

Merrimack Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2012

Town Hall Meeting Room

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Attendees:	Chris Christensen	Sherry Kalish
	Janet Cormier	Jenn Thornton
	Jackie Flood	Tom Thornton
	Laura Jaynes	Lynn Wenz

Absent	Tim Kachmar—	Drew Ploss
	Lorraine Lessard	

New Business:

- **November minutes** — Motion made by Janet Cormier, seconded by Tom Thornton to accept minutes as written. Motion carried 6-0-1, (Jenn Thornton abstained because she hadn't been present at the November meeting)
- **Director's Report**
 - **Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting**—This was the first time the Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting were combined into one event. The holiday combination brought out larger crowds than past events. Tom Koenig did a great job as MC, while various dance and music groups provided entertainment both during the parade and at the Abbie Griffin Bandstand. Some suggestions for future events were to adjust the timing of the route so that Santa's float would arrive later and fewer songs so children won't have to wait so long to see Santa.
 - **Office-** The P & R office has been moved to the second floor of the East Wing of Town Hall. Phone calls are forwarded to the current winter location. All the buildings in Wasserman Park have been winterized. The cost of winterization was \$1200 + 32 man hours of labor for a total cost of ~ \$1600.
 - **Watson Park** --We have received the \$20,000 LWCF matching grant funds from the State; Chris Figueroa built and installed the kiosk at Watson Park for his Eagle Scout Project. He had \$173.26 remaining from his fundraising and has donated that to the Watson Park fund. Thank you Chris!

It's been established that the Dog Park will be located in the northeastern segment of the park and will be bounded by the sewer line access road as shown in the conceptual drawing approved by the Town Council. This could change.

- **Bus Trip**—A bus trip to the Boston Flower and Garden Show is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2012. The bus will leave from Town Hall at 9:00am and return at 5:00pm. Tickets are \$39.95 and include the motor coach transportation, ticket to the show and driver gratuity.

- **Winter Carnival**—The Winter Carnival has been scheduled for Saturday, February 25. Many of the Carnival favorites are planning to join us this year. Weather permitting the Lions Club will offer their Ice Fishing Derby and the Sno-Buds will offer snowmobile rides. The Independent School of Karate will entertain us with a Karate Demonstration and the Southern NH Flying Eagles will set up their display of model planes.

For refreshments, popcorn and soda will be offered by the Parks and Rec Dept. with all proceeds going to the Naticook Day Camp Scholarship fund. The Girl Scouts will sell Girl Scout cookies and Merrimack Friends and Families will offer nacho's & cheese along with hot chocolate. Those non-profit organizations interested in participating are asked to call the P & R Office..

- **Naticook Day Camp** dates are June 25 – Aug 13, 2012 (right now the last day of school should be June 18). In working on the budget, camp rates will increase approximately \$35 per week to keep the program as it currently is. Sherry has sent a survey to last year's camp families asking if they would like to consider cutting lunch to keep the cost down. 10 families said they'd prefer we keep lunch, 11 families prefer to keep the cost down and would rather send their child with a bag lunch, and 5 families we ok with cutting lunch but hope there is a vendor onsite for the children to purchase lunch if needed. Last summers camp rates were \$162.50/resident and \$202/non-resident.

In October, mold was discovered in the lower level of the Function Hall. The town has put the removal of the effected sheet rock and materials out to bid. Mold mitigation will be done after the removal portion is completed.

- **4th of July parade** – We were asked to help plan the 4th of July Parade. Kelly has received a lot of interest from groups that have played in the Summer Concert Series. The down side is that they need support to participate. Three of the bands need a flatbed and one also needs a generator. Sherry would like to appeal to area businesses to consider joining forces with one of the bands to pull them in the parade. It would be good exposure for the business and a lot of fun!
- The **P&R Budget** meeting was January 9, 2012. The Town Council will present the Finalized Recommended Operating Budget on Monday, Jan 23.

- **Goals and Objectives:**

- **Wasserman Park**--Chris suggested that, in the future the lower level of the Function Hall be used by the MYA for storage, thereby making it economically feasible to keep the hall open during the winter months and closing the MYA building to save on heating costs. He suggested that the MYA hold their meetings and sign-ups at Wasserman to maximize usage of the building. Chris suggested that prior to any change, Terry Benhardt be contacted and involved in the discussion. We would need to see what the impact would be on the MYA. This planning is for the FY starting July 1, 2013. Budget discussions will start in the Fall 2012.

Watson Park -- Gary Watson was in attendance and invited to speak. He made the suggestion to ask the National Guard about park lighting. Now that the troops are returning home, they may have available lights and may have some time allowed for community projects. Lynn Wenz suggested the hill at Watson Park be used for sledding as the area at Weston Park is not available this year.

Jackie Flood said the Rotary Club has raised some money for the construction of a pavilion. It will have bleacher seats inside it looking out, with a space in the front for musicians, actors, teachers or whatever. The additional space on the grass in front of the structure will allow for other viewers depending on the event. The area could be used for classes on Saturday among other things.

The conceptual plan for Watson Park has gone through the approval process with the Town Council. Any changes to the plan would need to be approved by the Town Council.

At 8:15, Jenn and Tom Thornton had to leave the meeting

Dog Park/Pavilion- The Committee voted to have a Dog Park Subcommittee started to implement plans for a dog park and pavilion. In conjunction with this motion, the following items were suggested:

- Sherry will be checking with DPW to see where the fencing that used to surround the area is stored and how much usable linear footage is available.
 - Sherry will advertise for members of both a Dog Park and a Pavilion Subcommittee She will also ask about the amount of fencing
- **Updates**—no updates were available from the Seniors Club, MYA, High School, and School Board.

Motion made by Chris Christensen, seconded by Jackie Flood to adjourn at 8:30.

The next meeting will be held **February 15 @ 7:00** at the Town Hall Meeting Room. All interested parties are welcome to attend.