

The Waltham Parks-Recreation Board held their May Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

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

A motion was then made to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2023 Parks-Recreation Board Meeting by Gary Vallerand and seconded by John Graceffa. 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. The Veterans Athletic Complex turf replacement account had been added to the Capital Improvement page. PAL (Police Athletic League) custodial invoices have been paid for summer 2023 and winter 2023 seasons. Routine spending continues to occur for seasonal programs. All accounts are in good standing.

The next item on the agenda was Summer 2023 Staff. Director Hebert updated that the Department has been accepting summer staff applications since February 2023. The Recreation Department has sufficient applicants to operate Summer 2023 programs with increased enrollment. Once the staff list is approved, it will then be sent to Human Resources and the Mayor's office for approval. The Staff will be required to attend first aid/cpr/aed certification as well as program specific program trainings prior to the start of the summer season.

A motion to approve Summer 2023 Staff was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Wayne Cook. All were in favor.

Rink Roof Replacement Project was next on the agenda. Director Hebert stated that the Recreation Staff are working with designer, Bargmann Hendrie and Archetype, Inc (BH&A) for the rink roof renovations. The bid for roof replacement was opened on April 26, 2023. After checking references, a request for funding in the amount of \$179,000.00 was sent to the Mayor.

A motion to approve the Rink Roof Renovation Project was made by Wayne Cook and seconded by John Graceffa. All were in favor.

Director's Report:

Fernald Property – The Recreation Department, Law Department and Conservation Commission met with DEP to review our concerns this past Monday, May 8, 2023. The list of Conservation Conditions was reviewed during a site walk within the relevant areas at Fernald.

Both the Recreation Department and Conservation Commission had opportunity to present their input on the matters. It was expressed to the DEP that it is urgent for the property wide conditions to have direction, so other phases can be developed before funding is lost.

Fitch Property – On Tuesday, May 9, 2023 Director Hebert and Assistant Director Ed Kelley met with Healthy Waltham to look at the Fitch gym and discuss sharing the space in the Fall of 2023

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.

Rink Scoreboard- A request for funding for two new scoreboards for Veterans Memorial Skating rink is in process. The goal is to have the new scoreboards installed before the season begins.

Veterans Athletic Complex Turf Replacement – Construction is scheduled to begin on June 1, 2023.

Thompson Playground Community Meeting- On Saturday, April 22, 2023 a community meeting was held at Thompson Playground. Recreation concerns include balls going over the fence onto Grant Street, into the playground, as well as kids playing on the retaining wall in the basketball area. Quotes are being sought for additional court fencing. Another concern being addressed is bicycle use on the basketball court and unsafe behaviors after hours in the park.

Lowell Field Construction- Construction has been on going at Lowell Field since mid-January. Granite curbing and water connections are on the schedule for the next two weeks as well as grading and irrigation. Sod is being scheduled to be delivered and laid out within the next month.

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.

Nipper Maher Tennis Fencing- The fencing that was damaged at the tennis courts has been fixed. Director Hebert thanked CPW for coordinating the insurance repair and added that speed bumps will be added for the safety of park users.

Nipper Maher Park's Jake Dennis Field Lighting- The light posts has once again been looked at by the City's Wires and CPW Departments. The Recreation Department also asked Green Acres to have their light post subcontractor look at the light posts. A written document is expected in the near future. Green Acres subcontractor stated that the posts are safe and recommendations for long term maintenance will be provided.

Springfest- Join us on Saturday, May 20th for Springfest at Prospect Hill Park. Amusements will officially open for the season, lawn games, inflatables, and so much more will be offered.

Staff Changes – As of Friday, May 5th, we wish one of our Recreation Supervisors best wishes as they leave Waltham Recreation after over 12 years. She will be missed. Accommodations for the rest of spring and summer programs have been made. Internal shifting will occur and a job posting will be seen soon.

Lake Street Concession- Director Hebert directed the Parks-Recreation Board to their folders to view a photo of newly painted art on the Lake Street Concession Stand windows which was completed by volunteers.

Other Business- Director Hebert informed all that the other business line will no longer be seen after this month. If any Board Member has questions or concerns, please contact her so that answers can be properly researched and prepared for the Parks-Recreation Board.

There was no other Recreation business.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by John Graceffa, all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward Kelley, II
Assistant Director of Recreation