

The Waltham Recreation Board held their January meeting on January 22, 2020 at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

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

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

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2019 Board Meeting by Jerry Walker, seconded by Tom Creonte. 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 current operational and capital budget accounts. One item noted, the Kaleidoscope and Spray Parks operational budget, the water bills have been recently processed showing a significant decrease in the account balance. All accounts are in good standing.

Waltham Youth Basketball Association has been rescheduled to a future meeting.

Waltham Youth Soccer has been rescheduled to a future meeting.

Waltham Wrestling club has been rescheduled to a future meeting.

Waltham Legion Baseball was represented by Mike Peterson, League President. Mr. Peterson stated this was the fourth season for teens, ages 14 through 19, to play summer baseball. This past season's goals included the skill development and the opportunity to play a game the teens love. There was discussion about the number of games offered during the season as well as playoff options. The American Legion Boosters program provided additional funds to assist with the umpire fees and State league fees. Mr. Peterson thanked the Board for their support, allowing this low cost opportunity to Waltham teens.

Prospect Hill Ski Team, represented by President Dennis Keohane and Treasurer Brian Bower were next to present. There was discussion on the increase of new and younger athletes this past season. The two races scheduled to date have been rescheduled due to weather. There is a strong alumni presence within the organization, providing financial and volunteer support. The Team has offered the same registration fee for close to eight years, due mainly to the great relationship with Blue Hills Ski Area. The USSA has focused in recent years on the healthy lifestyle and skill development of athletes. It was announced, that Team coach Roni Sue Bower, will be stepping down at the conclusion of this season, after twenty years. The Board thanked the Bowers for their dedication and the Team for their time and effort.

Next on the agenda was the Skate with the Hawks fundraising request. This annual event, held at the Veterans Skating Rink, invites the public to skate with the Waltham High Hockey Team. Following the open skate time there is a meet and greet with the players. The 2020 event will be

held on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. The event is sponsored by Friends of the Waltham High School Hockey.

A motion to approve the Skate with Hawks request was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Stacey Tully. All were in favor.

The 2020 Summer Registration Fees was next on the agenda. Director Abruzzi drew the Board's attention to the one-page document with the 2019 summer rates and the proposed 2020 summer rates. Overall, fees were recommended to be increased by \$5.00. The list included programs offered by the Recreation Supervisors as well as third party companies that provided summer offerings. The only exception was the LEAP program. For 2020, this program will be revitalized, increasing field trip opportunities, as well as leadership development trainings. The proposed fee increase to all programs is warranted and still extremely reasonable compared to surrounding communities.

A motion to approve the 2020 Summer Program fees was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Wayne Cook. All were in favor.

The 2020 Rink Request and Policy Agreement was next on the agenda. Director Abruzzi stated that the Request and Policy Agreement would be implemented for the 2020/2021 season. All who request ice time at the Veterans Skating Rink would need to complete this form. Director Abruzzi noted the changes include a price increase of \$10.00 per 50 minute time block. In addition, language specifying "no tobacco and vaping" to be used at this facility was added. Discussion was had by the Board, regarding researching additional language to include restriction of recreational drug use.

A motion to approve the 2020 Rink Request and Policy agreement was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Wayne Cook. All were in favor.

The Board had discussion regarding the Rink's schedule, future capital improvements, safety trainings and preventative maintenance.

Director Abruzzi noted that the rental rate increase of \$10.00 was approved during the January 2019 Board Meeting. The new rate, for the 2020-2021 season, will be \$210.00 for nonprofit groups and \$230.00 for for-profit and private groups. A letter will be sent to the DCR requesting permission for the rate increase. At the conclusion of this season, the current rink users will be notified of the 2020-2021 rate increase. This will allow those organizations to budget and plan accordingly. The Veterans Skating Rink rental rate is very reasonable with comparison to surrounding communities.

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

**Winter Carnival Event** – This free seasonal event was a huge success. The Winter Carnival, held on December 21, 2019 saw over 650 attendees. The many attractions throughout 510 Moody St were available as well as holiday ornament making and games in the auditorium. Director Abruzzi recognized the hard work of all the part time and full time staff, specifically Recreation Supervisor Kathy Gross for organizing the event.

**Cornelia Warren Park** – Construction continues to move forward. The underground plumbing and utilities have just been completed and Cataldo Corporation will be working on installing the playground and renovations to the parking lot.

**Infield Work & Sealcoating** – Recreation Staff will be meeting with the Purchasing Department next week to begin the bidding process for these two projects. The first project would include infield work at Jake Dennis Field as well as Monsignor McCabe Playground.

The second project would be seal coating some of the spray parks, tennis courts or basketball courts, which are in need. This is part of a continual maintenance plan to keep the facilities up to date.

**Emergency Protocol for Portable Radios** – As a proactive method of safety, six portable units have been acquired by the Recreation Department. One unit will remain in Nick's office, one will be in the main office and the remaining four will be carried by Recreation Supervisors during all programs/activities. In the event of an emergency, 911 will call the main office directing the Department to shelter in place or evacuate the building. These emergency only radios will be used to communicate among the Recreation Staff. Staff have also participated in an ALICE training and have coordinated drills with the School Department, the other tenants of the building.

### **Other Business**

Feedback was received regarding the completion of Elsie Turner Field and how it incorporates multiple recreational offerings and how great the facility looks.

Feedback was received about a recent positive interaction with Park Ranger, Adam Green. Adam Green will be speaking at the Piety Corner Club meeting later this month, to introduce himself and education the Prospect Hill Park abutters on his role within the Park.

A recommendation was made to present the Recreation Staff with a letter of "Thanks" from the Recreation Board. Board members would like to individually sign the letter. Director Abruzzi, noted he will schedule times for the Staff to appear before the Board.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by Wayne Cook. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kimberly A. Scott  
Assistant Director