

**Merrimack Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 17, 2013**  
**Town Hall Conference Room**

Attendees: Tom Thornton      Laura Jaynes      George Markwell  
                 Lynne Wenz      Michelle Cushman      Melanie Lesmerise  
                 Sherry Kalish

Absent: Holly Lewis, Chris Christensen, Jackie Flood, Lorraine Lessard

Meeting started at 7:05 pm. Welcome to new members, Michelle Cushman and Melanie Lesmerise.

The March minutes were accepted as written. Tom, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura. 2-0-4

1. Director's Report: Sherry Kalish

- a. Summer Concert Series: Sherry and Chris worked with the Merrimack Public Library to collaborate on our Summer Concert Series/Activities and the Library's Summer Reading Program. After some discussion, the Committee unanimously voted to support and work with the Library with either food or money for the 1<sup>st</sup> kick-off date on Wed. June 26, 2013. The Library reading program ends on Wed. Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>! Laura made the motion. 2<sup>nd</sup> by George. Motion to work with the Library 6 -0- 0

**The 2013 Summer Concert Series** schedule is posted on-line.

- b. Naticook Day Camp: Registration and hiring staff is going well. Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> is the first day of camp, August 16<sup>th</sup> is the last day. Registrations are on-going on a weekly basis.
- c. Bus Trip: May 8<sup>th</sup>: Reminder: There is a tour to 2 wineries and Merrimack's Swan's Chocolate. \$65 includes bus, lunch, etc.
- d. Skateboard Park opens April 19<sup>th</sup> which is the start of school vacation. The times are posted at the Park.
- e. Earth Day/Community Service Days: Many volunteers from local groups, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, St. Gobain, Merrimack High School Senior Class etc., will be working at Wasserman Park this spring in a variety ways: brush clean-up, raking, removing debris, trash pick-up, and staining buildings.

**Old Business:**

- 1. Wasserman Park: Dog Park Funding: Donations update: \$1,805. Flyers cost \$418.25.  
Update: Sherry is working with Kyle Fox to address concerning removal of trees, erosion, storm water disturbance, drainage, permits....etc. Town member and civil engineer, Don Provencher, has stepped forward to design a plan for the Dog Park, "pro bono." Don was on the original Wasserman Park Master Plan.

Sherry will have more information at the May meeting.

-After some discussion, it is not clear what will be the best "ground cover" at the Dog Park.

-There has been recent contact with Home Depot. More info. to follow.

2. Watson Park

a. Pavilion update: Funding continues to go up. Chuck Mower will be inscribing a timber for Roger Duhamal on April 27<sup>th</sup>. All plans are moving forward.

b. Yard Sale: Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Updates from the following:

a. Senior Citizens Club: Tabled, no rep.

b. MYA: Melanie Lesmerise: is the new MYA rep. replacing John Schneider. Melanie reported that there are 4 open MYA Board openings as elections are coming up. All spring registrations are closed out. Schedules are in place for LAX, baseball etc. Football also has early registration.

c. Town Council: Tabled, no rep.

d. School Board Rep: George Markwell joined us for this meeting as back-up for Shannon Barnes. George reported that the School Board is reorganizing, with Chris Ortega continuing as Chair.

e. High School Rep.: Tabled, no rep.

There were no comments from the Committee.

Comments from the Public: There were several members of the Dog Park Subcommittee in the audience.

-A disgruntled Gary Watson stated that he felt there should have been a Moment of Silence for the Boston Marathon victims at the beginning of the meeting.

-He also stated his frustration at the Dog Park being continually delayed. Chairman Tom Thornton invited Mr. Watson to join the P & R Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm. Motion by Laura, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melanie.

The next regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee will be held on **May 15, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall Conference Room.**

Respectfully submitted by Laura Jaynes, secretary.