

The Waltham Recreation Board held their June meeting on June 10, 2015 at the Waltham Community and Cultural Center, 510 Moody St., Waltham MA.

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

Also present was 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 May meeting was made by Jerry Walker seconded by Thomas Creonte and voted unanimously.

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

In reviewing the Statement of Accounts, Director Tomasello directed the Board to the negative amount for Veteran's Rink – Salaries and Wages, explaining the negative accounting will be adjusted to reflect actual expenditure during the rink season versus non rink operational expenses by the Auditors Department. Board member Jerry Walker asked if the new fiscal year begins July 1st. Director Tomasello confirmed the date of the beginning of the new fiscal year. She continued by stating that the accounts are in good shape.

On the second page are Capital Accounts. Director Tomasello noted no significant changes. A motion to approve the Statement of Accounts was made by Wayne Cook, seconded by Thomas Creonte and voted unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Waltham Girls Softball 2015 reorganization update. Representing the program was Stephen McGovern, President and Leo Cardarelli, Treasurer. Tricia Dagostino, Vice President and Dave Carvelli, Secretary were also present. Leo Cardarelli reviewed the financial statement and report form. Stephen McGovern began by talking about the program's spring session, stating that they still had (2) U-12 teams playing and their U-14 team had finished the weekend of June 5, 2015. Director Tomasello noted that the league reported they ended their spring season with 99 participants. Mr. McGovern explained that numbers were a little lower than the previous year. He believes this is due to the Waltham Girls High School Softball teams recruiting girls as young as 7th grade to play on their Jr. Varsity and Varsity teams. Board member John Graceffa explained High School Sports are required to follow MIAA regulations. Mr. McGovern continued by informing the Board that they ran catching and pitching clinics this year, only charging each participant for the cost of the instructor. It was a success with 30 participants.

Board member Thomas Creonte inquired as to what the age range was for the t-ball participants. Mr. McGovern explained they are 4 to 6 year old girls. He continued by saying, himself along with (3) members of the Waltham High School Varsity Softball team, instructed the program on Sunday mornings, with the first few weeks held in the gym at Northeast Elementary School.

Focusing mainly on skill building. Board member Gary Vallerand expressed concern with there being a large age gap between the t-ball aged children and the U-10 program. Mr. McGovern explained that depending on the child's skill level they would put 7 and 8 year olds on the U-10 team.

Director Tomasello continued discussions asking what the program's summer season plan was. Mr. McGovern responded by explaining that they would be playing in the Middle Essex Softball League as the "Summer Hawks". He explained there are 265 teams in the league, with a 12 game schedule. The Middle Essex League will be responsible for the game schedule and will also schedule the umpires. Mr. McGovern stated that summer is seen as more competitive, therefore there is a cap on the number of girls per team. Waltham Girls Softball will have teams at the U-12, U-14 and U-18 levels. He continued by informing the Board that although not every member of the spring program will be able to play in the Middle Essex League there would be (2) coaches who will be having (2) pick-up games per week throughout the summer. Board member Jerry Walker inquired about their fall program plans. Mr. McGovern explained that they would use the name and uniforms from their summer program and the fee per participant would be the cost of umpires. His presentation concluded with the response to Board member Jerry Walker's question regarding their fundraising. He explained to the Board there were numerous fundraisers throughout the season and that the most popular one was t-shirts with the Waltham Girls Softball logo and different local sponsors. For a minimal fee businesses have the opportunity to have their logos screen printed on the t-shirt.

The Waltham Girls Softball representatives were thanked for their presentation.

Next for consideration was the annual request from St. Jude's School for their Barnyard Bingo fundraiser. Sister Katherine Martin noted that this year will mark their 10th year hosting this event at Cornelia Warren. The fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2015 (rain date: October 4). Both Waltham Pop Warner and Men's Softball were notified of the date and will schedule their practices/games around this event. A motion to approve the request was made by Chairman Richard Scanlon, seconded by Stacey Tully and voted unanimously.

