

The Waltham Recreation Board held their November meeting on November 9, 2016 at the Waltham Community and Cultural Center, 510 Moody St., Waltham MA.

Present were: Wayne Cook, Thomas Creonte, Patricia Curtain, Richard Scanlon, Gary Vallerand and Jerry Walker. John Graceffa and Stacey Tully 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 accept the minutes from the October Board meeting held on October 19, 2016 was made by Jerry Walker, seconded by Gary Vallerand and voted unanimously.

A motion to review and return to Director Tomasello the Executive Session minutes of the October meeting was made by Jerry Walker, seconded by Gary Vallerand, all in favor.

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

In reviewing the Statement of Accounts, Director Tomasello reviewed General Operating Accounts and the Capital Improvement Accounts. She informed the Board the only significant change was in the Capital Budget amounts as a result of invoices being paid for on-going work at Peter Gilmore and that balances were current as of November 1, 2016.

The 2016 Youth Sport Group Annual Presentations were next on the agenda. The first group to present was the Waltham Youth Baseball League. Representing the group was the league's President, Bill Hanley. Mr. Hanley began by distributing an informational sheet that explained some highlights of their season. When Assistant Director, Nick Abruzzi asked how they scheduled the fields. Mr. Hanley responded by explaining that they divided the games and practices equally between Lazazzaro Playground and Nipper Maher Park. Although t-ball was held solely at Nipper Maher due to field space and parking to accommodate the large number of participants and spectators. He stated that the biggest complaint from parents was the traffic and the amount of time it took to get across the city. While reviewing the leagues financials, Board member, Thomas Creonte noted that their credit card expense was very high. Mr. Hanley responded by explaining it is the most successful way to register. Board member, Wayne Cooke suggested to add the credit card processing fee into the registration fee. With no further questions Mr. Hanley was thanked for his presentation and dedication to the league.

Next on the agenda was the Waltham Girls Softball Association. President of the Association, Stephen McGovern, Treasurer, Leo Cardarelli and new board member, Mr. Dave Carvello were there to represent the organization. Mr. McGovern began by informing the Board that they had teams competing in spring, summer and fall leagues.

There were over (100) girls registered. Mr. Cardarelli spoke about a non-official tournament that was hosted at Waltham Girls Softball Leagues' home fields, Veteran's Memorial Field and Elsie Turner. The tournament consisted of teams from Waltham, Belmont, Watertown, Somerville and Brighton. He continued by stating that it was great competition. Mr. McGovern continued by informing the Board that current Treasurer, Leo Cardarelli would be stepping down and Mr. Dave Carvello will be taking over for Mr. Cardarelli as treasurer. There is a group of U-12 girls interested in winter training. They will be utilizing McDevitt Middle School gym on Sunday nights' for batting and pitching skills sessions. The fee for the program will be only for the custodial costs for the gym. Coaches contracted to teach the skills will be paid for by the league.

In conclusion, Mr. McGovern inquired about the status of the Elsie Turner Project. Director Tomasello responded that although the final plan is being completed for engineering for review, once ready the project will be advertised for bids and then the construction cost will be sought from the Mayor and City Council, she is confident there won't be any issues and that construction will begin in the spring 2017.

Next on the agenda was Waltham Youth Lacrosse, representing the group was Mr. Stephen Duffy. He reported that numbers are up from last year. Mr. Duffy continued by stating that there is great leadership and parent participation within the program. He informed the Board that the number of girls participating is continuing to grow. Mr. Duffy introduced Mr. Eddie Villafane. He informed the Board that he is assisting Mr. Villafane transition to becoming the Director of the program. When Board member Thomas Creonte asked what towns do they typically play, Mr. Duffy responded by saying that the boys play in the Patriot League and the girls play in the Founders League. Stating that both leagues have great competition. Mr. Duffy wanted to congratulate (2) Waltham Youth Lacrosse Alumni for signing National Letters of Intent to play lacrosse for Division 1 University's, Taylor Pinzone with Northwestern University and Conor Lenfest for Binghamton University.

Waltham Youth Track Club was next on the agenda for discussion. Representing the group was Mr. Joe Tranchita. He began by informing the Board that numbers are steady, therefore they will be doing open enrollment. Stating that with other Winter sports, attendance can be irregular. Mr. Tranchita stated that the program has been expanded from (4) nights to (5) space is limited. They cannot expand the spring program, due to lower registration numbers. Mr. Tranchita informed the Board of the Safe Sport Course, stating it is a mandatory course for all their coaches, which focuses on number of issues when coaching youths, including abuse. Stating that although the course is costly is very informative and he strongly recommends it. With no further concerns, Board member Jerry Walker thanked Mr. Tranchita for his presentation and a job well done.

During the Directors Report Director Tomasello asked the Board to refer to a copy of a communication in their folder from the Wolverine Corporation. The company is housed in the new glass office building on Totten Pond Road. The letter state that their corporation has donated \$10,000.00 to the Recreation Department with no restrictions as to where the money is allocated. Board member, Jerry Walker suggested that a note of

appreciation should be sent from the Board. All agreed. Director Tomasello informed the Board that fall programs are winding down and the winter program brochure is at the printer. She continued by stating that there are a lot of new programs being offered, that we are very excited about. Online registration begins on November 22, 2016 and walk in begins November 30, 2016.

Director Tomasello informed the Board that with the weather cooperating construction in the rear of the building at 510 Moody Street is ongoing and is expected to be complete close to the Thanksgiving holiday. Construction at the Gilmore Playground is continuing as well. Construction will continue into December, concluding for the winter and resume in the spring. Director Tomasello continued by informing the Board that the bid opening for the Elsie Turner and Graverson Playground projects will be advertised the first of the year. There are some small adjustments that need to be made to address engineering's corrections for utilities'. She is hopeful that the projects will be done as a package by the same contractor and work should begin in the spring.

Director Tomasello continued by informing the Board that the Mayor has advertised a request for proposals (RFP) for design services for Bobby Connors Playground and Prospect Hill Park improvements. She informed the Board of a communication she received regarding the design funds for the Bobby Connors project as well as Prospect Hill Park renovations. Director Tomasello will be attending the City Council Finance Committee meeting to answer questions regarding the appropriation of funds to enter into a contract with the designer. She anticipates implementation of the Recreation Board's first year of the Prospect Hill Park 5 Year Improvement Plan to be included in the Prospect Hill Park project. A neighborhood meeting will be scheduled to hear resident's requests for developing a plan for Bobby Connors Playground Improvements. The Mayor stipulated that a total of \$400,000 for construction for both projects will be sought. With regards to plans to replace synthetic turf at Veteran's Complex, Planning Director, Catherine Cagle has created a draft for an RFP for design services, which is being reviewed by Recreation and Planning Department employees to develop the final RFP to submit to Mayor McCarthy for consideration.

Director Tomasello updated the Board on the Hillcroft Playground Project. She has received information from the City's Engineering Department, regarding the ongoing drainage issues at the site. There have been numerous tests conducted on the soil, it is saturated and not suitable to build on without removing and replacing soils. She reports at this time there is no solution. Discussion began about the drainage issues that were experienced at Nipper Maher Playground, Director Tomasello explained that there were drainage issues, but the issues at Nipper Maher were not the same. She informed the Board that in the past with drainage issues a storage tank could be installed and released, unfortunately that is not an option for this site, stating the soil is too saturated. Director Tomasello will schedule a meeting with the City's consultant, Weston & Sampson and Engineering to discuss solutions to possibly move forward.

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 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa DiBlasi, Clerk