

The Waltham Parks-Recreation Board held their December Board meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

Present were: Stacey Tully, Tom Creonte, Patricia Curtin, Wayne Cook, Jennie Scafidi, Gary Vallerand and Jerry Walker. Absent were John Graceffa 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 November 9, 2022 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 Scott reviewed the statement of accounts explaining that the final payments for McDonald Playground, Thompson Playground, and Prospect Hill Park were recently processed. Director Scott also stated that the CPC purchase order will be closed with remaining funds returned. Director Scott continued adding that the Lowell Field account will be added within the next few days to the Capital Budget page. All accounts are in good standing.

Annual Youth Sports Presentations were first on the agenda. Waltham Youth Basketball Vice President, Brian Wilder, provided a summary of the League's year. Mr. Wilder spoke of the League's fundraisers and raffles which resulted in funds for new uniforms and equipment that were needed. Vice President Wilder updated that participation numbers were at around 280 participants this year compared to 230 last year. He continued explaining that the First Grade and Second Grade program has grown to approximately 85 participants up from close to 55 the previous year. Mr. Wilder also stated that athletes from the high school basketball team assist every Saturday to help coach teams. He explained that this volunteerism also provided the high school athletes with responsibilities, resulting in experience and maturity. When asked about travel teams, Mr. Wilder explained the ranking system which provided great competition for participants, giving all a positive experience. The Board thanked Vice President Wilder for a great season.

Waltham Girls Basketball was next on the agenda. President, Stacey Meehan and Vice President, Jessica Bourne, represented Girls Basketball and provided a summary of the League's year and financial report. Ms. Meehan spoke of the positive impact that moving the program to Kennedy Middle School had on the program. This move resulted in the ability to utilize 3 or 4 courts concurrently thus helping the League financially, leading to opportunities to reinvest in the League. Vice President Bourne discussed the introduction of the League's young female athletes to strength and conditioning programs. Ms. Bourne continued to explain how the League has been providing clinics with "D1" in Burlington as an example of reinvestment. Finally, another note was made regarding that many high school athletes help coach on Saturdays, stating that the entire 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade program was being coached by high school students. The Board thanked President and Vice President for their efforts and a great season.

Next on the agenda was Councillor Cathyann Harris regarding an Initiative to Revitalize Logan Park. Councillor Harris began by introducing McDevitt Middle School student, Laila Dugan, as

well as others who were in attendance from the Logan Park neighborhood. Councillor Harris shared the results from an initiative completed by Ms. Dugan and highlighted a few major points for a proposed revitalization. Some of the points brought forward were the replacement of woodchips under the playground, fencing upgrades to the park's perimeter, and an improved playground structure to keep older users engaged. Director Scott informed the group that the next steps would be CDBG request for funding. The Board commended Ms. Dugan's inspiration and the time taken to survey her neighborhood in order to bring forth the great ideas. The Parks-Recreation Board thanked Councillor Harris, Laila Dugan, and the Logan Park neighborhood attendees.

Following Councillor Harris on the agenda was the Boy Scouts Sons of Liberty District Chairman, Steve Sookikian. Director Scott introduced Mr. Sookikian and explained that he was in attendance to present his request for a Camporee at Prospect Hill Park in May of 2023. After Mr. Sookikian's thorough presentation and discussion, Director Scott stated that a vote on this topic would occur at the January 2023 meeting.

Next on the agenda was the "Skate with the Hawks" event request. Director Scott introduced the annual event, and stated the Waltham High School Hockey Boosters organization had requested to hold the event on Sunday, January 22, 2023. Director Scott recommended approval.

A motion to approve the "Skate with the Hawks" event was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Stacey Tully. All were in favor.

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

A motion to approve the "Needham Memorial Day Tournament" was made by Wayne Cook and seconded by Gary Vallerand. All were in favor.

Following these requests was the 2023 Veterans Rink Permit Application and Fee. Director Scott recommended to maintain the permit application with updated dates, adding that she also recommended maintaining the current fee for both nonprofit and private groups as there was an increase in the 2022-2023 season.

A motion to approve the 2023 Veterans Rink Permit Application and Fee was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Tom Creonte. All were in favor.

Next on the agenda was the 2023 Picnic Permit Policy and Fee. Director Scott stated that the modifications to the policy for the 2023 season included making note that a pavilion rental at the Base area of Prospect Hill does not guarantee that Amusements will be available as well as adding that outside vendors and rentals are not permitted at pavilion locations. Director Scott mentioned that additional signage to properly label locations will also be added. Director Scott then recommended maintaining the same rate as 2022.

A motion to approve the 2023 Picnic Permit Policy and Fee was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by Tricia Curtin. All were in favor.

**Director's Report:**

**Infield Project-** The infield renovation bid was won by RAD Sports. Director Scott attended the City Council's Finance Committee meeting to request funding on Monday, December 5, 2022. The project would begin in September 2023.

**Veterans Skating Rink Roof Replacement-** BH&H was awarded the contract for the Rink Roof Design for a total amount of \$49,000.00. Director Scott will attend the City Council's Finance Committee meeting to request funding on Monday, December 5, 2022. The project would begin in April 2023.

**Veterans Athletic Complex Turf Replacement-** The bid for turf replacement was opened on Friday, November 18, 2022. The base bid for field number 2, 3, and 4, was bid in the amount of \$2,650,000. The alternate bid for Field number 1 was bid in the amount of \$917,000.00. Due to a complaint regarding the product specified, the Attorney General will review the matter. Pending the Attorney General's decision, Director Scott will request funding.

**Fernald Property-** The Recreation Staff continues to receive weekly updates on plan developments from NESRA Engineering.

**City of Waltham Master Plan Preparation** – The Recreation Department was asked to distribute a survey to participants regarding their use of parks and facilities, as well as interests in park amenities. The survey will soon be e-mailed to participants.

**Prospect Hill Park Fencing-** Adam Green and Adam Dallaire have been working to remove the remaining sections of wire fencing from Prospect Hill's access road into the park. At this time, the fencing has been removed.

**Gilmore Playground-** The Dual Language signage for Gilmore Playground has been installed at the playground and basketball/futsal court.

**Other Business**

A question was asked whether it was a possibility to install a new pavilion down a trail within Prospect Hill Park.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward Kelley, II  
Assistant Director