

The Waltham Recreation Board held their March meeting on May 10, 2017, at the Waltham Community and Cultural Center, 510 Moody St., Waltham MA.

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

Also present was; Acting 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.

Monthly bills were circulated and signed by all Board members present.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2017, meeting was made by Jerry Walker seconded by John Graceffa and voted unanimously.

Acting Director Abruzzi began by reviewing the Statement of Accounts. He stated that the first page reflects the operating budget. Acting Director Abruzzi noted a substantial increase in funds in self-supporting accounts due to summer program registration. He informed the board that these funds will decrease during the summer due to program expenses. Acting Director Abruzzi stated that the second page reflects the Capital Improvement Accounts. He reported that all accounts are in good standing. Acting Director Abruzzi informed the Board that there are no significant changes in the accounts.

The first item on the agenda was the Fitzgerald Elementary School, Buddy Bench Program presentation. Acting Director Abruzzi reported that he had met with Principal Santillo regarding the bench placement. Principal, Jennifer Santillo began her presentation by stating that she appreciates the opportunity to be invited to speak to the Board in regards to the Buddy Bench initiative. She informed the Board that she would be seeking their approval to install two Buddy Benches at Monsignor McCabe Playground. Principal Santillo provided the Board with a few handouts that had photos of the benches, as well as specs and a power point presentation. She continued by explaining to the Board that the idea for the buddy bench was brought to the school's attention by a couple 3rd graders 3 years ago. Principal Santillo stated that there are two reasons for the bench. If a child is sitting on the bench it is a signal to other children playing in the area that the child would like someone to play with. For other students it is for them to notice another student sitting on the bench and to take the initiative to ask that child to play. There is currently a bench in the middle of the playground that is designated as the Buddy Bench. The children who initiated the idea created a sign for the bench. The bench has been in use for approximately two and a half years. Principal Santillo is very proud that her students are supporting each other with this initiative. She also stated that she is extremely appreciative of her teaching staff as well as the Schools Adjustment Councilor, Mrs. Bernard and her intern team, for promoting the initiative with conversation during their open circle time. Principal Santillo stated that because the program has done so well the Fitzgerald School PTO has decided to purchase and install two personalized Buddy Benches in the park. She informed the Board that there are donors who will be contributing to the purchase of the benches. Board member, Jerry Walker asked Acting Director Abruzzi if he met with Principal Santillo regarding the placement of the benches. He responded by stating that, himself along with Waltham Public Schools

Facilities Director, John Pinzone did meet with Principal Santillo and that they agree that the proposed sites of the benches are good logistically. Acting Director Abruzzi reiterated that the Recreation Department would work with the school concerning the installation. With no further questions, Board member, John Graceffa made a motion to grant permission for the Fitzgerald Elementary School to purchase and install two Buddy Benches at Monsignor McCabe Playground, with the Waltham Recreation Department working with them for the installation of the benches. Seconded by Jerry Walker, all in favor.

Next on the agenda was the Proposed 2017 Summer Staff. Acting Director Abruzzi directed the Board to refer to the proposed list in their folder. The last page had the names of individuals that did not receive a position, but will be utilized in the event that an individual declines their offer for employment. He informed the Board that all Summer Staff will be required to have CPR and First Aid training, as well as a CORI confirmation. After the Board approves the staff list and all necessary documents have been received from all the applicants the list will be sent to the Mayor for approval. Once the list is approved there will be CPR, AED and First Aid training. He informed the Board that there will also be a mock training day at Prospect Hill Park. Acting Director Abruzzi said that the applicant numbers were higher than last year. He credited Program Supervisors, Kim Scott and Kara Greeley for relentlessly reaching out to possible applicants through email and social media, as well as visiting the Waltham High School. Board member, John Graceffa asked if there would be AED monitors at each program location. Acting Director Abruzzi stated that there will be AED monitors at some sites, but not at all. Mr. Graceffa responded by stating that the laws may have changed, and that Acting Director Abruzzi should confirm what the protocol is for the monitors to be available at the programs. Mr. Graceffa also stated that he believed that AED monitors are available to rent. Acting Director Abruzzi stated that he would investigate the rental of AED monitors. Board member, Thomas Creonte made a motion to accept the 2017 Proposed Summer Staff, seconded by Stacey Tully. All in favor.

On the agenda next was the New England Orienteering Meet at Prospect Hill Park on October 21, 2017. Acting Director stated that this was an annual event. The group has always worked well with the Recreation Department. He explained that the park will remain open, stating that there will not be large groups at one time. Acting Director Abruzzi recommended the approval of the event. With no questions. Board member, Jerry Walker made a motion to allow New England Orienteering use of Prospect Hill Park for their annual Meet, October 21, 2017, Seconded by John Graceffa. All in favor.

Board member, Jerry Walker moved to discuss the Removal of Antico Tower at Prospect Hill Park in Other Business.

During the Directors Report, Acting Director Abruzzi asked the Board to refer to a print out in their folders of the summer registration participant numbers as of that day. He is very pleased with the numbers. Stating that registration will continue until a program is full or one week prior to the beginning of the program.

Acting Director Abruzzi continued by updating the Board on the matter of 14 Church Street. He informed the Board that he went before City Council seeking their approval for acquisition of the facility as a Recreation Building to be used for programming. It was approved, but the Council asked him to come back, Monday, May 15, 2017 to answer some questions. He believes it will be approved.

The Gilmore Playground project is moving along great. Acting Director Abruzzi stated that the contractor for the project is unbelievable. He reported that if the weather holds the project could be complete in (3) weeks. Acting Director Abruzzi is pleased with the playground structures and is impressed with the futsal/basketball court. He updated the Board on the progress of the Little Free

Library Project. Acting Director Abruzzi reported that he met with Kiira Pellitier and they agreed upon the location of the display. It was decided that it would be located on the grass strip on the Bedford Street side of Nipper Maher Park. They will be moving forward to raise funds for the project.

In other business Board member, Jerry Walker moved that the meeting continue in Executive Session to discuss the matter of the Antico Tower at Prospect Hill Litigation Status and adjourn the regular session meeting from Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken to enter into Executive Session. (Record of vote attached)

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa DiBlasi, Clerk