk