

The Waltham Parks-Recreation Board held the February Board meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at the Waltham Recreation Department, 510 Moody St, Waltham, MA 02453.

Present were Tom Creonte, Tricia Curtin, John Graceffa, Jennie Scafidi, Stacey Tully, Gary Vallerand and Jerry Walker. Absent was Debra Coleman.

Also present were Director Kim Hebert and Assistant Director Ed Kelley II.

Director Hebert presented the full time Recreation Department staff to the Parks-Recreation Board to thank them for their dedication and diligence to the Recreation Department.

Chairperson Jerry Walker called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Cyd Abnet, Waltham Times, was recognized as recording the meeting.

A motion was then made to approve the minutes of January 7, 2026, Parks-Recreation Board meeting by Tom Creonte and seconded by Tricia Curtin. All other Board Members were in favor.

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

Director Hebert reviewed the statement of accounts and explained that the accounts detailed the current balances in operational and capital budget accounts. Director Hebert stated that water bills in the amount of \$125,000 from last summer had been processed. All accounts are in good standing.

Waltham Youth Football was rescheduled to a later date.

Waltham Youth Soccer represented by league Vice President Peter Fekkes was next on the agenda. Mr. Fekkes summarized the league's season. Mr. Fekkes stated that the program consists of one thousand participants from all areas of the city. Enrollment is sustained with active outreach through the school system. Mr. Fekkes also added that scholarships are provided for those in need of assistance. The Parks-Recreation Board thanked Mr. Fekkes for his efforts.

Next on the agenda was the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Director Hebert explained that CDBG funding can be requested for ADA improvement projects as well as improvements to low to moderate income neighborhoods. The funds requested last year were approved to remove Nipper Maher Playground's mulch and have it replaced with rubber surfacing. This year, Director Hebert stated that she, along with the Planning Department Director, were unable to make a beneficial or purposeful request. Director Hebert asked if the Board had any suggestions to vote on, otherwise this year's CDBG application would be passed on. No vote was taken.

2026 Summer Staff rates were next on the agenda. Director Hebert stated that the State of Massachusetts minimum wage was currently \$15 an hour. In order to sustain quality staff and maintain employee retention and workforce stability, the Recreation Department has historically

approved higher hourly wages. The last rate increase was in 2024. Director Hebert proposed to increase the summer program assistant directors and specialty supervisors' positions by one dollar as well as increase program instructors and attendants by fifty cents.

A motion to approve the 2026 Summer Staff rates was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by Tricia Curtin. All were in favor.

Director's Report:

February Facilities Updates-

- February vacation week programs are in preparation
- Sweetheart dance will occur on February 13, 2026. Registration ongoing
- Winter recreation programs began this week.

200 Trapelo Road-

Demolition Project- Project is still ongoing at each of all the three buildings.

Exterior of Howe and Administration Buildings- The contractor is establishing their workspace and will begin, weather depending in early 2026.

Phase II Recreation Amenities- Construction will begin once the temperature increases.

Veterans Field Softball: Infields- A request for infield services was sent to the Purchasing Department for Veterans Softball Field. The Recreation Department should be able to afford to revitalize both fields, without the need to request funding from Council.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom Creonte and seconded by John Graceffa. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Kelley II
Assistant Director of Recreation