

The Waltham Recreation Board held their October Board meeting on October 17, 2018 at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

Present were: Patricia Curtin, John Graceffa, Richard Scanlon, Stacey Tully, Gary Vallerand, and Jerry Walker. Absent were Wayne Cook, Jennie Scafidi and Tom Creonte

Also present was 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 cable channel and would be shown on the local channel at a later date.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2018 Board Meeting by Jerry Walker, seconded by Stacey Tully, all were in favor.

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

Director Abruzzi reviewed the statement of accounts explaining that two pages in their folders detailed operational and capital budget balances. Director Abruzzi explained at the September meeting balances for special revenue and capital accounts had not been carried forward from fiscal year 2018 to 2019 which is why dates and balances still reflected June 2018 numbers. The City of Waltham Auditing Department recently completed all carry forwards and the pages tonight are updated to reflect October 1, 2018. Director Abruzzi informed the Board that the 4 capital accounts highlighted in yellow were accounts that were added for future projects. These included funding for design for Prospect Hill Park and CPC funding for the Play Structure being built at the Veterans Memorial Field Complex. All accounts are in good standing.

Next on the agenda were youth group presentations from Waltham Baseball/Babe Ruth and Warrendale Little League. Waltham Baseball represented by President Bill Hanley and Treasurer Sean George began their presentation by recapping their season. President Hanley talked about the challenges of changing from Cal Ripken Association to the Little League Association. The issues were minor but noted due to the change seven players would lose one year of little league eligibility and have to play at the Babe Ruth league level. Director Abruzzi asked about registration and specifically the online fees that were incurred. The League increased fees for registration and the online fees were built into the increase. Board Member Jerry Walker asked about some needs and issues the league had detailed in their paperwork. President Hanley explained their concession stand at Babe Ruth was broken into and candy and money was stolen. The police apprehended the responsible parties and they are paying the league back for items lost. He indicated that the league is adding cameras to the building and the work will be done by a video company owned by a parent of a player in the league to prevent future issues. Board Member Jerry Walker requested that the work be coordinated through Director Abruzzi. Mr. Hanley went on to discuss the ceiling at Nipper Maher Park concession building that is damaged and falling apart from water issues. Director Abruzzi explained he is working with the Building Department to repair the ceiling before winter months. Board Member Gary Vallerand offered to repair the ceiling for the league. The Board thanked the league for the presentation and for their efforts.

Warrendale Baseball Little League was next to present and they were represented by League President Tim O'Toole and Treasurer Bill Burgess. Mr. O'Toole began by informing the Recreation Board that they just completed their 61st season. He went on to summarize the past season and

highlighted how numbers at the younger ages are on the rise which bodes well for the future of the league. Total numbers for the league remained consistent from years past around 240 players. He discussed the skills nights they offered to players in the league on three different occasions and how families that participated ate at the shack and spent the night at the park. O'Toole continued to discuss how they prioritize fun and fundamentals in their league and overall the season was a success. He thanked Director Abruzzi for all of his assistance and complemented the field work that was done by Charlie Bastarache and Matt Philpott. Bill Burgess was joined by two students from the emerging leaders program that has become a great program that partners students from the league and Watertown Savings Bank. The program offers great real world experience for students and it's a great way to teach valuable lessons that can be applied in many areas of life. In attendance was current Emerging Leader Hannah MacDonald as well as the new leader for the upcoming year Hailey McIntyre. Hannah discussed how much she has learned from this program about establishing her own business and keeping it stable. She has done so well that she is now employed part time at Watertown Savings Bank working weekdays after school. Mr. Burgess went on to complement Hannah and Hailey for their success and specifically pointed out how well Hailey conducted herself on a public speaking project. He went on to introduce other members of the program that were unable to attend the meeting. Director Abruzzi congratulated all participants and thanked Mr. Burgess for his efforts on this program. The Board thanked them for their presentation and efforts.

Director's Report:

Elsie Tuner Field and Graverson Playground – Elsie Turner Playground construction is just about complete with only minor punch list items left to be completed. These items include parking lot striping, netting for the field and bleachers being assembled. Graverson Playground is a few weeks behind but both should be completed in the near future.

Hillcroft and Bobby Connors Playground – Director Abruzzi explained that the bidding process will take place over winter months for both Hillcroft Playground and Bobby Connors Playground with a plan for construction beginning in Spring 2019 pending funding.

Veterans Memorial Rink – Veterans Memorial Rink project is nearing completion as well. The new compressors, heating system, dehumidification system and cooling tower have been installed. Items that need to be completed include tying in the heat reclaim system and small punch list items. The Reclaim system will help defray high electric costs and make the rink operate more efficiently. The rink project should be completed in the next few weeks.

Prospect Hill Park RFP for Design – The contract for the design for Prospect Hill Park is being circulated for City signatures. Once the contract is official a meeting will be held with Hedlund Design Group to start planning for improvements. A public meeting will be held to allow the public to offer feedback on the future improvements.

Prospect Hill Park Building Roofs – In the next few weeks roof repair and replacement will take place on buildings at the base area of Prospect Hill Park.

Laser Tag System – The new laser tag room will open in the coming weeks. Prior to the meeting the Board was able to tour the latest recreation attraction. Kathy Gross has done an outstanding job on designing and completing improvements in the room. This will be a great addition to programs and special thanks to Kathy as well as Adam Dallaire, Ben Kiwanuka and Ivan Cormier for their efforts.

Fernald Property – In discussing the Fernald Community Field at last month's meeting John Graceffa noted that there used to be culverts in the field and it should be checked prior to organized use. After inspecting the location it was determined that the structures still exist and we are working with engineering to resolve this issue.

Halloween In The Park – Director Abruzzi referred the Board to a flyer in their folders for Halloween in the Park, a special event being held on October 27, 2018 at Prospect Hill Park. There seems to be great interest in this event and we hope to double attendance from last year.

Cornelia Warren Playground – Designers are working with the Recreation Department on plans for improving the softball field and parking lot as well as adding more options that will include play structure, fitness stations and golf amenities. A public input meeting will be held in the near future and construction would be scheduled for fall 2019 to allow the men's softball league to complete their next season. This project would move forward pending funding.

Veterans Field Play Structure – The play structure at Veterans Field Complex has been installed. The curbing and wall are being constructed currently and the poured in place rubberized surfacing will be installed over the next two weeks.

Jerry Walker discussed how great the new locations being constructed look and thanked Director Abruzzi for his efforts in coordinating these projects.

Other Recreation Business

In other business, Director Abruzzi discussed the Rise and Shine Breakfast for Healthy Waltham that he attended earlier in the day. He complemented Recreation Board Member and Executive Director of Healthy Waltham, Stacey Tully for her efforts coordinating the breakfast.

Director Abruzzi congratulated Recreation Board Member Stacey Tully for receiving the Dorothy Cooper Elder Care Award from Neighbors Who Care.

Director Abruzzi thanked Clarks Corporation employees for their efforts cleaning up at Prospect Hill Park. Board Member Gary Vallerand worked with the group and coordinated the cleanup. Director Abruzzi offered special thanks to Gary for his efforts in the park.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jerry Walker and seconded by Patricia Curtin, all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicholas Abruzzi, Director