

The Waltham Parks-Recreation Board held their March Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

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

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

Chairperson Jerry Walker called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

A motion was then made to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2024 Parks-Recreation Board Meeting by Tom Creonte and seconded by John Graceffa. All other Board Members were in favor.

A motion to move the order of the agenda was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by Gary Vallerand.

Election of Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson was moved to next on the agenda. John Graceffa nominated Jerry Walker for the position of Chairperson of the Parks-Recreation Board and Tricia Curtin seconded the nomination. All were in favor. Chairperson Jerry Walker requested a roll call.

Roll Call

Wayne Cook	Absent
Tom Creonte	Yes
Tricia Curtin	Yes
John Graceffa	Yes
Jennie Scafidi	Absent
Richard Scanlon	Absent
Stacey Tully	Yes
Gary Vallerand	Yes
Jerry Walker	Yes

A motion to nominate John Graceffa as Parks-Recreation Board Vice Chairperson was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Tom Creonte. All were in favor. Chairperson Jerry Walker requested a roll call.

Roll Call

Wayne Cook	Absent
Tom Creonte	Yes
Tricia Curtin	Yes
John Graceffa	Yes
Jennie Scafidi	Absent
Richard Scanlon	Absent
Stacey Tully	Yes
Gary Vallerand	Yes
Jerry Walker	Yes

Next on the agenda was the “2024-2025 Parks-Recreation Board Meeting Schedule”. Director Hebert referred to a schedule in the Board’s folders and stated that the proposed meeting schedule was comparable to past years, with the meeting mostly occurring on the second Wednesday of each month pending holidays, school vacation weeks and known deadlines.

A motion to approve the “2024-2025 Parks-Recreation Board Meeting Schedule” was made by John Graceffa and seconded by Tom Creonte. 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 the current balances in operational and capital budget accounts and directed the Parks-Recreation Board to the Capital Improvements accounts page, highlighting the newly added account for 190 Trapelo Road fencing. Director Hebert explained that this is continuous perimeter fencing from the Lawrence School property, east along Trapelo Road, behind abutting residential properties and extending down towards Waverly Oaks Road. Ms. Hebert continued, as noted last month, Capital accounts have been consolidated for the Lazazzero and McCabe pour-in-place project. All accounts are in good standing.

Annual Youth Sports Presentations were next on the agenda.

Next on the agenda was Waltham Youth Football and Cheer who were represented by President Francois Joseph and Director of Cheer, Stephanie Krol, who provided a summary of the League’s year and financial report. Ms. Krol began by saying that there was a fairly large group of third and fifth-grade participants therefore there were two U10 cheer teams. Both of these teams advanced to regionals. Also, the U8 team, the youngest group, did very well this season and placed first in an invitational and second place in locals. President Francois Joseph highlighted the fourth-grade football team who only had one loss and one tie this past season and went on to become Superbowl Champions and State Champions. Mr. Joseph’s goal is to develop a full slate of talented teams and stated the participant numbers in the league are getting better and better. The Board thanked Mr. Joseph and Ms.Krol for their efforts and a great season.

Waltham Youth Hockey was next on the agenda and were represented by Treasurer Paul Aborn who provided a summary of the League's year and financial report. Mr. Aborn stated that the League has been successful in maintaining its youngest levels of hockey. Those levels being Learn to Skate, Tykes, and Mites. Mr. Aborn also highlighted the increase in the Girls hockey program with over 100 participants. The Board thanked Mr. Aborn for his efforts and a great season.

Director's Report:

190 Trapelo Road/Owl Hill – Construction fencing was installed on Monday, March 4, 2024. All communications included in the Parks-Recreation Board packet last month, regarding the naming of 190 Trapelo Road was approved on February 26, 2024.

Dog update- Director Hebert and Board member Jennie Scafidi met with a dog owner. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

Artificial Turf Fields- Turf fields will open for the season (weather dependent) on March 25. Natural grass fields will open later in April, as CPW clears them to open for the season.

Rink Update- The City's Engineering Department will be coordinating the redesign project for the proposed new parking lot entrance and safety lights into the Veteran's Memorial Skating Rink. The rink is scheduled to close on March 30. Weekend public skating concluded on March 3, 2024.

Veterans Field Playground – The rock issue next to the playground has been resolved by installing turf over the drainage area.

Koutoujian Community Input Meeting- On Wednesday, February 28, 2024 a community input meeting was held at 119 School Street to discuss the Koutoujian Playground plan. Following the update, residents provided input on ideas for the proposed future skate park, playground and facility lighting.

Drinking Fountains in Parks- Due to consistent maintenance, vandalism, and sanitation concerns, the remaining drinking fountains found in city parks will be removed, prior to the spring season.

Prospect Hill Park Volunteers- A group of volunteers is organizing to assist Park Ranger Adam Green in park clean up and trail maintenance. The goal is to have volunteer leaders meet with Mr. Green for weekly and monthly projects. We greatly appreciate their initiative and devotion to keeping Prospect Hill Park clean and maintained.

Resolution on Canada Geese- Director Hebert had been requested to attend City Council on March 18th to discuss Canada Geese.

Spring Program Flyer- Winter programs were a huge success and we are happy to share the spring program offerings. Registration was scheduled to begin on March 12th.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Kelley
Assistant Director of Recreation