

The Waltham Recreation Board held their March meeting on March 23, 2016, at the Waltham Community and Cultural Center, 510 Moody St., Waltham MA.

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

Also present was; Director Sandra Tomasello.

Chairperson, Richard Scanlon called the meeting to order at 5:40 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 February 24, 2016 meeting was made by Jerry Walker seconded by Thomas Creonte and voted unanimously.

Director Tomasello directed the Board members to review the February 24, 2016 Board Meeting's Executive Session Minutes. She explained once the minutes were reviewed and approved they would remain confidential and not open to the public. Director Tomasello asked that Board members who were present for the Executive Session if after reading the minutes, that a motion to accept be made. A motion was made to accept the Executive Session Minutes by Jerry Walker, seconded by Thomas Creonte.

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

In reviewing the Statement of Accounts, Director Tomasello noted that the first page reflected current balances in General Operating Accounts and the second page lists appropriations and balances for Capital Improvement Accounts. She noted an added line item for appropriation in the amount of \$1,130,000.00 for the Drake Playground Project.

Next on the agenda was the Stewardship Plan/Wellington House – Property Maintenance. Alex Green, a Member of the City of Waltham Historical Commission and Ward III City Councillor, George Darcy were present to explain to the Board the Historical Commission's plan for the property uses and maintenance. Mr. Green began by explaining that the restoration of the Wellington House began 10 years ago. He was happy to inform the Board that the restoration of the house is complete. Mr. Green continued by stating that now that the house is complete, the approximately (7) acres of city land surrounding the house, now that the house is complete the Historical Commission is interested in developing plan for the surrounding property, which includes the department's Woburn Street parcel. The handout describe the will need to be renovated. He stated that he would like the property to be a place that the community can enjoy, possibly restoring the area back to farm lands as it was originally used.

Ward Councillor, George Darcy directed the Board to a hand out distributed by him to the Board before his presentation. The handout explained the history of the Wellington House property, maps of the property depicting the areas owned by the City of Waltham, in addition to an area map. The handout also included a proposal for the scope of work that they would like to seek Board approval to be performed. Director Tomasello stated that the Consolidated Public Works Department would need to be consulted on the proposed plan. She continued by suggesting the proposed request include a (5) year plan. After questions and comments relative to the extent of the plan put before them without time to fully consider all that is involved, Board member, Thomas Creonte made a

motion to table further discussions relating to the matter until the April Recreation Board meeting, seconded by Jerry Walker and voted unanimously. Board member, Jerry Walker amended the original request and made a motion to give permission to clear the “mushroom shaped” area of land, (as identified on the map provided) along Trapelo Road which will provide access to the Woburn Street lot between the Wellington House lot and the Trapelo Road Fire Station, seconded by Thomas Creonte and voted unanimously. Board members request that Mr. Green confirm the date and schedule of the land clearing with Director Tomasello, who will then inform Board members.

On the agenda next was a request for use of the Veteran’s Athletic Complex the week of July 12, 2016 for Baystate games. Director Tomasello informed the Board that this was the 3rd year the complex would host the event. Board member Jerry Walker, stated that it has always been a good experience. Director Tomasello responded by saying that there have never been complaints and we have enjoyed having them. With no further questions, Board member Jerry Walker made a motion to approve the request for the use of Veteran’s Memorial Complex for Baystate Games, the week of July 12, 2016, seconded by Thomas Creonte, all in favor.

The next item on the agenda was a request for use of Prospect Hill Park September 10, 2016 and Elsie Turner October 2, 2016 by Race Around Waltham (RAW) series Directors Tim and Kathy Irving for RAW Series races. Director Tomasello stated that the only possible conflict would be construction beginning at Elsie Turner. Board member Gary Vallerand made a motion to accept the request for use of Prospect Hill Park and Elsie Turner for the Race Around Waltham (RAW) Series September 10, 2016 and October 2, 2016, seconded by Stacey Tully and voted unanimously.

On the agenda next for discussion was a request for use of Monsignor McCabe Playground for the Fitzgerald Elementary PTO annual Whiffle Ball Tournament, September 17, 2016. Director Tomasello informed the Board that this would be the event’s 2nd year and Assistant Director, Nick Abruzzi will coordinate with Warrendale Little League so they do not conflict with their Fall Baseball schedule. Director Tomasello stated that the event was a great fundraiser and well attended, with over 300 people. She recommended approval of the request. A motion to accept Fitzgerald School’s request for use of Monsignor McCabe Playground for their annual Whiffle Ball Tournament, September 17, 2016 was made by Board member Gary Vallerand, seconded by Stacey Tully, all in favor.

Next on the agenda was the FY 2017 Budget Proposal. Director Tomasello began discussions by referring the Budget handout in their folders. She explained that although the line item amounts make it seem like we are saving money, that FY 2016 budget amounts include all funds brought forward. Director Tomasello noted there were some increases, most significant are the increases in salary and wages due to the proposed position for the Park Ranger and the Assistant Director’s proposed grade increase. She continued by explaining that although the Park Ranger position was approved by City Council and the Mayor it was not approved by the Ordinance and Rules Committee. If the Board decides to continue to approve the position, she will request the funding for the position. Director Tomasello informed the Board that Water and Sewer costs have risen considerably. Board member Jerry Walker made a motion to approve the FY 2017 Budget Proposal, seconded by Stacey Tully, and voted unanimously.

For the Directors’ Report, Director Tomasello began by sharing an email she received asking her to share the communication with the Board regarding the Waltham Youth Soccer Organization. The email stated that the Waltham Youth Soccer Organization was not fairly treating (2) children who have recently been placed under the guardianship of a Waltham resident. Director Tomasello

informed the Board that the level the children would be eligible to play was a travel team only, therefore the child was put on a waitlist. She continued by explaining that Assistant Director, Nick Abruzzi had spoken with the Organization's President, Michael Guzzi. Mr. Guzzi explained he had been in contact with this individual and he had also explained to her that that before registration, travel team numbers are forwarded to the Youth Soccer Association. Therefore, the children would be put on the waitlist. After a brief discussion, the Board was agreed that Mr. Guzzi and the Waltham Youth Soccer Association acted appropriately and that the Recreation Board did not have jurisdiction to make decisions on such instances.

Director Tomasello continued by informing the Board that the Waltham Recreation Annual Report deadline is April 7, 2016 and that the report is coming together nicely. She noted that the Summer Program Brochures have been distributed and summer employment applications are coming in slow. The Peter Gilmore Project bid opening will be April 28, 2016. Director Tomasello informed the Board that the preliminary cost estimate is \$2.4 million. Design Plans for Elsie Turner and Graverson Playground are approximately 85% complete.

In other business board member, Gary Vallerand informed the Board that the new scoreboard located at Elsie Turner is down. He asked if we could notify game officials to address the issue and CPW if they need assistance. Mr. Vallerand then asked when Prospect Hill Park was scheduled to open for the season. Director Tomasello responded by stating that if warmer weather continues she would like to see the vehicle access road open the first week of April. She will need to confirm with CPW to arrange for the Park readiness and personnel coverage to open and close the gate each day. He informed the Board that with the Waltham High School Baseball team starting within the next week he would speak with Assistant Director, Nick Abruzzi regarding work that will have to be done on Jake Dennis at Nipper Maher that he will help with.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa DiBlasi, Clerk