

The Waltham Recreation Board held their September meeting on September 21, 2016 at the Waltham Community and Cultural Center, 510 Moody St., Waltham MA.

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

Chairman Scanlon asked that a member of the Board put forth a motion to change the order of the agenda to allow the matter being discussed by Mayor McCarthy to be heard first. Board member, Jerry Walker made a motion to change the order to hear Mayor McCarthy as item # 1. In attendance to discuss the issue was Mayor Jeanette McCarthy as well as Waltham Public Schools Safety Officer, Ann Frassica. Mayor McCarthy began by stating that she would be asking the Board to place a restriction on dogs at Drake Playground. She explained that there were many other properties in the City that dog owners may bring their dogs. Mayor McCarthy stated that the park is very busy with children and believes that with dogs frequenting the property it is a health and safety concern for the children. Officer Ann Frassica confirmed the Mayor's concerns by stating that she has witnessed many occasions of children reporting to the office at Plympton School with dog waste on their clothing. Officer Frassica also commended the Recreation Board on the renovations to the park. Board member, Thomas Creonte asked if they were asking for signage at the park prohibiting dogs. Mayor McCarthy stated that with the park being in close proximity to the school and used for recess by the school population she feels it is necessary. Board member, Thomas Creonte made a motion to prohibit dogs from Drake Playground, the motion was seconded by Jerry Walker and voted unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting was made by Thomas Creonte, seconded by Jerry Walker and voted unanimously.

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

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

In reviewing the Statement of Accounts, Director Tomasello noted that there was significant a significant list of the bills, given the board hadn't met since mid-June the amounts were current as of September 20, 2016. While reviewing the Capital Funds, Director Tomasello informed the Board that the amounts were carried forward from FY2016 and there were no new FY 2017 Capital appropriations as of yet.

The next item on the agenda for discussion was the 2016 Summer Report summary. Director Tomasello asked the Board to refer to a one page summary in their folder. She reported that major programs were once again well received. Even with the extreme heat, program attendance

was still consistent. Director Tomasello continued by informing the Board the new program offerings were very successful as well. She congratulated the full and part time seasonal employees of a job well done. Director Tomasello stated that there were some challenges with such a young staff. She suggested that for the summer 2017 season, increasing the rate of pay along with the flexibility of schedules may attract a greater number of applicants, as well as more college age students pursuing careers in working with children. Director Tomasello considered the season very successful. Board member Jerry Walker asked if research could be done to compare what surrounding community's rates of pay for part time summer staff is. Director Tomasello responded by informing the Board that information could be obtained from the Mass Park and Recreation Association. Staff members will discuss flexible scheduling possible job sharing of supervisory positioning in hopes of recruiting teachers interested in working for a few weeks during the summer vs. the entire (8) week season.

On the agenda next was the Directors Report. Director Tomasello began by informing the Board of two volunteering efforts that were held at two separate playgrounds. Both were very successful. Arianna Voci, the Wellesley High School student held a reading program at McDonald Playground over the summer. Ms. Voci reported that participation increased four times from the previous year. Director Tomasello informed the Board that she wrote Ms. Voci a recommendation letter for National Honor Society. An Eagle Scout candidates repaired cracks in the skate park at Koutoujian Playground as well as installation of concrete pads for park benches so parents could watch their children in the shade.

Director Tomasello reported that the opening of Drake Playground was September 14, 2016. She stated that there was still a small punch list of items that needed to be completed by the contractor, but did not want to delay the opening. Director Tomasello informed the Board that there will be a sign with a small biography of Mr. Drake that will be written by his family. She continued by reporting that construction at Gilmore Playground has begun and will continue through the spring of 2017. Director Tomasello informed the Board of a Block Grant Project that has begun in the rear of the building of the Waltham Community & Cultural Center for ADA accessibility and (2) ADA parking spaces. Design services for central air conditioning in the building are being developed and depending on cost estimate the project could be done in phases. Director Tomasello informed the Board that she would be attending a meeting with Consultant Ben Gary at the Conservation Commission, Thursday, September 22, 2016 in regards to the final design for Elsie Turner. Settling the parking issue was the main purpose of attending the meeting. She assured the Board that her priority would continue to be the safety of visitors of the park.

The Race Around Waltham Series' Bandit Run at Prospect Hill was a success as usual. Assistant Director Nick Abruzzi stated that they are a great group to work with and the series is always a positive experience.

Director Tomasello directed the Board to a flyer in their folder. She explained the flyer was distributed to schools highlighting some of our new fall programs, fall brochures are not distributed to schools, due to the early start date of school this year.

Director Tomasello concluded her report by informing the Board that the Veteran's Memorial Rink opened September 6, 2016 and that even with the higher temperatures the compressors are working well keeping the ice in good condition.

In other business Director Tomasello informed the Board of a late filing of a request from Waltham Youth Hockey. Assistant Director Nick Abruzzi informed the Board that he was approached by Waltham Youth Hockey Board member, Tom Bourque. Mr. Bourque asked Mr. Abruzzi to meet with him and a representative from LiveBarn Inc. that offers live web broadcasts of hockey games in the rink. Mr. Abruzzi explained that cameras would be installed around the rink and that families would have to purchase subscriptions to view the games similar to Netflix, for a monthly fee. The equipment and installation would be at no cost to the City of Waltham. Board members expressed concerns regarding privacy policies and child safety. He assured the Board that all equipment would be kept in a secure location. Mr. Abruzzi will be asking the organization for references. He stated that it would be something that would need the approval of the State of Massachusetts because the State owns the building. If the State approved the proposal he would discuss it with the City of Waltham's Law Department before it was brought before the Board for vote.

With no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Thomas Creonte, seconded by Stacey Tully and voted unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa DiBlasi, Clerk