

The Waltham Recreation Board held their May Board meeting on April 29, 2019 at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

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

Also present were Director, Nick Abruzzi and Assistant Director, Kim Scott.

Chairperson Richard Scanlon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He announced that the meeting was being taped by WCAC, Waltham's cable channel and would be shown on the local channel at a later date.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2019 Board Meeting by Jerry Walker, seconded by Jennie Scafidi, all were in favor.

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

Director Abruzzi reviewed the statement of accounts explaining that two pages in their folders detailed operational and capital budget accounts. In the next two months, spending will occur in preparation of summer programs. As the spring season continues, the capital improvement projects will be underway, payments will also be made to contractors and consultants. All accounts are in good standing.

Next on the agenda was the Proposed 2019 Summer Staff list. Applications and interviews have been ongoing since March. Summer positions include assistant directors, middle school supervisor, lifeguards, program instructors as well as spray park attendants. Returning staff were placed first and then new applicants. New for 2019, there was an option to work a four week season (first half or the second half) or eight weeks. Those requesting four weeks were paired with someone to work the other half of the summer. A motion to approve the summer 2019 staff was made by Gary Vallerand and seconded by Wayne Cook. All were in favor.

The 2019 Race Around Waltham (RAW) Series request was presented next. The board was directed to a flyer in their folders. The Prospect Bandit Run would occur on September 7, 2019 at Prospect Hill Park from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. This popular 5K race has been successful in years past. Director Abruzzi recommended approval. A motion was made to approve the Bandit Run race by Wayne Cook and seconded by Stacey Tully. All were in favor.

The 2019 Western Greenway 5K Request was next. The request from Anna Schleelein Richardson was for October 27, 2019. Last year, this event was moved from Elsie Turner Field to the Met State McLaughlin Building area, due to the construction at Elsie Turner Field. The move was a huge success and they would like to keep the event at this location. A motion to approve the request was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by Wayne Cook. All were in favor.

### **Director's Report:**

**Hillcroft Playground** – The pre-construction meeting was held on April 19, 2019. Green Acres has mobilized and construction began Monday, April 29, 2019.

**Bobby Connors Playground** – Director Abruzzi attended City Council’s Long Term Debt to request funds for this project. Once the final reading has been approved in about one month, the contracts will be signed and Green Acres Landscape & Construction will begin construction.

**Elsie Turner Field** – The Ribbon Cutting ceremony was held on Sunday, April 28, 2019. This ceremony was attended by the Girls Softball League and local community members. Director Abruzzi wanted to thank all the Board Members that were able to attend.

**Dedication Process** – As mentioned in previous meetings, the protocol for dedications at playground and recreation facilities is being evaluated and a proposed protocol will be made available for the Board to review, comment and vote on for the June Board Meeting.

**Dodgeball Tournament/Mayor’s Summit** –

The Dodgeball Tournament was held on Saturday, April 27, 2019. 14 teams, composed of adults, high school and middle school age youth enjoyed this community event.

Recreation Supervisor, Kathy Gross and Chill Zone Staff Manny Zahonet attended the Mayors Summit to gain feedback from the Waltham High School students on preferred out of school recreation times and activities.

**McDonald Playground and Thompson Playground** – A bid opening was held on April 26, 2019 for design consultants. Both parks currently have a spray park, playground, and a basketball court. The references of the low bidder are being checked now and an interview is being scheduled for this design consultant.

**Inclusive Recreation** - City Council’s Economic and Community Development requested the presence of the Recreation Department to discuss inclusive recreation programs and opportunities on April 16, 2019. As the Department always strives to improve programming and services, a new inclusive recreation link was added to the Department’s website providing local resources and additional information. The Recreation Department will also be collaborating with local agencies to improve communication and inclusive services to those within the community.

**Other Business** – A discussion was held on the game of Pickleball and how it’s trending in Recreation. The Recreation Department offers drop in Pickleball times as well as a Pickleball league in conjunction with the Council on Aging.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kimberly A. Scott  
Assistant Director