

The Waltham Recreation Board held their February Board meeting on February 9, 2022 at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

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

Also present were Director, Nick Abruzzi and Assistant Director, Kim Scott.

Vice Chairperson Jerry Walker called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2022 Parks-Recreation Board Meeting by John Graceffa and seconded by Wayne Cook. All were in favor.

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

Director Abruzzi reviewed the statement of accounts explaining that two pages in their folders detailed operational and capital budget balances. Minimal changes can be seen since the last meeting. Director Abruzzi noted that on the operational budget page under the Kaleidoscope and Spray Park Account, water bills have been processed and a decrease of close to \$90,000.00 can be seen. All accounts are in good standing.

The next item on the agenda was the Youth Sports Group Presentations.

Waltham Youth Football will present at a future meeting.

The Waltham Youth Soccer Association was represented by Duncan Remage-Healey, Treasurer. Mr. Remage-Healey stated that the league had a great season. For the spring of 2022, over 900 athletes have already registered. League revenue has returned to pre pandemic amounts. Director Abruzzi has been in contact with Mr. Bucelwicz, League President about preparing the fields for the season. Mr. Remage-Healey shared his excitement about researching the use of portable lights at Falzone Field for fall of 2022. Diversity in coaches and athletes is a goal for the upcoming year. Training for coaches include concussion awareness as well as harassment and safety trainings. Badges are given to coaches who complete trainings and pass a CORI check. The Parks-Recreation Board thanked Mr. Remage-Healey for his time and effort.

Next on the agenda was a special presentation from the Bay State Games. Executive Director, Kevin Cummings shared the history of the Bay State Game's Hall of Fame. In 2021 City of Waltham's Recreation Department was nominated and inducted into the Bay State Games Hall of Fame. The year 2022 will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bay State Games where over 30 different sports are played each year. Bay State Games have utilized Veterans Memorial Athletic Complex since 2012. Mr. Cummings wanted to thank Director Abruzzi and his staff for their support and use of this quality facility. The Parks-Recreation Board praised Director Abruzzi and the Recreation staff for this great honor.

The 2022 Proposed Summer fees was the next item on the agenda. Director Abruzzi explained this one-page document separated the in-house programs and the anticipated third-party programs. Yearly evaluation, negotiation and communication with third party companies has

created great relationships featuring high quality and lower cost programs, maintaining affordable options for all those within the community. In-house programs will expand by one hour and will now be offered from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Director Abruzzi thanked Assistant Director Kim Scott for her efforts in finalizing these fees and programs.

A motion to approve the 2022 proposed summer programs and fees was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Tricia Curtin. All were in favor.

### **Director's Report:**

**Lowell Field** – The Recreation Department has been working with Carolyn Cooney and Associates to create renderings for the Lowell Field improvement project. These renderings should be online for the community to review and provide comments within the next week.

**Warrendale Little League** – It was brought to Director Abruzzi's attention that the decision was made to merge Warrendale Little League with Waltham Baseball. Warrendale Little League's Treasurer Bill Burgess provided a timeline of the decision-making process and the merger plan. This document was provided to the Parks-Recreation Board. Waltham Baseball has decided to group the lower-level teams by school districts, ensuring neighborhood teams. The older level divisions are chosen by a draft. An email was sent to all of last year's Warrendale Little League families with information on how to register for Waltham Baseball. Mr. Burgess has offered to report back to the Parks-Recreation Board next October with an update on how the season progressed. Warrendale Little League will pay outstanding invoices and purchase a new AED for the concession stand. The remaining funds will be provided to Waltham Baseball to assist with operational costs of the additional players. The Parks-Recreation Board had discussion on the history of baseball in Waltham and the past trials and tribulations of merging organizations and leadership. Director Abruzzi will be meeting with Waltham Baseball leadership in the next few weeks for an update. The Parks-Recreation Board asked for an update following Director Abruzzi's meeting with Waltham Baseball leadership and asked for a list of answers for frequently asked questions, to ensure the same message is being shared. The Parks-Recreation Board would also like to know the plan for the Emerging Leaders program.

### **Other Business**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Wayne Cook and seconded by Jennie Scafidi, all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kimberly A. Scott  
Assistant Director