

The Waltham Parks-Recreation Board held their April Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

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

Also present were Director, Kim Hebert and Assistant Director, Ed Kelley II.

Chairperson Jerry Walker called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He announced that the meeting was being recorded by Waltham Data 781 News.

A motion was then made to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2023 Parks-Recreation Board Meeting by John Graceffa and seconded by Jennie Scafidi. All were in favor.

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

Director Hebert reviewed the statement of accounts explaining that the accounts detailed are the current balances in operational and capital budget accounts. Blanket Purchase Orders have been processed as Recreation Supervisors begin summer spending for programs. Routine spending continues to occur for seasonal programs. All accounts are in good standing.

Dedication Requests – Director Hebert referenced two dedication requests that were found in the Parks-Recreation Board folders. The Dedication Subcommittee met and determined both applicants met the qualifications of a bench dedication. The first request was a bench dedication at Nipper Maher Park in honor of Roland “Mr. T” Thebado.

A motion to approve the bench dedication for Roland Thebado was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by John Graceffa. All were in favor.

A second bench dedication request was presented by Director Hebert. This dedication was a bench dedication at Monsignor McCabe in honor of Kimberly Strafford.

A motion to approve the bench dedication for Kimberly Strafford was made by John Graceffa and seconded by Tom Creonte. All were in favor

### **Director’s Report:**

**Fernald Property** – Director Hebert met with the Law Department to discuss concerns for the order of conditions from the Conservation Commission. The Law Department agreed that the conditions should be challenged as some conditions were a reach outside of the Commission’s jurisdiction. An appeal letter was provided to DEP. Additionally, research for building development is ongoing as a number of residents have expressed interest in an indoor pool facility.

**Fitch Property** – On Monday, April 3, 2023 Director Hebert was invited to attend the Committee of the Whole to discuss the request to transfer care, custody and control of the entire Fitch School parcel to the Recreation Department. A Council Order is in place which allows Healthy Waltham to utilize the Gymnasium until a permanent home can be found for them. A funding request for environmental abatement is already in process. Once abatement is completed, funding will be requested for the demolition of the former school building, except for the gymnasium. At that time, community input meetings would occur to determine the community's recreational needs for the property.

The Parks-Recreation Board also has care, custody and control of the Government Center gym. The Recreation Department will be working with the current occupants to oversee their schedule and work on the shared use of these two facilities beginning in the Fall of 2023.

**Veterans Athletic Complex Turf Replacement** – Construction is scheduled to begin on June 1, 2023. All permitted groups have been notified and alternate locations provided when possible. David W. White was the contractor that originally installed the turf at Veterans Field as well as Falzone Field. Notices to abutters on Alderwood Road will be sent out within the next month regarding the removal of invasive trees and growth on the fence line.

**Lowell Field Construction-** Construction has been on going at Lowell Field since mid-January. Grading of stone has begun to establish the courts, parking lots and walk ways. The cement foundations have been poured for the playground, spray park and adult fitness.

**Future Tenants of 510 Moody Street-** The Dual Language School program is beginning to prepare for a transition out of 510 Moody Street. Director Hebert stated she has been in conversations on future tenants and plans for the entire 510 Moody Street property. At this time, the Waltham Family School offers adult and preschool aged educational/English classes and community support. Their families currently walk to 510 Moody Street and are currently requesting to remain at this location, as relocating their program would restrict their family's involvement due to lack of transportation. The current conversation is that the Waltham Family School will request, through the Superintendent of Schools, to the Parks-Recreation Board to relocate from the classrooms downstairs and move up to the second floor of 510 Moody Street. The Waltham Family School plans to continue to use their designated entrance on Beech Street while continuing to offer existing programs as well as work toward community collaborate programs. Director Hebert continued that the Waltham Family School program has had no demands or requests outside of their leased space and have been a pleasure to work with. She would recommend this continued relationship. This proposal would allow the entire basement and first floor to the Recreation Department for expanded, controlled, safe programming.

**Veterans Rink Roof-** Recreation Staff are working with the designer, Bargmann Hendrie and Archetype, Inc (B H&A) for the rink roof renovations. The bid opening is scheduled for April 26, 2023.

**Veterans Rink** – The rink closed for the season on April 2, 2023. The staff have removed the ice and are cleaning and preparing the building for next season.

**CPRP-** Recreation Supervisor Ben Kiwanuka has recently completed the training to be certified as a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional as part of the National Parks and Recreation Association. Director Hebert congratulated Ben for now being the second CPRP in the Recreation Department.

**CPO-** Ryan Kelley completed his Certified Pool Operator license.

**First Aid/CPR Instructors-** Adam Dallaire and Ed Kelley recently completed the training required to be instructors to teach First Aid/CPR for the Recreation Department. The Department now has four trained instructors.

**Conferences-** Four Recreation Supervisors recently attended the Massachusetts Park and Recreation State Conference. Kathy Gross facilitated a round table discussion and Kara Greely was recognized for her 30 under 30 Award, to be received at the National Conference next fall. Also, Ryan Kelley and three full time rink staff will be attending the NEISMA rink conference the week of April 30<sup>th</sup>. Director Hebert and Assistant Director Kelley will be attending the Rhode Island Parks and Recreation State conference for diversity in trainings at the end of April.

**Summer Registration-** Summer registration began yesterday, Tuesday, April 11, 2023. There were no reported issue or complaints.

**Pickleball permitting signage** – Pickleball signage and reservations will begin when the additional court lines are painted. The Recreation Department is on the waiting list for consistent warmer weather.

**Budget Meeting-** Director Hebert attended a budget meeting with the Mayor and City Auditor. All went well

**Playground Surfacing Repair-** Drake Playground and Gilmore Playground surfacing is scheduled to be repaired next week.

**Thompson Playground Neighborhood Event-** There is a scheduled “Thompson Day” event with Mayor McCarthy on Saturday, April 22, 2023. This event is to educate the community regarding pride to the park due to vandalism issues, as well as take feedback from neighbors.

## **Other Business**

A Parks-Recreation Board Member reported graffiti inside dugouts at Nipper Maher Park.

A Parks-Recreation Board Member questioned safety of the light poles at Jake Dennis. Director Hebert confirmed it had been looked at previously by multiple City Department and confirmed

safe. An outside company will be asked to consultant on the integrity and safety of the light poles.

A Parks-Recreation Board Member reported that on the Boy Scout Trail within Prospect Hill Park a burnt log was seen and a request was given for it to be disposed of.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward Kelley, II  
Assistant Director of Recreation