

Merrimack Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2012

Town Hall Meeting Room

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

Attendees:	Chris Christensen	Sherry Kalish
	Janet Cormier	Lorraine Lessard
	Jackie Flood	Tom Thornton
	Laura Jaynes	John Schneider
		Lynn Wenz

Absent	Jenn Thornton	Drew Ploss
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New Business:

- **January minutes** — Motion made by Janet, seconded by Tom to accept minutes as written. Lynn mentioned that the boundaries of the dog park could change. Chris added that the minutes didn't mention that he had suggested that, prior to any change in swapping the MYA being heated for the Function Hall being heated for the winter, have Terry Benhardt/MYA involved; The suggestion was for the 2013 Budget year for budget discussions starting in the Fall 2012. Motion carried 6-0-2, (Lorraine Lessard and John Schneider abstained because they hadn't been present at the last meeting)

- **Director's Report**

- Winter Carnival, Saturday 2/25/12—

This year's un-Winter Carnival is still being held. Kelly and Sherry have been working on indoor activities with winter themes--like arts 'n crafts and snow ball pitch with cotton balls and cones. Entertainment will include a Karate Demonstration by the Independent School of Karate and a dog agility demonstration by the 4H group Pups R Us. The Southern NH Flying Eagles will display their model planes and groups like the Sno-Buds will be available to answer questions about their group and snowmobile safety. Refreshments will be available including Girl Scout cookies.

Non-profit organization interested in setting up a display, offering games, activities or refreshments are welcome to call the P&R dept to register.

- Watson Park

- Dog Park Sub-Committee

- First meeting was held on Feb 6th. Next meeting scheduled for Feb 27 in Town Hall conference room.

- 31 residents have signed up to help, many bringing friends and family members.
- Agendas and minutes will be posted on the town website.
 - http://www.merrimacknh.gov/town/boards_and_committees/parks_recreation then on the left tab, click on Dog Park
- Pavilion Sub-Committee
 - First meeting was held on Feb 15th. Next meeting planned for Feb 29th at 10:00 in Town Hall conference room. Per Chris, the Rotary Club has raised \$5200 for the pavilion
- Skateboard Park
The Skateboard Park is scheduled to open 4/20/12. The new surfacing for the ramps has been delivered to DPW and should be installed before the park opens for the season.
- Naticook Day Camp dates are 6/25 –8/17/12 (right now the last day of school should be 6/18/12)
- Bus Trip
We have only 14 seats remaining for the bus trip to the Boston Flower and Garden Show for Thursday, 3/15/12. 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.
- The Public Hearing for the Town budget is tomorrow evening, 2/16/12 at 7:00pm.
- Summer Concert Update
Thank you Chris, Tom and Janet for helping review the band entries. Laurie Ludvigsen is also helping review the bands. We have booked 6 bands and will book the remaining bands shortly. The US Army Band is scheduled to perform during the series and the Merrimack High School Band is trying to fit a concert into their schedule. Lorraine suggested that a weekend concert might be an alternative to the Wednesday night performances. She volunteered to poll members of the Seniors Club to get their thoughts on the idea.

When Sherry presented to the changing of the concert hours to the Town Manager, it was determined that the reasons warranted the change to 6:00-8:

- Tennis courts on O’Gara Drive—The town’s contract with the school district for the tennis courts on O’Gara Drive ends in 2018.
- Rotary Club—Pat McGrath of the Rotary Club informed Sherry that the Rotary has \$1000 for the construction signage in the town’s parks. Suggestions were made as to the placement of the signs. The Rotary was looking to having the signs conform to others that have been erected in Merrimack Recreation areas.

- **Other new business**

Jackie stated that the town has recently done an assessment on all town owned buildings. Should the recommendation for leaving the Function Hall available and closing the MYA building become a viable option, the switch wouldn't occur until the winter of 2013. Currently, the lower level of the Function Hall is being gutted due to a mold/mildew issue that developed in the Fall 2011 when the plumbing in one of the showers leaked. Due to the reassignment of personnel, the leak went undetected and extensive damage was done to the ceiling and walls of what previously had been individual sleeping quarters with bath room facilities.

Updates

- **Seniors club-** Elections for the Seniors Club were held on 1/19/12. Irene Jenness was elected President, Eleanor Coyne is Vice President and John Rosa is Treasurer. A trip to Venus De Milo in Swansey, MA to see "Forever Irish" is planned for 3/14/12. Trip Coordinator, our own Lorraine Lessard, researching future trips, which are dependent upon the passage of the town's budget.
- **MYA-Basketball** and wrestling are winding down. The annual basketball tournament was held 1/27-1/29/12. The tournament was the most successful ever with Merrimack winning three divisions. Baseball, softball, spring soccer, and lacrosse are holding sign ups. This year, it is hoped that tryouts will be able to be held outside.
- **Town Council**—Budget hearings are in session.
- **School Board and Agriculture**—no reports

8:05 motion to adjourn made by Chris, seconded by Tom 8-0-0

The next meeting will be held **March 21, 2012 @ 7:00** at the Town Hall Meeting Room. All interested parties are welcome to attend.