

The Waltham Recreation Board held their March Board meeting on March 20, 2019 at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

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

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 February 11, 2019 Board Meeting by Tom Creonte, seconded by Gary Vallerand, 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 on the second page, the capital budget accounts, currently there is an account listed as Rink Equipment. Director Abruzzi attended City Council's Long Term Debt on March 4, 2019 to request the funds be transferred into a rink roof replacement account. The flat roof is in need of replacing and this money will cover that cost. The Recreation Department is working with a Contractor now, so the work will begin soon. All accounts are in good standing.

Youth Group Presentations –

Waltham Youth Hockey requested to reschedule their presentation time due to a scheduling conflict. Director Abruzzi stated that they will be attending the April meeting.

Next on the agenda was a presentation from Waltham Youth Football. President, Francois Joseph stated that this past season was very successful. There were a number of teams that made it to the Super bowl and one team made it to the State championship. The Cheer program had five teams including a noncompetitive team for those as young as age five. The Flag program continues to grow as, residents return to Waltham from other communities, now that it is an available option. This program has become a feeder program for the Tackle division. This past season funds were invested into uniforms for both tackle and flag teams. Business cards were used for marketing and disbursement of League contact information. The Football and Cheer program have high facility use costs. They will be working with the Recreation Department to seek out alternatives for future seasons. A discussion was had regarding Geese Police, and how this program works to eliminate concerns of geese on the program area. The League will take over the cost of this program, if they have teams make it further into the playoffs.

Waltham Youth Wrestling's Board Members were present to request support from the Recreation Board for their program. At the completion of their second year, there were 65 athletes registered between kindergarten and grade five. This competitive program was coached by Waltham HS graduates who participated in the schools wrestling program. The program is currently renting space in Newton. As the wrestling program continues to grow, the goal is to have a kindergarten through grade two level, a grades three through grade five level and a middle school level. The

Wrestling Board is very proud of the achievements of the athletes this past season. The athletes are charged a fee of \$150 per person. Director Abruzzi and the Board applaud the Youth Wrestling Board for bringing a new opportunity to the youth of Waltham.

1. A recommendation was made to provide practice space two nights a week during the winter season for the Waltham Youth Wrestling program at the Prospect Hill Lodge.
2. A recommendation was made to provide the Waltham Youth Wrestling program with financial support of \$2000.00.

A motion to approve the two recommendations to provide support to the Waltham Youth Wrestling program was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Tom Creonte. All were in favor.

Next on the agenda was Bob Malone, the representative from the Lions Club. Mr. Malone was in attendance requesting use of Cornelia Warren Field for their annual Carnival Fundraiser. The Board was directed to a hand out provided by the Lions Club detailing the request. The event will occur from May 8 – 12, 2019. The Board asked questions regarding parking, pedestrian traffic, storage of trailers and sleeping quarters. Director Abruzzi stated that the Adult Softball League has been informed of this potential event and the scheduled times. Board Member, Tom Creonte stated that there will be several City Departments involved in the planning and approval including; Police, Health Department, Public Works and the Mayor's Office once the location has been approved. Director Abruzzi confirmed that the Recreation Department would be included in the logistics meeting.

A motion to approve this one time Carnival event was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Tom Creonte. All were in favor.

A request for two potential dedications to be added to Graverson Playground was next. One request is for Jack and Elinor Marcou to have a plaque near the benches at the tennis courts and the other request is a plaque near the walking path for Mario Lituri. Director Abruzzi recommends a motion to approve these dedications. A motion to approve both dedications at Graverson Playground was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Tom Creonte. All were in favor.

The New England Orienteering Club requested use of Prospect Hill Park on Sunday, April 14, 2019 for one of their schedule events. This Organization has held this event previously. A motion to approve the request to use Prospect Hill Park on April 14, 2019 was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Tom Creonte. All were in favor.

The Board was directed to their folder for the proposed list of 2019-2020 Recreation Board meeting dates. A motion to approve the 2019-2020 Recreation Board Calendar was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by Tricia Curtin. All were in favor.

The Dual Language Program is located on the top floor of the Waltham Community and Cultural Center. As in years past, they are requesting additional rooms for the expansion of this program. The letter included, in the Board folders, from Principal Rochelle Nwosu is requesting the use of room 215 (Healthy Waltham) and room 216 (Waltham Partnership for Youth). Both of these programs have been provided alternate space at the High School. A motion to approve the request for additional classrooms was made by Tricia Curtin and seconded by Jennie Scafidi. All were in favor.

## **Director's Report:**

**Hillcroft Playground** – Green Acres Landscape and Construction has been awarded the contract. The funds have been approved for this project. The contracts and allocated funds will be ready for early April. The construction will begin shortly afterwards.

**Bobby Connors Playground** – The pre Bid meeting was held on March 19, 2019. The Bid opening for the construction phase is scheduled for March 27, 2019. Director Abruzzi will seek funding following the bid opening.

**Cornelia Warren Park** – In the Board's folder is a proposed rendering for this facility. After a public meeting and community feedback, the responses have been gathered to provide this plan. The design consultant will continue to proceed with finalizing this plan and it should be ready for the construction phase early next fall.

**Prospect Hill Park** – A summary of the survey results are provided and can also be found on the Recreation Department Capital Improvement web site. Based on this feedback, mostly focused on the base area of the Park, the design consultants will be working on the plan for the lower level at Totten Pond Road. Simultaneously, Director Abruzzi and staff will be interviewing Foresters to begin the process for a forestry management plan. A state grant program has been brought to Director Abruzzi's attention that would cover most if not all of the cost for this report.

**Laser Tag/Dance Party** – On March 16, 2019 a Laser Tag/Dance Party was held for Chill Zone Members. Laser Tag was moved into the Skate N Scoot Room for the ability to accommodate a larger crowd. The Laser Tag room became a dance party room. This enjoyable event saw over 50 teens.

**April Board Meeting** – A request was made at the February meeting to move the April Board meeting to 4:30 p.m. This time change will allow Board Members to participate in the Healthy Waltham Kickoff Event held the same day at the Waltham Common. A request was made by Board members to send a reminder of the time change.

**Master Plan Conference** – MRPA sponsored an educational opportunity for members to learn more about Master Park Planing. Seven of the Recreation Department staff attended this training in Worcester on March 13, 2019.

**Conservation Commission Conference** – Director Abruzzi, Assistant Director Scott, Assistant Superintendent Kelley, and Recreation Maintenance Staff, Ryan Kelley attended this all day Conference on the various aspects of Conservation within our community. This all day event was very educational for everyone. Director Abruzzi was able to learn about a State sponsored grant that would fund most if not all of a Forestry Management Plan. Director Abruzzi will be reaching out to the State to begin the application process.

**Elsie Turner Field/Graverson Playground** – The construction fence has been removed at both locations. The final punch list items are being completed. A few items will need to wait until the weather is consistently warm. Opening ceremonies will be held in the near future. Both facilities have received positive community feedback.

**Super Family Fun Night** – This free family event is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2019 at the Waltham Community and Cultural Center. The many amenities within the Building will be open for the general public to utilize.

**PHP Stewards** – Director Abruzzi met with members of the PHP Stewards to discuss plans for the spring season at Prospect Hill Park. Stewards provided helpful information on the Park and will be working with Recreation Staff to provide educational walks in the near future.

**Other Business** – Chairperson Richard Scanlon makes a request for the Board to consider implementing a protocol for evaluating future dedication requests.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kimberly A. Scott  
Assistant Director