

The Waltham Recreation Board held their November meeting on November 18, 2015 at the Waltham Community and Cultural Center, 510 Moody St., Waltham MA.

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

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

Vice-Chairperson, Jerry Walker 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 28, 2015 was made by Thomas Creonte, seconded by Stacey Tully and voted unanimously.

Director Tomasello directed the Board members to review the October Board Meeting's Executive Session Minutes provided in their meeting folders. She explained once the minutes were approved a copy would remain sealed in the clerks records and would not be available to the public. Director Tomasello asked that Board members who were present for the Executive Session read the minutes. A motion was made to accept the Executive Session Minutes by Gary Vallerand, seconded by Wayne Cook. A roll call vote was taken and recorded. (See attached)

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 stating there are minimal if any changes in spending since last reported (3) weeks ago. Balances are all current as of today's date.

The Waltham Girls Softball Association was next on the agenda. Director Tomasello welcomed the President of the Association, Stephen McGovern and their Treasurer, Leo Cardarelli. Mr. Cardarelli began by stating that because they came before the Board in June there was not a great deal to report. He stated that their numbers were low for their summer program and that their fall program was great and having just ended in late October. Director Tomasello reminded Mr. McGovern that they would meet in the spring to discuss the renovations that are planned for at Elsie Turner Softball field. At that time they will review the league's options for the league to utilize the field during the projected construction schedule, Mr. McGovern stated that the summer would be the biggest concern. Mr. McGovern stated that he and the league are very excited about the renovations and will make any sacrifices necessary to ensure the success of the project. He continued by informing the Board that the summer program is travel, therefore he can inform the league that they will need to schedule them at other fields, stating that most teams in the league are from surrounding areas. Board member Jerry Walker thanked them for their presentation.

On the agenda next was Waltham Youth Lacrosse, representing the group was the leagues' President, Stephen Duffy. He reported that numbers were low. Mr. Duffy continued by informing the Board that they are adding clinics for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in hopes that will have numbers surging. He was excited to report the league introduced a program for Kindergarteners they called Friday Night Lights. They played the games on Friday nights at Waltham High Schools' Harding Field under the lights. There were 25 participants, they used foam balls and helmets were not used. The program was a huge success. Their plan for next year is to have a girls program as well. Mr. Duffy continued by stating that there are concerns with the boys' numbers specifically at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade level. His hope is to have 2 teams, an A and B level. When Board member Jerry Walker asked if he had any other concerns, Mr. Duffy responded by stating that his only concern was numbers. He concluded on a positive note stating that there has been great involvement with the High School boys and girls Lacrosse team members volunteering to referee the lower level games. Stating that not only does that save money for the league it is a great learning opportunity as well. Jerry Walker thanked him for his presentation.

Next on the agenda was the Waltham Youth Track Club, representing the group was Joe Tranchita. Mr. Tranchita began by informing the Board that the number of boys participating is rising. He continued by recognizing new individuals on their board of directors who have improved their technology, it is now possible to have results in real time. Mr. Tranchita reported that U.S. Track and Field now requires all coaches and volunteers have a background check or CORI done through the National organization. They will not accept a Massachusetts CORI. This is costing the league approximately \$40 per coach and volunteer, which includes the U.S. Track and Field membership that is required for all coaches. With 60 to 70 coaches this is costly for the league. Mr. Tranchita informed the Board that the New England Branch of Track and Field is trying to offset the cost by allotting each group a certain amount of memberships they will pay for. Board member Jerry Walker asked if there was a National Conference scheduled and if that would be an opportunity to address the issue. Mr. Tranchita responded by saying that they address it every year, continuing by stating it's a National issue due to the fact that every state has a different policy and that because of privacy policies results cannot be shared. With no further concerns, Board member Jerry Walker thanked Mr. Tranchita for his presentation and a job well done.

On the agenda next for discussion was Director Tomasello's presentation of the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Improvement Budget Proposal. Director Tomasello informed the Board that along with the FY17-FY21 Capital Improvement Budget Proposal, Mayor McCarthy has asked the Board for a priority list of Capital Improvements specifically for Prospect Hill Park. She continued by directing the Board to review her suggested proposal. Director Tomasello explained the notes at the bottom of the sheet outlining her proposed changes to the budget, stating they were short and to the point. She continued by explaining that when asking for Capital Funds you have to be specific or funds may not be approved. Director Tomasello explained each item to be added or revised on the proposal. She directed the Board to two (2) additional Prospect Hill Park Capital Improvement Priority lists, one was compiled by Director Tomasello and Recreation Department Staff and the other proposed by the Prospect Hill Park Subcommittee for the

