

The Waltham Parks-Recreation Board held their November Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

Present were: Wayne Cook, Tom Creonte, Patricia Curtin, John Graceffa, Jennie Scafidi, Stacey Tully, Gary Vallerand and Jerry Walker. Absent was 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 October 11, 2023 Parks-Recreation Board Meeting by Tom Creonte 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 detail the balances in operational and capital budget accounts. Significant spending has occurred out of the Recreation Program account since the last report in June. This spending was due to gym renovation expenses. All accounts have been updated and are all in good standing.

Annual Youth Sports Presentations were first on the agenda.

Waltham Youth Lacrosse President, David Becker, provided a summary of the League's year and financial report. Mr. Becker mentioned that he was looking forward to hopefully getting field time at the newly renovated Leary Field. The Board thanked Mr. Mr. Becker for his efforts and a great season.

The Waltham Youth Wrestling program will present at a future meeting.

Waltham Girls Softball was next on the agenda. Katie Browne, Treasurer, and Shannon Palao, Secretary, represented Girls Softball and provided a summary of the League's year and financial report. Mrs. Brown stated that this season, the league had similar enrollment numbers as last season and was able to form two U8 teams. Two scholarships were provided to high school girls this season. The Board thanked Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Palao for their efforts and a great season.

Next on the agenda was "Discussion: Wellington Open Space". Betty MacKenzie presented a handout updating volunteers' progress at the Wellington Open Space property. This presentation highlighted and recognized the many regular volunteers, groups of special volunteers and the results of the hard work these groups contribute. The Board thanked Betty MacKenzie, Land Trust Stewards and volunteers for all of their efforts to maintain the beautiful Wellington Open Space.

Next on the agenda was a request for the "Needham Soccer Memorial Day Tournament" at Veterans Memorial Complex. Director Hebert introduced the request by stating that this tournament had been held annually at Veterans Memorial Complex for more than 10 years. Assistant Director, Ed Kelley II and Recreation Supervisor, Adam Dallaire would work with Mr. Miskin to coordinate details of the event. Director Hebert then recommended approval.

A motion to approve the “Needham Memorial Day Tournament” was made by John Graceffa and seconded by Tom Creonte. All were in favor.

Next on the agenda was “Special Olympics Event/Police Department”. Director Hebert explained that the Waltham Police Department would like to partner with the Special Olympic Program for a Waltham Event specifically at Veterans Field. The Recreation Department would assist in planning and helping during the day of the event.

A motion to approve the “Special Olympics Event/Police Department” was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by Stacey Tully. All were in favor.

Next on the agenda was a request for the “Baystate Bullets Lacrosse Tournament” at Veterans Memorial Complex. Director Hebert stated this would be a new event and would be beneficial to all to have during the slow summer months at Veterans Field.

A motion to approve the “Baystate Bullets Lacrosse Tournament” was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by John Graceffa. All were in favor.

Director’s Report:

Halloween in the Park- This collaborative City event was a huge success, seeing over 2,300 attendees. Many Waltham Departments joined efforts to educate and entertain visitors at Prospect Hill Park on a very warm October day. A special thanks to all Recreation Department employees that worked the event.

Traffic Commission- Director Hebert has met with Dual Language Principal, Dr. Dobles to brainstorm options for the parking challenges, they face. Both will be attending Traffic Commission on Thursday, November 16, 2023. Dual Language will be asking for parking passes for all staff and teachers to park at the Chestnut Street public lot. Following the Traffic Commission meeting, Dual Language will be permitted to park in the lot spots along Moody St only. School communications have gone to teachers/staff from the Principal and Superintendent. Cars parked outside of that one row will be tagged and subject to tow.

Thompson Playground- The sink hole discussed at the last Board meeting has been repaired by Green Acres. The repair will be seal coated in the Spring.

Logan/McKenna Park Design- With the CDBG funding available for these two requested projects, it was asked that we bid out design for both locations for improvements. The bid opening for design services will be on Thursday, November 16, 2023. The Recreation Department is seeking design improvements for Logan Park based on the community survey presented last year and upgrades to the basketball court and playground at McKenna Playground.

Live Barn Update- Based on last month’s presentation from Waltham Baseball, research on the past decision from the Board was done regarding Live Barn. The request had come before the Board regarding streaming of events at the Veterans Memorial Skating Rink. A law opinion was

requested from the Board. With additional follow up with the Law Department, since the Rink is a leased property, final approval for live streaming would need to come from the State. Formal approval from the State could not be found. If the Board is open to consider live streaming at baseball fields, a request to the Law Department would need to be sent; concerns for public video streaming/children's privacy/replay of sports etc. need to be taken into consideration. If Waltham Baseball wishes to pursue this, they will send a formal request to the Board and will begin doing the research and cost estimates needed to create the infrastructure to support this technology.

190 Trapelo Road- The bid for construction was opened on Friday, October 20, 2023 for the 190 Trapelo Road project, specifically for the Universal and Memorial Area. Green Acres Landscaping and Construction (Lakeville, MA) was the low bid for the project. Green Acres was the company that completed Lowell Playground as well as many other parks within Waltham. Director Hebert went before the Finance Committee on Monday, November 6, 2023 to request funding for \$9.5 million.

Youth Sports Financial Support Discussion- As requested from last month's meeting, Director Hebert provided the historical distribution of funds for youth sports groups. Director Hebert and Ed Kelley, II were working on a formula to justify the amounts provided to each league. To start the conversation, a sheet was provided detailing current distribution that also provides notations for if the League receives equipment from the Recreation Dept, if they pay facility rentals and if they contribute to facility maintenance (lining of fields/ice painting). Also provided, was a proposed document – providing \$3,500 for those who pay a facility rental fee and \$3,000 for those who do not. Director Hebert stated she was happy to answer any questions and/or make modifications. The formal break down can be presented at a future meeting for formal approval if necessary.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Kelley
Assistant Director of Recreation