

The Waltham Recreation Board held their April Board meeting on April 10, 2019 at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

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

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

Chairperson Richard Scanlon called the meeting to order at 4:30 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 March 20, 2019 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 accounts. Director Abruzzi explained there was a new line item on the second page, the capital budget accounts. The new figure was for Hillcroft Improvements which was added since being approved by the Mayor and City Council. The contract was recently signed and work will begin in the near future. The Veterans Memorial Rink – Roof Repair account was updated and now has a balance of \$24,000.00, leaving a balance of \$6,000 in the Rink Equipment account. A new account was established for roof work and funds were transferred from the rink equipment account to support the repairs. All accounts are in good standing.

Youth Group Presentations –

Waltham Youth Hockey's Treasurer Paul Aborn was in attendance representing the program. Mr. Aborn stated that the season was a great success. The financials presented reflect last season. The league has seen a rise in younger age groups. A new advertising model has been used to attract teams for their February Vacation Week Tournament. A focus has also been placed on the lower level teams, who may not have an option to travel for tournament play. These two modifications have increased participation in the Tournament. Board Member Tom Creonte inquired on the number of resident/nonresident athletes. It was explained that there were 338 Waltham Residents and 184 Non Residents. Those nonresidents, traditionally live in a community where there is not a program available. The few nonresidents, that do have an in town program available, would need to obtain a waiver to participate. Director Abruzzi inquired if the League still required coaches to have concussion training and if they were first Aid/CPR trained. Mr. Aborn stated that the trainings were provided. The Board thanked Mr. Aborn.

Chairman Dick Scanlon recognized Ward 3 City Councillor George Darcy and thanked him for attending the meeting. Councillor Darcy was appearing to discuss the Wellington Farm CPA Application Request. Councillor Darcy summarized that in 2016 the Recreation Board Approved the clearing of a mushroom shaped area between the Wellington House and the Fire Station on Trapelo Road. The clearing would include removing growth from the last twenty years and the land would be returned to open farm land. Cost estimates have been acquired and the City Council has approved the initial request of the CPA application request. The Wellington Property is under the

care and control of the Waltham Recreation Department. Councillor Darcy was requesting that the CPA Application he is currently completing be co-sponsored by the Recreation Department. The parcel of land was last farmed in the late 1980's. Following the Board's approval, the application would be completed and presented to CPA for funding. Once the clearing is completed, an RFP would be considered to lease the land for future farming of pumpkins, vegetables, flowers and potentially bee keeping. A discussion was had about the parking being restricted to the paved area and that the lot would provide up to fifteen spots. Further Board discussion included an inquiry if the striping of the parking lot could be included into the request for funds. Director Abruzzi questioned whether the CPA funds could be used for parking lot improvements.

A motion was made to approve the request for partnering on the CPA application for clearing of the open space (mushroom shaped area) on the Wellington Property by Tom Creonte and seconded by Jerry Walker. All were in favor.

Councillor Darcy wanted to take a minute and share with the Board all the positive emails and conversation he has received pertaining to Graverson Playground Improvements.

Next on the agenda was the Barnyard Bingo – Event Request. This annual event has traditionally occurred at Cornelia Warren Park. With the pending construction, this request includes moving the event to Lowell Field. Barnyard Bingo would take place on October 19, 2019 with a rain date of October 20, 2019. Director Abruzzi recommends the approval of this event.

A motion to approve the Barnyard Bingo Event was made by John Graceffa and seconded by Stacey Tully. All were in favor.

The FY 2020 Budget Proposal was next on the agenda. Director Abruzzi directed the Boards attention to a one page summary. Column one of the summary showed the current fiscal year's budget and the second column details the 2020 fiscal year request. Highlights to the proposed budget request include: a Park Ranger Position (pending the approval in the City Council's Ordinance and Rules Committee), an increase to the summer program staff salaries, increase in the Chill Zone and temporary seasonal staffing accounts to accommodate additional programming, and a decrease in utilities to the Veterans Memorial Skating Rink. The recent Capital Improvements at the rink replacing refrigeration and dehumidification systems have resulted in a decrease in utility costs.

A motion to approve the FY 2020 Proposed Budget was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Tom Creonte. All were in favor.

A request to move the May Board Meeting to April 29, 2019 was next on the agenda. The summer staff selection process is very time sensitive, and the additional time would assist in the process. A motion was made to change the May 8, 2019 meeting to April 29, 2019 by Tom Creonte and seconded by Gary Vallerand.

Director's Report:

Hillcroft Playground – The pre-construction meeting is scheduled for next Friday, April 19, 2019. Construction will begin following that meeting.

Bobby Connors Playground – Director Abruzzi will be attending a future City Council Meeting to request funding for the project. Once the funds are allocated, Green Acres Landscape & Construction will begin construction.

Cornelia Warren Park – Plans for this capital improvement are close to 100%. The plans will be circulated to City Departments for approval in the near future. The schedule for this project is to begin construction in the fall of 2019.

Future Recreation Facility Dedications – Director Abruzzi attended a City Council meeting and received approval for the two additional dedications at Graverson Playground. The City Council requested that a more formal evaluation process of requests be developed. Director Abruzzi stated that the department was researching other cities and towns existing protocols for dedications and will be working with the Recreation Board to implement a formal approval process in the future.

Super Family Fun Night – This free family event held on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at the Waltham Community and Cultural Center accommodated almost 500 individuals. This event featured all the amenities that the Community and Cultural Center has to offer. Special thanks to Recreation Staff for their dedication and effort.

Dodgeball Tournament – Director Abruzzi directed the board to a flyer detailing the upcoming Dodgeball Tournament scheduled for April 27th. The event pair's two adults, two high school age teens, and two middle school age teens. This event was a huge success and a lot of fun last year. Director Abruzzi recommended that any board members available join a team.

PHP – The vehicle access gate is schedule to open for the season this Sunday, April 15, 2019, weather permitting.

Other Business – Board Member Gary Vallerand shared with the Board that this Saturday, April 14 the PHP Stewards are having a luncheon and training session beginning at Noon. Director Abruzzi stated that Recreation Maintenance Staff Ryan Kelley would be attending.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by John Graceffa, all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly A. Scott
Assistant Director