On the agenda next was the Prospect Hill Park Trail Map Approval. Director Tomasello began by informing the Board that Program Supervisor, Kara Greeley with the help of Catherine Cagle, City of Waltham Planning Director and Eric Rizzo, with IT Services assisted in creating the proposed new trail map, which is a blend of the Waltham Recreation Department's old map and the Waltham Land Trust's current map. Director Tomasello congratulated Kara Greeley for her work on this project and recognized both Catherine and Eric for their help. She continued by stating she was pleased with the simplification of the map. A motion to approve the Prospect Hill Park Trail Map was made by Gary Vallerand, seconded by Stacey Tully and voted unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Prospect Hill Park Stewardship requests. Director Tomasello informed the Board that the PHP Stewardship Program request the Board's approval of (2) dates, an Invasive plant work day, July 25, 2015 and a Steward Appreciation Day, August 29, 2015. Board member Gary Vallerand informed the Board that he was in contact with Steward, Chris Leary in regards to what areas of the park would be the focal point of the Invasive plant day. It

is understood by all the locations will be agreed upon prior to final approval. He stated that he is trying to contact Mr. Leary to meet with him at the park before the July 9, 2015 Prospect Hill Park Subcommittee meeting date. A motion to approve the Prospect Hill Park Stewardship date requests was made by Gary Vallerand, seconded by Jerry Walker and voted unanimously.

A request for the use of Monsignor McCabe Playground made by Fitzgerald Elementary School PTO member Zev Young for a Corn Hole Tournament family event fundraiser was next on the agenda. Director Tomasello informed the Board that in speaking with Mr. Young it is her understanding that they are proposing corn hole hoping to appeal to all age groups. Upon initial inquiry she informed Mr. Young that inflatables such as, bounce houses would not be permitted on park property. Director Tomasello informed the Board that Assistant Director Nick Abruzzi would be the contact for the event. Mr. Abruzzi told the Board he has spoken to Warrendale Little League and they confirmed the park would be available for the event. Mr. Abruzzi will be the contact and will assist them with what is necessary for hosting this event and to ensure they meet all requirements. A motion to accept the request for use of Monsignor McCabe Playground for the Fitzgerald School Corn Hole Tournament was made by Gary Vallerand, seconded by Thomas Creonte and voted unanimously.

Next for consideration was a request from the Boston Symphony Orchestra of Waltham to host a BSO Community Chamber Concert. She explained they choose 10 communities each year to host this event. This year the Waltham Community and Cultural Center was chosen as a venue. The tentative date for this event is November 22, 2015. The BSO will be responsible for ticket distribution. Tickets for the event are free but will be limited to 200. When Board member Wayne Cook asked about parking, Director Tomasello responded that the concert is on a Sunday at 3:00 PM. Concert goers may visit Moody Street restaurants for dinner after the event. With the Community Center's parking lot, public parking lots off Moody Street and public transportation parking should not be an issue. Feeling like it was an honor to host this event a motion to accept the BSO's request for use of the Community Center for a Community Chamber Concert was made by John Graceffa, seconded by Jerry Walker and voted unanimously.

During the Directors Report, Director Tomasello informed the Board there were last minute changes to the Summer Staff, therefore the final staff list was not complete. She continued by stating that she was confident it would be finalized by, Thursday, June 11, 2015 stating the alternate list was exhausted. Board member Wayne Cook inquired about the status of the Park Maintenance and Park Ranger positions. Director Tomasello responded by informing the Board that new position funding was pending due to final approvals by City Council. When Board member, Thomas Creonte asked if there was any new information regarding the approval of position grade change, Director Tomasello informed the Board there would be no decisions made until a grade justification is written and submitted to the Mayor for review.

She then reported that the swings at Pond End Tot Lot were going to be installed, Friday June 12, 2015 and the park would officially be opened. She continued by informing the Board that the contractor working on the Cedarwood Playground Project is great. The project is moving forward on schedule.

Director Tomasello reported the target date for the opening of Mini Golf is June 29, 2015.

Board member Jerry Walker asked about Veteran's Memorial Complex, stating when driving by he notices the fields are always in use. He asked if the warranty on the turf was exhausted. Assistant Director Nick Abruzzi responded by confirming the warranty was exhausted, but that the fields were in great shape. He continued by stating the fields are booked through the middle of July. He continued by saying that in addition to Veteran's Memorial Complex, Falzone Field is also booked through July, saying that the field is used for smaller groups due to parking concerns and conflicts with the church, stating that there have been no issues.

Director Tomasello reported that in the Capital Budget there is a plan for both design services to develop plans for turf replacement, and serious consideration will be given to synthetic turf for the softball fields when the construction project is developed to replace the turf at the multi-purpose fields.

Board member Gary Vallerand asked if there was any plan for disposing of the fire pits in Prospect Hill Park. Director Tomasello responded by saying that there are many things to take into consideration some being, historical and other safety concerns. She feels that issue is something the Prospect Hill Subcommittee will need to discuss.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa DiBlasi, Clerk