Stewardship Program , who met November 12, 2015. She continued by stating that the lists were very similar and suggested that the lists be combined. Director Tomasello suggested that some of the items on the Prospect Hill Park's Subcommittee's list be considered for revision, i.e.; to continue to allow grilling at picnic sites, and the discussion to allow the public to bring their own gas grills in the park. She explained that this is an issue that should be discussed at a later Board meeting, as it is more policy related than a capital expenditure. Board member, Gary Vallerand stated that he feels that prohibiting any grilling or open fires within Prospect Hill Park will be in the best interest of the park. He believes that barbeques or grilling should be limited to the base area only and additional picnic areas could be added to accommodate large groups. Director Tomasello responded by asking the Board to take into consideration, with Putt Putt Mini Golf, the amount of traffic that would generate to the beginning of the park. Director Tomasello continued by explaining each line item on the list. Board member Gary Vallerand asked what the status of Park Ranger Position was. Director Tomasello responded by informing the Board that the position was approved at the budget stage, but did not pass approval from the Ordinance and Rules Committee. Mr. Vallerand continued by asking if a Park Ranger position is approved would the priority list change. Director Tomasello responded by informing the Board that if they vote to add the position to the Recreation budget and it is approved the individual would not begin employment before September 2016, therefore they would be able to operate out of the Recreation Building at Prospect Hill Park. She continued by reminding the Board that the position would not be exclusive to Prospect Hill Park. With no further questions, Board member Thomas Creonte made a motion to accept the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Improvement Budget Proposal, as presented. Seconded by Wayne Cook, all in favor.

On the agenda next was Prospect Hill Park subcommittee Report. Subcommittee Chairman, Gary Vallerand began discussions by informing the Board the Subcommittee met with Subcommittee members, Stacey Tully and Patricia Curtin, Waltham Land Trust Director, Sonja Wadman and Ward 1 Councillor, Dan Romard. Recreation Assistant Director, Nick Abruzzi was also in attendance. He continued by stating that himself with Subcommittee members met briefly prior to the meeting to compile the priority list for Capital Improvements for Prospect Hill Park. Mr. Vallerand informed the Board that his first question at the meeting was the status of the Prospect Hill Park Stewardship Program. He reported that his suggestion to Councillor Romard and Ms. Wadman was that there is no need for a Steward Leader and that the Stewards only need to be the eyes and ears of the park. Mr. Vallerand continued his report by informing the Board that he created a Facebook Page and a gmail email account that will be given to Stewards to contact him directly with incidents in the park. He informed the Board that he will meet with Councillor Romard, Ms. Wadman and the Stewards in the spring of 2016. Board member Jerry Walker suggested that there should be a Steward to be a filter for complaints in the park. Assistant Director responded by informing the Board that Councillor Romard will meet with the Stewards to see if there is an individual willing to take the leadership role. Chairman Vallerand asked subcommittee member Stacey Tully if she had anything to add. Mrs. Tully's response was that she was very excited about the proposed improvements and that she cannot wait to have the Park Ranger Position so the proposed renovations can be implemented. Director Tomasello responded to questions

regarding Berry Farm, the area of the park that has been newly acquired by the city, by stating that the development of this 20+ acres is included in the 5 year Capital Plan with hopes of picnic areas and walking trails. With no further questions. Board member Jerry Walker asked Chairman Vallerand which Prospect Hill Park Improvement Proposal he preferred. Mr. Vallerand responded by stating that he felt the lists were similar and would like to combine them. Thomas Creonte made a motion to combine both Prospect Hill Park Improvement Proposal lists, seconded by Gary Vallerand and voted unanimously.

During the Directors Report Director Tomasello informed the Board that the Winter Program Brochures were delivered to the schools. She continued by informing the Board that the bid opening for Drake Playground Improvements is December 17, 2015, stating she is very excited for construction to begin early next spring.

Director Tomasello continued by reporting that the rink is getting ready for a volume of activity with Middle and High School Hockey right around the corner. Board member Jerry Walker asked Assistant Director, Nick Abruzzi when public skate is scheduled to begin. Mr. Abruzzi responded by saying public skating will begin, Friday, November 20, 2015. He continued by stating that ice is rented every day until the 12 AM hour throughout the season.

In other business, Board member Wayne Cook reported that the shrubbery abutting Forest Street and Veteran's Memorial Fields is over grown onto the sidewalks which could be a hazard for individuals walking, stating that Forest Street has proved to be dangerous to walkers in the past. He asked that the Recreation Department alert Consolidated Public Works Director Michael Chiasson of the issue. Director Tomasello will contact CPW and request they trim the overgrown area for everyone's safety.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa DiBlasi, Clerk