

The Waltham Recreation Board held their February Board meeting on February 14, 2018 at the Waltham Community and Cultural Center, 510 Moody St., Waltham MA.

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

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

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

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2018 Board meeting by Board member, Jerry Walker, seconded by Tricia Curtin and voted unanimously.

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

In reviewing the Statement of Accounts, Director Abruzzi referred to the first page. He noted that there is an increase in the General Support – Personnel account. As this is not traditional, Director Abruzzi went on to explain that the Laborers' Union recently negotiated their contract that went into effect and the increase reflects the union salary raises. Director Abruzzi reported that all accounts are in good standing. The second page refers to appropriations and balances for Capital Improvement Accounts. All accounts are in good standing.

Next on the agenda was an annual youth sports group presentation from the Waltham Youth Hockey Association. Mr. Paul Aborn, the organizations treasurer was present to represent the organization. He referred to the leagues 2016-17 financial figures, stating that their season is still ongoing. Enrollment numbers are consistent with years past. Registration consists of 64 % Waltham residents and 36 % nonresidents. Mr. Aborn noted that there is a slight decline in registration numbers at the Bantam level. He contributes that to the increased level of physical play permitted (checking). Mr. Aborn stated that the younger divisions are always popular. The February Vacation Tournament is expected to have a great turn out. With increased online marketing, each division is sold out. Waltham Youth Hockey tries to be as accommodating as possible to meet the time preferences of those participating in the tournament. The Board informed Mr. Aborn, that they have requested a traffic study of the Totten Pond Road area near the Rink. Their goal is to increase safety for all those involved. Mr. Aborn also wanted to confirm that Capital Improvements would be occurring during the off season this year. Director Abruzzi confirmed that the project would be ensuing and he continued by updating Mr. Aborn of the status of the project.

On the agenda next was the request for Community Development Block Grant Request-Year 44 Proposal. Director Abruzzi informed the Board that the deadline for submission of the request was February 15, 2018. The first request was for additional facility improvements to the Waltham Community & Cultural Center, 510 Moody Street building. This would be a continuation from past years. The other three locations are Koutoujian Playground, Thompson Playground, and McDonald Playground. This request would be for playground improvements and safety surfacing. An effort is being made to have safety surfacing at all playground locations to increase the safety of the play areas. A motion to approve the Community Development Block Grant Request proposal-Year 44 was made by Board member, Gary Vallerand and seconded by Stacey Tully. All were in favor.

Next was the election of the Recreation Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Board member, Jerry Walker nominated Richard J. Scanlon for the position of Chairperson. Board member, John Graceffa seconded the nomination. All were in favor. John Graceffa nominated Jerry Walker for the position of Vice Chairperson and it was seconded by Stacey Tully, all were in favor.

On the agenda next for discussion was a request from Waltham Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Drew Echelson, for the use of two additional classrooms (Rooms 205 and 206) at the Waltham Community & Cultural Center. As the request stated, this request is for the expansion of the Dual Language program that is currently located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Waltham Community & Cultural Center, 510 Moody Street. There was discussion regarding the programs' expansion and staffing needs. A motion to approve the request made by the Waltham Public Schools Superintendent, for the use of additional classrooms for the Dual Language Program at the Waltham Community & Cultural Center, was made by Board member, Tricia Curtin and seconded by Gary Vallerand. Board member, John Graceffa recused himself from the vote, as a Waltham School Committee member. All others voted in favor.

The next item on the agenda was the Veterans Memorial Rink – Capital Improvement Project. Director Abruzzi asked the Board to refer to a letter in their folders written to Mayor McCarthy requesting funds for this Capital Project. He informed the Board that he is working on obtaining the State's final approval as well. The project would include replacing and updating the rink's compressors and dehumidification systems. A motion to approve the request for funding was made by Board member, Jerry Walker and seconded by John Graceffa. All were in favor.

Director Abruzzi began the Director's Report by informing the Board that the pre-bid meeting for design services for the Cornelia Warren Park improvements is scheduled for February 20, 2018. The bid opening is scheduled for February 28, 2018.

The Graverson/Elsie Turner Project was presented at the CPC meeting on February 6, 2018 by Assistant Director, Kim Scott with Mayor McCarthy. The CPC approved the funding and Director Abruzzi will go before the Waltham City Council's Long Term Debt Committee for approval on Tuesday, February 20, 2018.

Director Abruzzi referred to a copy of the letter he sent to the Traffic Commission requesting a traffic study of Totten Pond Road in the area in front of Veterans Memorial Skating Rink and entrance of Prospect Hill Park. Director Abruzzi will attend the next Traffic Commission Meeting on February 15, 2018.

The Spring Brochure has been distributed to all Schools within Waltham and is also available online. New offerings this season include; Family Trips to see the Red Sox and New England Revolution, as well as an afterschool sports program with Viking Sports. Online registration for spring begins March 7, 2018. The Waltham Recreation Department in conjunction with, the Chesterbrook Community Foundation and the Waltham Partnership for Youth is sponsoring a Community Dodgeball Tournament on March 24, 2018. Teams will consist of two middle school aged youth, two high school aged and two adults. Ms. Kathy Gross, Recreation Teen Program Supervisor is working hard to coordinate this community bonding event. A Family Fun Night was held on January 12, 2018. This first time event was a great success, with close to 40 individuals participating in activities offered through the Waltham Community and Cultural Center.

The funding for the HVAC Improvement Project at the Waltham Community & Cultural Center, has been approved. The City of Waltham Planning Department will conduct a meeting soon to establish a construction schedule with both the Recreation and School Departments.

Director Abruzzi informed the Board that the Recreation Department has been working with Healthy Waltham to establish a City Wide Walking program. Director Abruzzi asked Board member as well as the Director of the Healthy Waltham Program, Stacey Tully to elaborate on the program. Mrs. Tully began by stating that Healthy Waltham began a walking program in the fall at Veterans Athletic Complex and Bentley College. Over 80 seniors have participated in this program. As a way of bringing community/neighborhood together engagement walks will be held this coming spring, utilizing neighborhood parks. She continued by stating that her goal is to encourage free fitness “walking” and connect individuals, families and seniors, by exploring all the neighborhoods throughout the City. The Kick-Off Event will be April 4, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the Waltham Common.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Graceffa and seconded by Jerry Walker, all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim Scott, Assistant Director