

The Waltham Parks-Recreation Board held their November Board meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

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

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

Vice Chairperson Jerry Walker called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2022 Parks-Recreation Board Meeting by Tom Creonte and seconded by Patricia Curtin. All were in favor.

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

Director Scott reviewed the statement of accounts explaining that all carry forward account totals had been brought into this fiscal year and account balances now reflect up to date amounts. Director Scott also stated that the initial utility costs for the Veterans Memorial Rink startup have recently been processed and the utility costs going forward would stabilize. All accounts are 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 reported that Waltham Youth Lacrosse had 270 participants of both boys and girls, including those from the City of Watertown, due to their merger a couple of years ago. Mr. Becker highlighted the League's "Friday Night Lights" Kindergarten Program and its success exposing the young age group to the sport of lacrosse. A question was also asked about scholarships given by the League. President Becker answered that the league does work with those families who ask for assistance as well as provide donated equipment to help outfit the participants. The Board thanked Mr. Becker for his efforts.

Waltham Youth Wrestling Club was next on the agenda. Vice President, Mike Collins represented Youth Wrestling and provided a summary of the League's year and financial report. Mr. Collins then summarized a summer clinic taught by an instructor from Missouri. Mr. Collins then discussed the process of regular mat sanitization. The Board thanked Vice President Collins for his efforts and a great season.

Next on the agenda was Director/Treasurer Joe Tranchita from the Waltham Track Club. Mr. Tranchita provided a summary of the League's year and financial report. He stated that the Club was doing really well and has been centered at Newton North High School due to the Leary Field construction. Waltham Track Club has also been using the New Balance indoor track in Brighton on Monday nights. Mr. Tranchita explained that there are two sessions, the first being a "Learn by Doing" session and the second, a High School session. The Board thanked Director/Treasurer, Joe Tranchita for his efforts and a successful season.

Next on the agenda was Ward III Councilor George Darcy. Councilor Darcy had requested to come before the Parks-Recreation Board to discuss the approved plans for the Fernald Property. Councilor Darcy shared with the Parks-Recreation Board the Resolutions he had brought forth

to City Council regarding the use of the Fernald Property. Mr. Darcy expressed the plans for the Fernald Plan had wonderful features, but he also had some concerns on the locations of the recreation amenities and their impact on the nature preserve, specifically the mature oak forest. The Parks-Recreation Board addressed some of Councillor Darcy's concerns and thanked him for his passion and dedication to this property.

Following Councillor Darcy on the agenda was the Superintendent of Schools, Brian Reagan. Director Scott introduced the Superintendent and explained that he was in attendance to discuss school use of parks. Dr. Reagan was accompanied by the Dual Language Principal Ricardo Dobles to propose policy for all parks that are utilized by Schools following a situation at the Gilmore Playground. Each park location used by the School Department has different challenges. Keeping the parks open to the public while keeping the students safe was discussed. At this time, a motion was made to close the playground and basketball/futsal court using during recess hours only for the Gilmore Playground to allow for safe play space of the students.

A motion to approve signage at Gilmore Playground closing the playground and basketball/futsal court from 10:30 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. for school use was made by John Graceffa and seconded by Tom Creonte. All were in favor.

Director's Report:

Mokema Property- Director Scott informed the Board that the Contractor at the Mokema Property had met the requirements of the agreement regarding Graverson Playground by removing fill at the Mokema Conservation Area and both properties look fantastic. Director Scott continued, mentioning that as part of the Conservation Commission Order of Conditions final requirements, additional invasive removal must occur. She stated that she is currently working with the Conservation Commission Chair, Phil Moser, to share the cost of hiring a contractor for the professional removal of invasives, therefore satisfying all outstanding requirements with the Conservation Commission.

Halloween in the Park- This free family event was held on Saturday, October 29, 2022. Activities included a spider maze, hay bale seating area, arts and crafts, inflatables, Halloween music, lawn games, and amusement rides. Nearly 1,500 individuals attended. Director Scott extended a special thank you to Kathy Gross and all other full time and part time staff that helped make this event great.

Infield Project- The pre bid for the infield project was Tuesday, November 8, 2022. The bid is scheduled to be opened Tuesday, November 15, 2022.

Nipper Maher Park Scoreboard- The new scoreboard at Jake Dennis Field at Nipper Maher Park is scheduled to be installed on Thursday, November 10th.

Fernald Property- The Recreation Staff receives weekly updates on plan developments from NESRA Engineering. Test pits and Boring were completed on Friday, November 4, 2022.

Veterans Skating Rink Roof Replacement- BH&H was awarded the contract for the Rink Roof Design for a total amount of \$49,000.00. There is \$32,350.00 available in the rink capital

accounts that can be used toward this project. A request for the remaining balance of \$16,650.00 was sent to the Mayor and City Council and once funding is received, the contract will be signed.

Veterans Memorial Rink/Prospect Hill Park Traffic Plan- The City's Traffic Engineer met with Recreation Staff and the Purchasing Agent to begin the process of hiring a designer for improvements to Totten Pond Road. Since the request is to relocate the Rink's main entrance, the proposed plans needed to be given to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for approval. Once the DCR's comments are received a request for a designer will occur.

Veterans Memorial Rink Parking Lot- Assistant Director, Ed Kelley, has been working with the Traffic Commission to have the parking lot lines painted at Veterans Rink.

Veterans Athletic Complex- All youth sports will conclude their fall season by November 12, 2022. There are a handful of private groups that will remain utilizing the turf fields through Thanksgiving. A request has been sent and the plan to close the facility for the winter months will occur by Thanksgiving. Director Scott thanked all the full time and part time employees that have been supervising and maintaining this facility all year.

Veterans Athletic Complex Turf Replacement- The pre bid for the turf replacement is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2022. The bid opening is scheduled for Friday, November 18, 2022.

Waltham Recreation Department Sign at 510 Moody St- The "Waltham Recreation Department" sign has been replaced at the Recreation Department's main office door on Alder Street.

Disability Services Commission- A concern was brought to Director Scott's attention that not all of the ADA swings in Waltham have a molded plastic harness. The ADA swing at Drake Playground has a cloth body harness which is stored at Plympton Elementary School. Director Scott received an e-mail from a member of the Waltham Disability Services Commission inquiring about the swing at Drake Playground and offered to buy additional ADA swings. A request for quotes is occurring and will be presented to the Conservation Commission.

Other Business

A request to remove Prospect Hill Park wire fencing on the main access road was made by Park-Recreation Board Member, Stacey Tully.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward Kelley, II

Assistant Director

